Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Sarah Wayne Callies from "*The Walking Dead*" visits Yokosuka

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Sarah Wayne Callies, famous for her roles in the television shows "*Prison Break*" and the "*The Walking Dead*", visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Dec. 13. The tour was short notice and came together in just under a week of coordination between CFAY and Fox Japan who was sponsoring Callies Japan visit around the premier of "*The Walking Dead*" on Japanese TV.

"I was here in Tokyo promoting '*The Walking Dead*' and one of the guys who had me out suggested that maybe next time I was in town I should come out to the Navy base. I said, well, how about this time? So, I'm here to say 'Happy holidays and thank you for your service," said Callies.

Sarah Wayne Callies famous for her roles in the television shows "*Prison Break*" and the "*The Walking Dead*" talks with YN2 Chris Lassiter who watched her show while underway and got to meet her in Yokosuka's Navy Exchange Dec. 13. The autographs signing was part of a tour of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka where she met with Sailors and community members, fans of her shows, to say 'thank you' and talk to service members.

The tour started with a visit to the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73). Callies, who was traveling with her husband and representatives from Fox Japan, got a tour of the ship from the hangar bay to the bridge. Lt. Cmdr. Dave Hecht, *George Washington*'s public affairs officer, explained how the ship worked and its purpose in the region. Before leaving the ship Callies met with Sailors, fans of her shows, on the mess decks to sign autographs and talk to the service members.

"It was amazing, it was like being on a floating city," said Callies. "I was incredibly struck by the grace and kindness and generosity of everybody on board." She explained that while she grew up on Hawaii near a large U.S. Navy base, she did not have too much experience talking to Sailors. "Apart from that, this is my first time hanging out with the Navy like this. My husband comes from a Navy family, he was born in a Navy hospital. It means a lot to me to be able to say 'thank you' in person."

After the tour of the ship, Callies spent some time at the Navy Exchange (NEX) to sign autographs and meet service and community members.

Some of the attendees brought DVD's, Blu-ray discs, or photos printed out from home and waited in line to meet Callies who, some were saying, is their favorite character from the show.

"While underway, our whole berthing got together and watched all of 'Prison Break', twice, all four seasons," said Yeoman 2nd Class Chris Lassiter, a *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) Sailor at the event with his wife. "It became a huge thing for us. I've got friends who are on duty, on watch back at the ship, I brought some photos for them to get signed."

Callies left CFAY after getting to know the community at the NEX. For those who missed her, you can catch her on season two and season three of "*The Walking Dead*" airing in the states or on season one that will soon air in Japan. Before she left, Callies had one last thing to say.

"I'd like to wish you happy holidays and thank you for your service," Callies added. "Especially at this time of the year, it's got to be real hard to be away from your families, but all of us back home are real grateful for all you all are doing."

Chief petty officers celebrate 25th CPO *Mochi* Pounding Festival

By MC2 Devon Dow,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Yokosuka-area chief petty officers (CPO) of the U.S. Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) along with more than 300 guests celebrated the 25th annual CPO *Mochi* Pounding festival Dec. 17.

The celebration is a cultural event to promote teamwork and friendship between the two forces. This year's celebration was held at the JMSDF Yokosuka Regional District Headquarters and sponsored by the chief petty officer associations from ship and shore commands at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

"It is great to see all of the chief petty officers, along with their family and friends here today as we continue to build upon this great tradition we have started and will continue to build upon," said *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Command Master Chief Martin King as he addressed the audience. "Today's event is a great way to celebrate the friendship between our two great nations during the holiday season."

The event began with U.S. and JMSDF CPOs taking part in the 400-year-old Japanese tradition of breaking open a *Kagamiwari* or sake barrel with mallets, followed by a toast, ceremonial cake cutting and a feast of Japanese and American food.

Mochi pounding, the main event of the festival, was open to all individuals who wished to give it a try. Using a wooden mallet, individuals work together to pound steamed rice into a sticky mass that is then formed into small rice cakes. *Mochi* is a traditional Japanese food and is especially popular around the Japanese New Year.

Additionally, the celebration showcased a live band and Japanese martial arts exhibitions.

Vice Adm. Kawamura from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen pound *mochi* during the celebration of the 25th annual Chief Petty Officers *Mochi* Pounding festival at the JMSDF Yokosuka base Dec. 17. The celebration is a cultural event to promote teamwork and friendship between the two forces.

U. S. Navy photo by SN Cyd M. Vargas

For the children in attendance, they participated in arts and crafts, a simulated sumo wrestling contest, a tug of war tournament and received a surprise visit from Santa Clause.

CPOs agreed that the event was something they will never forget.

"Tradition is what we are about as CPOs, this is an excellent opportunity for the U.S. Navy CPOs to get together with our friends in the JMSDF," said Chief Cryptologic Technician (Technical) Ned Lentz, assigned to Afloat Training Group Western Pacific. "The celebration is a display of our camaraderie and it is a tremendous honor for me to be apart of the 25th anniversary of this event."

"This is my first time coming to the celebration and it has been very rewarding," said Chief Operations Specialist Jeremy Buxton, assigned to the Center for Surface Combat Systems. "This event is a great example of the relationship between the U.S. and Japan. This is something that I will look forward to coming to next year."

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Red Cross volunteers visit *USS George Washington*

Volunteers from the American and Japanese Red Cross associations handed out holiday greetings cards to Sailors aboard *USS George Washington* Dec. 17.

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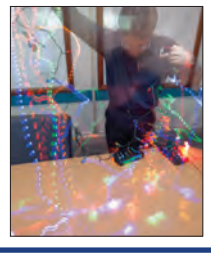

Christmas colors can comply with conservation of energy

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) has specific guidelines for lighting displays. It also has set measurements for when heating gets switched on to buildings under its command.

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