Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY promotes SAAM through SCREAM performances

By MCSN Gregory A. Harden II (SW/AW) and MCSA Jordan T. Buttolph, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Sailors Challenging Reality and Education Against Myths (SCREAM) live theater performances promoted Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) in the base Benny Decker Theater April 24-25.

The performances were dramatic, simulations of situations where sexual assault occurs, dealing with the before and after of effects of sexual assault. After each performance the audience was given a chance participate in a discussion about the events depicted.

Some performers participate in order to raise awareness in their community, while others in the production are motivated to raise awareness by their own personal experiences.

"One of my personal friends was sexually assaulted a couple years ago, and it really hit home," said Personnel Specialist Seaman Christopher D. Ramey, Personnel Support Detachment Yokosuka, and an actor for SCREAM Theater. "It is important to get the message across because this could happen to anyone, regardless of gender."

The entire cast of the SCREAM Theater production is comprised of Sailors attached to various commands of CFAY who wanted to participate in spreading the message.

"I think it is very important to bring sexual assault awareness to the Navy. Sexual assault happens on a daily basis and it goes unreported and undetected," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Trevor Thompson, assigned to the CFAY Naval Hospital, an actor for SCREAM Theater. "We wanted to make sure that everyone knows what resources are available to them and how to utilize them properly."

SCREAM Theater performances are a form of unconventional military training that aims to make a long-lasting impression through dramatic scenarios and crowd interaction.

"Our SCREAM Theater production is an alternative to the traditional way of presenting sexual assault awareness and prevention. Most trainings are taught through lecture, PowerPoint or a video," said CFAY Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Theodore E. Joyner.

Joyner stressed that Sailors need to be aware of the dangers of sexual assault.

"The month of April is our most active period of promoting awareness, but sexual assault awareness and prevention is a year round message for the military," said Joyner.

(Left) HM1 Lillian Ramirez and HM1 Trevor Thompson, assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, perform as part of SCREAM Theater production for Sexual Assault Awareness Month at CFAY Benny Decker Theater April 24-25.
Photo by MC2 (SW/AW) John Smolinski

Each week of April highlights a different theme of SAAM: "Hurts One," "Affects All," "Prevention is Everyone's Duty" and "We Will Not Tolerate Sexual Assault."

Victims of sexual assault can seek assistance at the Fleet and Family Support Center: Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, from Sexual Assault Victim Intervention Program, Clinical Counseling, or from the Victim Awareness Assistance Program.

USS Blue Ridge concludes Cambodia port visit

By MC3 Alexandra Arroyo, *USS Blue Ridge* Public Affairs

SIHANOUKVILLE, CAMBODIA – Sailor from U.S. 7th Fleet flagship *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) and Marines assigned to Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Pacific (FASTPAC) completed a port visit to Shihanoukville, Cambodia May 5.

The visit helped demonstrate United States commitment to sustaining a strong relationship between the two countries.

For more than 30 years, *Blue Ridge* has maintained a presence in the Southeast Asia region by strengthening allied ties through community service (COMSERV) projects and conducting joint military exercises with neighboring nations, like Cambodia.

These port visits are a symbol of the U.S. commitment and continued interest in ensuring a climate for regional stability and bridging economic prosperity in the region.

(Left) Senior Chief Logistics Specialist Jesse Delrosario and OOSSN Crystal Booth, assigned to U.S. 7th Fleet flagship *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) chase Cambodian children in a game of sharks and minnows during a community service event at a children's home in Sihanoukville, Cambodia May 1. *Blue Ridge* is in Cambodia as a goodwill ambassador to help promote peace and stability in the region.
U.S. Navy photo byMC3 Mel Orr

The *Blue Ridge* crew took the opportunity to experience the local culture and people.

"I really enjoyed my time here," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Robert Zobel. "The food and the nightlife were great."

The crew took their involvement in the community to another level by volunteering at COMSERVs and giving their time to childrens' homes and schools.

Sailors visited children from the Sihanoukville Providence and M'Lop Topang childrens' Educational and Social Services Program.

"We had the chance to relive childhood and realize that no matter what the background of an individual is, children are all the same. The 7th Fleet Band performed and we played games with the kids," said Lt. Donald Baker, *Blue Ridge* chaplain.

Some of the COMSERV volunteers paid a visit to a local university as well.

"Visiting the university was my favorite part. I taught a short theology class to the university students," said Baker.

The ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee offered a variety of tours including snorkeling, visits to nearby towns, and a visit to Angkor Wat, the largest Hindu temple complex in the world.

"I feel grateful that I had the chance to visit Angkor Wat. Not many people get the opportunity to visit that magical place," said Information Specialist 2nd Class Dexter Balitang.

The visit provided one Sailor a chance to meet distant relatives and visit the where his family roots began.

"I was really excited that we were pulling into my birth country," said Sar. "It was unreal to know I have a half-brother in another country who I have never met before and was getting the chance to finally connect with him and my father-in-law because of this port visit."

Cambodian nationals were not the only ones who paid attention to the Sailors and Marines during the visit. Foreign business owners took notice as well.

"It made me feel very proud to be an American when I saw how well Sailors and Marines interacted with locals," said Andrea Lee, an American restaurant owner residing in Cambodia. "You're all so nice and you have a great reputation in town for being polite and generous to the local population. Thank you so much for all that you do for us."

INSIDE

USMC colonel observes search for lost heroes of Vietnam War

A Marine Corps colonel teamed up with personnel from two additional organizations to search for the remains of Marines in Sihanoukville Province, Cambodia, May 3.

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Conditions of readiness system helps inform community

Each year, Japan goes through a typhoon season. CFAY has a Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (TCCOR) system in place to help keep people informed.

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