Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXIII, No. 1 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Jan. 13, 2012

Chief of Chaplains visits CFAY, meets service members, families

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Mark Tidd visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) with his wife and staff as part of a larger tour to the region Jan. 3. Tidd stayed in Yokosuka for several days during this visit.

"I came here for many reasons. (The) first was to be able to come to Japan to be able to say thank you to the folks here who are serving in the front lines in support of our national objectives and defending our nation," said Tidd. "And also [to thank them] for continuing to build our relationship with the people of Japan."

Tidd viewed the renovations done to the Chapel of Hope that were completed during the past months.

He also met with chaplains, enlisted religious program specialists and faith leaders who work on CFAY at the Chapel of Hope, tenant commands and ships forward deployed to the area.

"I also wanted to hear what it is like my wife Jennifer and I had the opportunity to live here 25 years ago I was a ship's chaplain on a cruiser that used to be here, but we understand that things change over the years," said Tidd. "We have heard of the opportunities to live here and the opportunities for travel, for meeting folks from a different culture but that there are also challenges. So, it was important to come here and hear what the people had to say about both the opportunities and the challenges they face here."

During the meeting, Tidd took questions from the assembled group on subjects that ranged from the future of the chaplain community, advancement issues, and family related concerns.

"I didn't ask any questions today," said Lt. Benjamin Howard. "But it was great to have that reassurance that we have the support of the top Chaplain in the Navy for what we are doing and that he took time to hear our concerns."

Tidd reinforced the Chief of Naval Operations guidance for the year which focus on three points, "build the future force, maintain our warfighting readiness, and develop and support our Sailors, Navy civilians, and their families" and what these points mean for the religious ministries community.

Afterwards the groups broke into officers, enlisted members and spouses for more specific question and answer sessions.

Rear Adm. Mark Tidd talks with chaplains, enlisted religious program specialists and faith leaders who work on CFAY at the Chapel of Hope, tenant commands and ships forward deployed to the area as part of a visit to the region Jan 4. During the visit he thanked the service members, told them about the future of their field, took questions and celebrated several services with local congregations before traveling to other commands in the region.

"It was encouraging to have [Jennifer Tidd] come here and spend time with the spouses," said Alejandra Kim, spouse of USS Cowpens chaplain. "It was great to be able to share our war stories and know that they care."

Tidd stayed through the rest of the week and celebrated several services with local congregations before traveling to other commands in the region.

JDS Hyuga leadership gives *Kadomatsu* to *George Washington*

Story and photos by MC3 Justin E. Yarborough, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

Sailors from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer *JDS Hyuga* (DDH 181) shared a time honored Japanese tradition with the crew of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) by preparing two *kadomatsu* decorations for the ship Dec. 27.

Sailors from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer *JDS Hyuga* (DDH 181) prepare displays of *kadomatsu* Dec. 27. The kadomatsu, which is a traditional Japanese decoration for New Years, was given as a gift from the *Hyuga* crew to the crew of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73).

Kadomatsu, meaning gate pine, is a traditional Japanese decoration of the New Year, which are typically made of pine, bamboo, and sometimes ume tree sprigs which represent longevity, prosperity and steadfastness, respectively. *Kadomatsu* are placed in pairs in front of homes to welcome ancestral spirits or "*kami*" of the harvest.

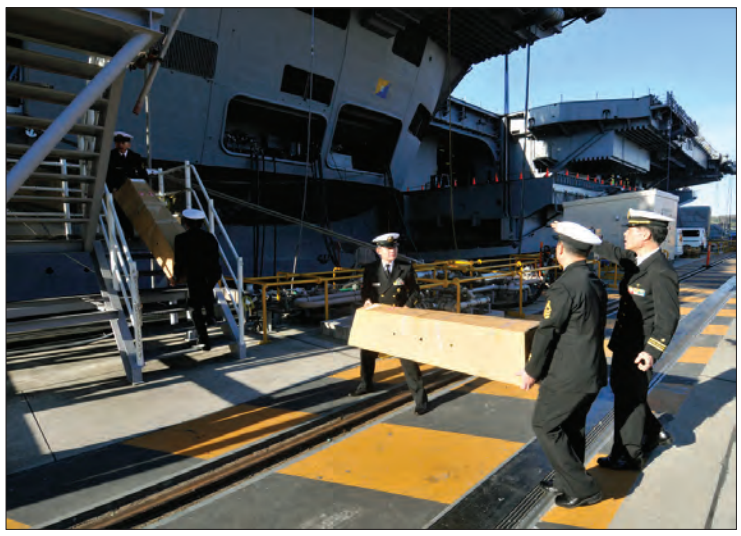
"*Kadomatsu* is a Japanese traditional display to welcome in the New Year," said Hyuga's Command Master Chief Motonari Suzuki. "*Kadomatsu* are displayed in home entrances to bring happiness to our homes and families."

After Jan. 15 the *kadomatsu* are burned to appease a diety and release them.

Upon delivering the display, the Hyuga sailors arranged the display on the *George Washington*'s ceremonial quarterdeck.

"We originally brought them a Christmas tree, decorated it and presented the crew with baked goods from our ship," said *George Washington* Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Mattie Hackney. "This is just their way of returning the favor to our ship in the same spirit."

The display gave *George Washington* Sailors the opportunity to experience a piece of Japanese culture.



Sailors from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer *JDS Hyuga* (DDH 181) carry boxes of *kadomatsu* Dec. 27. The *kadomatsu*, which is a traditional Japanese decoration for New Years, was given as a gift from the *Hyuga* crew to the crew of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73).

"I thought it was a very nice gesture for them to do that for us," said Hackney. "It shows the nice bond that we and our Japanese brothers and sisters share."

Afterwards, *George Washington* Command Master Chief Marty King invited the JMSDF sailors to dine with the *GW* Chiefs' Mess.

"I would say that the relationship that the *George Washington* Chief Mess and the JMSDF chief mess share is a brotherly one," said Hackney.

INSIDE

FAST Company Marines train, learn new combat techniques

Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST) Marines, stationed onboard CFAY, recently took part of their Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) course.

Pg. 8

A blast of chilly water helps welcome in the new year

Swimmers jumped into Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's (CFAY) Green Bar Marina for this year's Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 1.

Pg. 9