Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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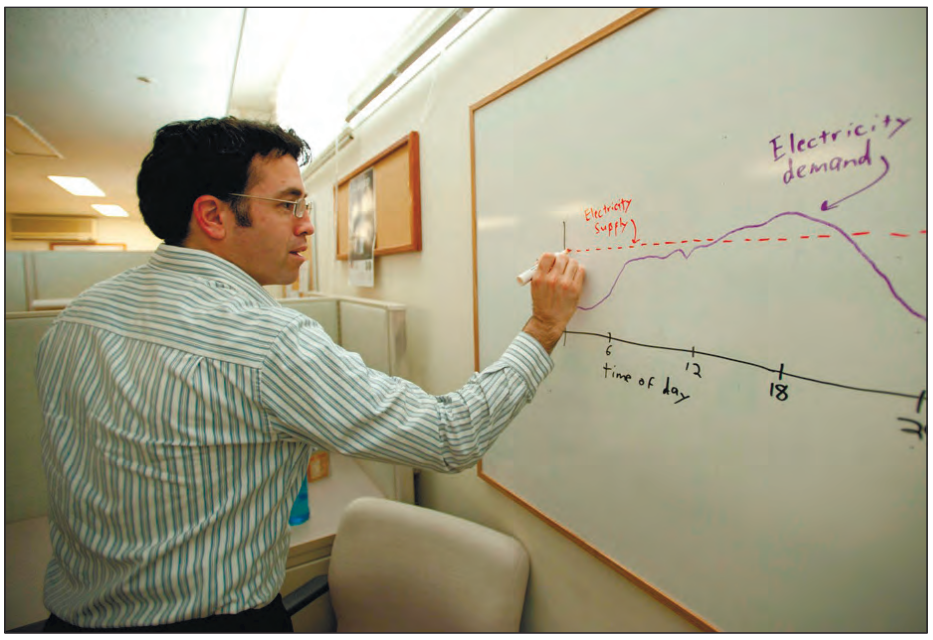
Vol. LXII, No. 18 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka May 13, 2011

Energy conservation key to avoiding rolling blackouts

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

The Government of Japan (GOJ) and Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) have asked all businesses and households in Japan to reduce their electricity consumption by 25 percent. Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) is on the TEPCO power grid and has also been asked to participate.



Yokosuka base Energy Manager Thomas Bawden, draws an estimate of electric power usage in a 24-hour period. The Government of Japan and Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) have asked all businesses and households in Japan to reduce their electricity consumption by 25 percent. The red dashed line is an example of the limits that Japan and U.S. military bases in Japan could face during the course of the summer.

"The total energy available in the power grid has been set at a certain level," said Thomas Bawden, Yokosuka base energy manager. "It's not just about reducing how much energy you use, it's also about when you use it. Right now in Japan, the peak usage is around 6 and 8 p.m."

Bawden said that reducing power consumption has two sides, usage and demand.

"It's like a car," said Bawden. "Usage is like how far you went, like 300 miles, but demand is how fast you drove those miles. What we'd like to do is use something like a speed limit." This means not only using less energy during the day but also moving necessary things to off-peak times so there is not as large of a peak in usage in the evening.

"You can do things like doing laundry in the morning," said Bawden. Other conservation efforts like choosing not to watch TV or not to use a personal computer during that time would also lower usage during peak times. Basically, if we go over that limit for a long period of time, TEPCO will institute a blackout to keep from causing too much stress on the power grid."

Bawden also emphasized that during the summer, air conditioners can affect how much electricity gets used.

"They take a lot of energy to run but you can reduce that amount by setting the thermostat no lower than 78 degrees and using them on off-peak hours," he said.

CFAY community member are already doing their part in reducing their consumption of electricity both on and off base.

"We live in an apartment complex off base and we hang our laundry up instead of using the clothes dryer," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Derek Saunders, of *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54). "We also have lights that have two power levels so we use the lower setting when we can."

"We don't use the air conditioning a lot. We turn it on just to cool things off initially and then we turn it off and open the windows," said on base resident Cryptological Technician Technical 1st Class Jack Keloff, of Ship Repair Facility-Japan Regional Maintenance Center Operations Department.

Paying attention to these measures can help reduce the chance of rolling blackouts during the summer but also supports the longstanding friendship between the United States and Japan.

"We're citizens here too," said Bawden. "Essentially, we're all in the same boat."

Cloyd relieves Wren during CNFJ change of command ceremony

By MCC Jason A. Penny, CNFJ Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Dan Cloyd relieved Rear Adm. Rick Wren during a change of command ceremony at the Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan headquarters building April 29. Cloyd becomes the 31st commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) and is also Commander Navy Region Japan (CNRJ) and Commander Naval Component, U.S. Forces Japan.

Commander U.S. 7th Fleet Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk presided over the ceremony and praised Wren for his service during his term.

"Our Navy, our fleet, our alliance with Japan, our men and women in uniform and their families, and our national security are all better because of your service," Van Buskirk told Wren. He also expressed his appreciation for the men and women of CNFJ and CNRJ saying, "the future continues to hold great opportunities for the men and women of CNFJ and CNRJ. What we do here in Japan and the Pacific is shaping the future in a positive way."

Wren expressed his gratitude to the men and women who made up the CNFJ/CNRJ team and paid tribute to the team's ability to handle difficult challenges. "You've built this organization into what it is today and then you were absolutely magnificent when called upon after 3/11," referring to the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan March 11, 2011. Wren added that the CNFJ/CNRJ team was critical to the Navy's role in Operation Tomodachi.

Wren will retire from the Navy and settle in the state of Colorado with his wife Diane.

(Right) Rear Adm. Dan Cloyd salutes Rear Adm. Richard Wren as he assumes command as Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan April 29. Cloyd becomes the 31st commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Brock A. Taylor

Cloyd is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He has commanded two fighter squadrons as well as the fast combat support ship *USS Sacramento* (AOE 1) and the aircraft carrier *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). Prior to taking command of CNFJ, Cloyd was Commander Task Force 70/ Carrier Strike Group 5 embarked aboard the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73).

After officially assuming command, Cloyd addressed the group and said, "I thank you for the effort that you've done up until now and, most importantly, all that we will do together. And I will be part of this great team as we continue to build upon the legacy and the excellence that Rick and Diane have left."

During the ceremony, Wren was also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal on behalf of the President of the United States.

The mission of Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan is to support the ships and personnel of the U.S. 7th Fleet. Its area of responsibility encompasses all Naval shore activities in Japan: Naval Air Facility Misawa, Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Fleet Activities Okinawa and Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

INSIDE

Sailors, local citizens roll up sleeves for Earth Day event

More than 80 Sailors and local Japanese citizens rolled up their sleeves to take part in the annual CFAY land and sea Earth Day cleanup held April 30.

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Students to donate special piñata to northern Japan children

Sullivans students of the Spanish Emersion class created a piñata crane in observation of Cinco de Mayo, which will be donated to northern Japan school children.

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