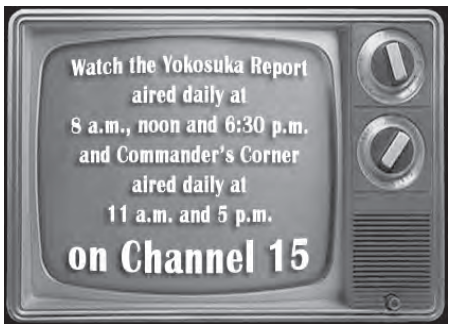
Capt. David A. Owen, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

CSCM(SW/AW) Gilbert V. Bitanga, Acting Command Master Chief

Action Line correspondence may be edited for length and readability. Your questions, suggestions and "Bravo Zulu" comments are appreciated. Address concerns with your chain of command or directly with the parties involved, at the lowest level possible. If you don't get results, send an email to CFAYactionline@gmail.com. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk office, call CFAY Public Affairs at 243-3003 or send an email to: CFAYactionline@gmail.com.



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Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan
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Community announcements/Action line

Allowances Branch of the Defense Travel Management Office Survey – Every year the Allowances Branch of the Defense Travel Management Office conducts a survey to find out how much service members spent in the previous year for utilities (e.g. electricity, heating fuel, water, trash removal, and sewer fees). The data from this survey is used to determine the Utility Allowance, which is part of the Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA). Additionally, every third year, a survey is conducted to find how much service members spent when initially moving into their leased quarters to make them habitable (e.g. purchase of major appliances and expenses for hook-up of utilities). The data from this survey is used to determine the Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) Allowance, which is part of the OHA. The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utilities and Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) Expense Survey for Yokosuka, Japan is available on-line. The survey is intended for all military personnel who reside in off-base privately-leased housing and can be accessed at: https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/aprutilmiha.cfm. For more information, contact Chief Personnel Specialist Corey Dahlheim at 243-5712, or email corey.dahlheim@fe.navy.mil.

Defense Financing and Accounting Services (DFAS) scam letter warning – A letter is making the circuit purporting to be from DFAS asking military member's fiancées to register in our system entitling them to benefits in the event of the member's death. All for only a $350 fee. However, it's a scam. Please let your fellow soldiers, Sailors, airmen, Marines and families know the score. Corporate Communications advises the facebook post links to an earlier release DFAS put out in October on interaction with customers. DFAS will never send you unsolicited email messages requesting your myPay login ID and password or any other personal or financial information. We also will not send you unsolicited email messages with attachments, if you receive an email message that appears suspicious, do not click on any links or open attachments, etc.

Hospital bills: Your responsibility – Pay patients seen at military treatment facilities, have bills generated and sent to the patient's insurance carrier. Often, after payments are made by the patient's insurance carrier, there is a remaining co-payment that is the responsibility of the patients. These co-payments if unpaid leave a negative balance on the patient's account generating late notices 30 days after payment is due. If payment isn't made within an additional 30 days, a second notice is sent. A third and final notice will be sent at the 90-day mark if the bill remains unpaid. If, at the 90-day mark, the bill has not been paid or arrangements have not been made to pay the bill, patients with an outstanding balance will not be able to schedule routine appointments, or obtain non-urgent care. If you suspect you may have unpaid medical bills or have any questions on the billing process, please call the U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka Billing Office at 243-8574.

Unauthorized political activity – The Department of Defense (DoD) maintains a policy that DoD personnel acting in their official capacity may not engage in activities that associate the DoD with any partisan political campaign or election, candidate, cause, or issue. All military personnel, including National Guard and reserve forces, are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaigns or election events. Military members may not:

- Fundraise
- Speak
- Canvass or advocate on behalf of a partisan candidate or cause.
- Military members are disallowed from placing partisan political signage in military housing onboard military installations.

Acceptable political activities:

- Members are allowed (in a private capacity) to support their candidate or cause in limited scope, as long as it is never in uniform and is not serving a large role within the cause (i.e., supervisory position).

Bicycle Helmets – All bicycle riders must wear an approved bicycle helmet in usable condition when entering the gates on Yokosuka base. No hard hats will be allowed for use on bicycles from the base entry point to the work centers nor from the work centers to the base exit points. Hard hats are only allowed for use by personnel after they report to the work place and their work requires use of a hard hat to perform their duties. Bicycle helmets that are found not safe must be replaced before being allowed to ride a bicycle on base. This is in accordance with CFAY instruction 5800.2G. Contact CFAY Traffic Safety at 243-7354 for more information.

自転車用ヘルメットに関するお知らせ – 横須賀基地及び関連施設に入出門する際、正規の自転車用ヘルメットを着用してください。通退勤時におけるゲートから職場までの区間、作業用保安帽を自転車用として代用することはできませんが、勤務中に職場及び業務上作業保安帽の着用が義務付けられている区域、またはその区域を自転車で通過する場合のみ、代用可能です。自転車用ヘルメットが安全な使用状態に無い場合、適切な物と交換されるまで基地内での自転車の運転は認められません。上記違反者は横須賀基地指令書第5800.2G号により取り締まりを受けます。詳しくは243-7354、CFAY交通安全課までお問い合わせください。

BZ: I would like to thank Chaplain Corey Thornton for his article *"The ethics of Relationships"* in the May 4 edition of the Seahawk (available online at http://www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/NewsAndCurrentInfo/SeahawkNewspaper/index.htm). I thoroughly enjoyed his piece on I-It and I-Thou ethics; I never knew that Buber was a Jewish philosopher! (They seem to have omitted that in my studies.) In any case, if more people acted on I-Thou ethics rather than on I-It, the world would be a better place. BZ and thank you.

Deadline for Seahawk submissions – Deadline for submissions to the Seahawk is the Thursday before the next Seahawk edition. Email your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Contact the Seahawk editor by email at Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for more information.

Guardians of the night

By Capt. David A. Owen,
Commander Fleet Activities, Yokosuka

There are members of our armed forces that give the majority of their lives to dedicated and unselfish service. These expertly trained assets are the military working dogs. Able to sniff out drugs, explosives and deliver bites to fight evil all for a piece of rubber (kong toy) in return. They are loyal beyond belief and will give everything without hesitation. Deploying multiple times into harm's way, many of them have more time in combat zones than most service members will ever serve on active duty. Some have even paid the ultimate price of giving their lives during the performance of their duties.

I have the great fortune of having been able to adopt and give one of these noble beasts a good home and retirement. His name is Nero and many have seen me walking him around the installation enjoying his retirement. I even have taken him to area orientation briefings, where his presence has received very positive feedback, and made space for him in my office. His presence added to morale and everybody in the building likes him.

Unfortunately, I was recently informed that there were complaints made against me due to him being in my workspace. The feeling is that I was abusing my position as the base Commanding Officer by having an animal in my office. Nero is not just a pet, but a retired Petty Officer. Military Working Dogs are considered to have obtained rank one pay grade above their current, or in the case of retirement, last handler. Despite his status, I have reluctantly removed his bed from the building and no longer bring him to work. It's unfortunate that while it was acceptable for Nero to place his life on the line in danger zones where hostile fire occurs, that he is not welcome in an office space following years of faithful service.

It's likely that some of the complaints came from individuals who didn't understand Nero's status or might have never served on active duty or even been near a combat zone. I hope that those who made the complaints against me at the expense of a retired service member are now satisfied. While I encourage members of our base community to seek ways of improving our conditions, I hope that future suggestions and concerns are directed towards solutions for things that really affect everyone's quality of life. There are more important things to worry about!