Sailors, family members empowered to stop sexual assaults

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

An April 7 announcement released by the U.S. Navy in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, describes sexual assaults as crimes that devastate victims, undermine teamwork, threaten unit cohesiveness and ultimately reduce fleet readiness.

Naval Administrative Message NAVADMIN 122/11 reinforces the Navy "zero tolerance" sexual assault policy and directs active support from all Sailors – from the deck plates to the blue tile - to successfully eliminate this egregious act from the ranks. In keeping with the 2011 Department of Defense (DoD) theme, "Hurts one, Affects all: Preventing Sexual Assault is Everyone's Duty," the message empowers commands throughout the fleet to use this month to dedicate focused attention on the importance of eliminating this crime.

"One sexual assault is one too many," declared Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel. "Every Sailor must fully support the Navy zero tolerance policy for sexual assault and create a culture that promotes active bystander intervention and one that does not tolerate this reprehensible behavior. With determination and commitment, we can eliminate this crime from our ranks."

CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen signs a proclamation April 11, officially recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The signing was witnessed by Theodore Joyner from the Fleet and Family Support Center and Lt. Jaclyn Fischer the Family Assistance Support Team division officer.

Photo by Joe Schmitt

Commands worldwide are encouraged to plan events throughout April that emphasize a climate that values responsible behavior, active bystander intervention and safety from sexual assault for all. Leaders from across the Navy should look to address two questions when planning these activities: What is our organization planning to do and what are we asking our shipmates to do differently to eliminate sexual assaults?

Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities that have been used successfully throughout the fleet have included waterfront leadership and first responder training, discussion forums, command General Military Training and workshops, information booths, media events, and sports and athletic training events like runs or walks featuring a sexual assault awareness theme. The common factor among these successful events has been strong leadership, active participation throughout the command and the use of strong and consistent messaging to all Sailors.

By engaging with the local public affairs office, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) chapter or other Sailor advocacy groups, leaders can tailor themes to their command and find creative ways to disseminate these messages. Whether asking Sailors to tag their e-mails with slogans like "Sexual Assault Vigilance - Consider, Recognize and Intervene" or using command rosters to send text messages saying "Integrity is the foundation of our conduct, respect for others is fundamental to our character," every command can find creative ways throughout April to raise awareness of these crimes.

Downloadable posters, facilitator's guide and materials to support the 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign are available from the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office website at www.sapr.mil/index.php/saam/2011-materials.

Additional information is available through the National Sexual Violence Resource Center at www.nsvrc.org, local SARCs, and the Fleet and Family Support Program link - www.nffsp.org.

For more information about Navy's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, visit http://www.navy.mil/navydata/sapr/index.htm.

CFAY makes school zone, school safety traffic improvements

From CFAY Traffic Safety Office

As many may have already heard, there will be some welcome changes to our school zones throughout Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY). In an effort to improve Safety for children and drivers, CFAY has a project in place to make things clearer for everyone.

As most have seen, the signs in the school areas are not consistent; we are addressing this with standard Japanese signs and we will clearly define the beginning and end of school zones with consistent times and adjusted speed limit.

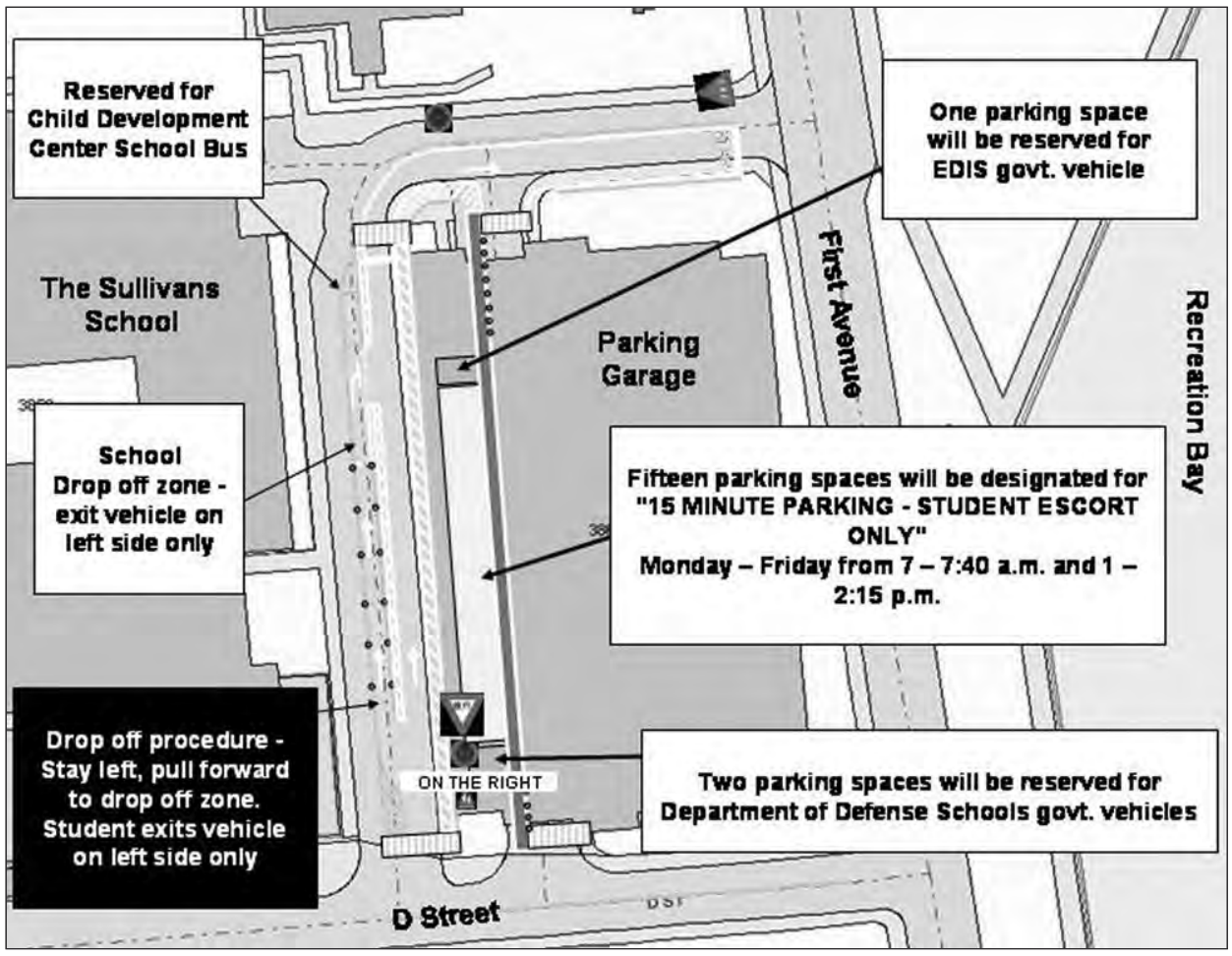
Yes, we are changing the speed limit in the school areas. The speed change will be minor; however, this will bring the speed into compliance with uniform traffic standards and also give drivers a clear number to identify on the speedometer vice a small tick mark. The other improvement is the signs for the crosswalks around the schools and the paths the children take to get to school.

We hope everyone had fun during the time off during spring break; however, everyone must understand that with school resuming, base security personnel will be out to enforce the rules of the road, and ensure parents are using the proper areas to drop off and pick up their children. The residential parking areas and tower parking lots are not authorized for pick up and drop off and are currently clearly marked. These locations at the schools are clearly marked. If you have questions about the proper locations, speak to your school administration office.

We need the assistance of parents to educate children on how to use the crosswalks properly by stopping, giving vehicles time to identify them, and give the vehicle time to stop before children enter the crosswalk. Also, when walking through a parking lot, children must be extremely careful and walk in the most direct path to a sidewalk or center divider for protection from moving vehicles. Oftentimes we see children running in and out between parked vehicles like they are playing hide and seek, which will end in the seek by the bumper of a car and not their friend.

The following is a safety note recently put out to parents from The Sullivans Elementary School:

The safety of your children is very important to us. We appreciate your assistance in reiterating the importance of safe street crossing and parking lot walking practices with your children. Crosswalks should be used at all times. When traveling by foot from home to school or from a vehicle to the school, walking is the safest method.



The diagram above shows the layout of The Sullivans Elementary School student drop-off plan for personal vehicles. When dropping off your child, please adhere to the following procedures: Parents dropping off children are to move their cars through the lane between the orange bollards pulling all the way forward up to the drop-off zone; children must exit the vehicle immediately after arriving at the drop-off zone; children must exit the vehicle on the left side only; the drop-off zone is the only authorized area where children can exit the vehicle; no parking of personal vehicles will be allowed on any section of the access street between the school and the parking garage; reserved parking on the first floor of the garage is designated for parents escorting children to class; and, pedestrians must stay on the painted walkway while inside the garage.

Image courtesy of CFAY Traffic Safety Office

Last school year, the school and CFAY Safety Office worked closely together to establish safe pick up and drop off zones for students and designated temporary guest parking areas in the school garage. We appreciate your cooperation in using the designated student drop off and pick up locations and parking garage. CFAY Safety Officers are on hand daily to assist in the coordination of safe and expedient traffic flow within the zones.

Tower parking lots in front of and behind Sullivans are for the use of tower residence. The use of the tower parking lots to park, park temporarily and drop off or pick up students is prohibited as per the CFAY Safety Office and CFAY Security Department. Again, thank you for your support and cooperation, and remember, safety first!