Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXII, No. 16 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka April 29, 2011

Secretary of the Navy visits Yokosuka Sailors, Marines

By Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan - Secretary of the Navy, the honorable Ray Mabus, visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) April 20 as part of a scheduled tour of the region that also included visiting ships and other commands in Japan. He spoke to Sailors and Marines who gathered on the pier next to *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19).

"Thank you for what you have done in the last few weeks but thank you bigger than that for your service, for what you do day in and day out," Mabus said to the large crowd. "There is no other force in the world other than the United States Navy and Marine Corps that could have done what y'all did the last three or four weeks during Operation *Tomodachi* after the earthquake and the tsunami."

Mabus continued emphasizing the role Sailors played during the humanitarian and disaster relief efforts that started after the 9.0 earthquake and tsunami struck northern Japan, March 11.

"Your willingness and your ability has caught the attention of the world," Mabus said. "You have forever changed the way Japan views us, the partnership with the people of Japan and the Government of Japan. What you have done forever changed, I believe, the way the Americans that we protect, the 300 million Americans, the way they view what you do and how skilled and talented this force is."

Mabus also went over several "big Navy" topics that covered what the U.S. Navy is doing worldwide.

Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus speaks to Sailors and Marines from units involved in Operation *Tomodachi* during an all-hands call at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka April 20.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Aaron M. Pineda

After reiterating his thanks to the assembled group for their efforts, Mabus opened the floor to questions from the crowd.

Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Nicolette Lockwood from Commander U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F) asked the first question. She works for the C7F Administration Department and commented on how she has met Sailors who didn't understand the Perform to Serve (PTS) program. Lockwood asked if there would be any changes to the system.

According to Mabus, there are some planned changes that will be implemented in the future that would both make the process easier to understand and more effective. He said that the current program only looks at Sailors when they are close to their reenlistment and that in the future, Sailors will be able to go through the PTS program at other times in their career. Mabus said that this will give Sailors who don't get approved an opportunity to move to an open rate if they want to stay in the Navy but can't continue in their current rate.

Other Sailors asked about the budget, marriage issues, and considerations on how to improve enlisted evaluations, and one Sailor asked about concerns with family members who took part in the Voluntary Military Assisted Departure, returning to Japan. Mabus took time to answer each question and stayed until no other questions were asked.

Before leaving, the Secretary of the Navy talked and took photos with Sailors who stayed behind to meet him.

Haley relieves Cloyd as CTF 70 during change of command

Story and photo by MC3 Charles Oki,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

YOKOSUKA, Japan – Rear Adm. John R. Haley assumed command of Commander Task Force 70 (CTF 70) embarked aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) during a change of command ceremony at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's auditorium, April 22.

Rear Adm. John R. Haley relieved Rear Adm. Dan Cloyd during the ceremony.

This will be Haley's second tour aboard the aircraft carrier following a tour as *George Washington* commanding officer from July 2008 to April 2009.

"I'm honored to be able to take a position that is so important to the alliance between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. Navy," said Haley. "It's going to be more of a challenge now as the task force commander, but I feel that it will be very rewarding. It's great to be back in Japan and to be taking command of such a great team here at CTF 70."

As Cloyd turns over command of the U.S. Navy's only permanently forward-deployed carrier strike group, *George Washington* and CTF 70 will continue to be a part of his career as he will be assuming the position of Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan.

"It's a priceless opportunity to be able to serve the fleet," said Cloyd. "I'm excited to have the chance to provide support to the people who keep the fleet moving and operating. I've received a lot of support from shore installations and their commanders over the years, so I'm happy that I will now be able to do the same for all of the Sailors and their families in Japan."

Cloyd is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering, the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, the Navy Nuclear Power Program and the National Defense University with a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy.

Commander U.S. 7th Fleet Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk speaks during the Commander Task Force 70 change of command ceremony at the Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka auditorium April 22. After being relieved by Rear Adm. James R. Haley, Rear Adm. Dan Cloyd will be assuming the position of Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan, April 29.

Haley, who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor's of Science in Physics in May 1980, has 3,500 flight hours and more than 1,000 carrier landings. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal and other campaign and unit awards.

INSIDE

USS George Washington returns to Yokosuka

The aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) returned to its forward-deployed operating port of Yokosuka base April 20, after almost one month at sea.

Pg. 4

Recycling programs save money, conserve natural resources

NAVFAC FE Public Works Department (PWD), on board Yokosuka base, is doing its part to better the environment of our host country Japan.

Pg. 9