Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Safety, Health, Environmental Fair kicks off summer

By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Statistically, there are increased injuries and fatalities during the summer months. Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) hopes to reduce, or thwart summer mishaps by raising awareness through events such as its 5th annual Safety, Health and Environmental Awareness Fair held May 25.

"With the arrival of summer, many of us are going to start working and playing outside a lot more in the heat and humidity," said CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen, during his opening remarks. "Last summer, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, there were 28 Sailors and Marines, who, unfortunately, died and they all could have been averted in what they were doing.

"We need to refresh our memories on how to keep ourselves safe. We need to remember things like ORM (Operational Risk Management). It does not only apply at work, but also at home," Owen said.

The event marks the beginning of a concentrated, proactive stance that CFAY takes regarding the safety of its service members, civilians and family members.

"This is the kickoff of our 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign," said CFAY Safety Officer Kordeen Kor. "We brought people in from a series of different vendors to be able to provide information to the Sailors and civilians who are working here at CFAY to help them get through the summer safely."

Among the activities during the event, attendees had an opportunity to receive free literature, American Red Cross CPR demonstrations, auto-impact airbag demonstrations by Japanese police, a demonstration on the effects of alcohol by CFAY Security, and CNFJ Regional Fire Department provided an earthquake simulator and fire prevention tips.

CFAY Sailor HTFN Matthew White and Yokosuka City Police Officer Sgt. Shugo Onita push ITSA Shawn Hitchcock on the auto-impact airbag simulator. The demonstration is part of the CFAY Safety, Health and Environmental Awareness Fair that took place outside the commissary May 25.

Photo by Joe Schmitt

Providing the information is only the first elements in promoting safety, these elements rely on implementation by community members.

"[People should] make sure they are in shape for what they want to do," said Kor. "Make sure they have done their operational risk management; that they have gone through and identified any hazards or potential hazards; that they have assessed those; they've made a risk decision and that they've implemented any controls that are necessary to make sure they can be safe."

Being mindful of your surroundings, assessing hazards and setting measures for things within you control can go a long way in helping people to remain safe.

"I challenge you all to help each other by helping our families, our friends, and other members of our community, in preventing these tragedies that can occur when people don't manage a risk," said Owen.

"Being safe is something we take seriously. Whether you're driving a vehicle, or playing softball… the last thing we want is to lose friends or family members to something that they could have avoided," Owen added.

Sailors, volunteers help preserve Yokohama foreigners cemetery

Story and photo by MC2 Devon Dow, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Sailors from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Negishi Housing Detachment, volunteers and Girl Scouts from West Pacific Troop 161 Negishi, took part in an annual cleanup project at the Yokohama Foreigners General Cemetery May 25.

Volunteers spent hours raking leaves, pulling weeds, pruning bushes and trees and clearing pathways during the early morning.

Upon their completion, the volunteers searched through the more than 4,000 grave sites and placed new American flags on each U.S. service member's grave. This service is performed by the Sailors biannually, around Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Lt. Asa Kim, officer in charge of CFAY Negishi Housing Detachment, said the cleanup he and the volunteers took part in is a constant reminder about the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who wear the U.S. military uniform.

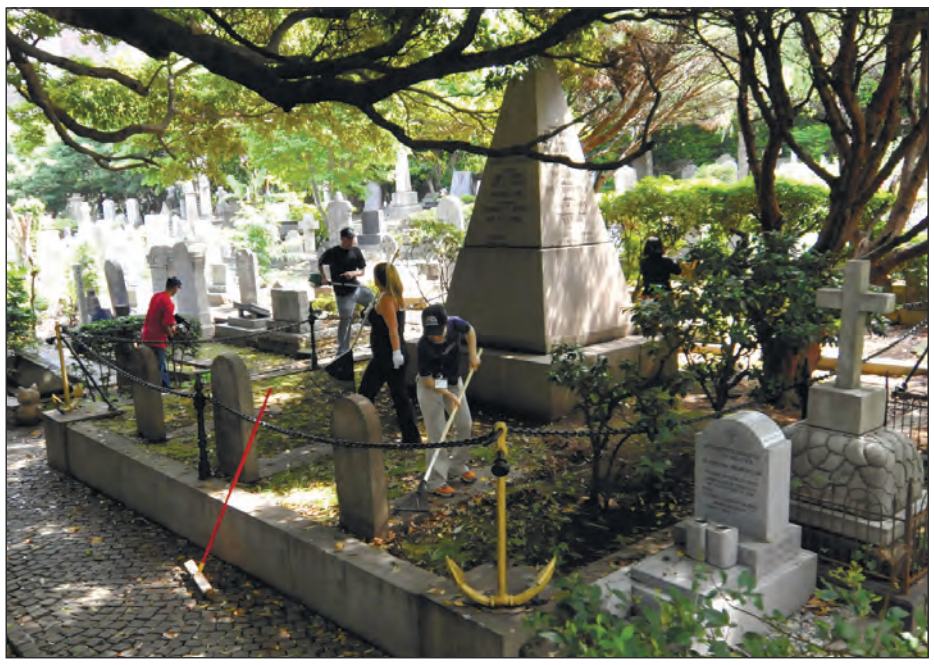
"We wanted to make sure we did our part in keeping the markings and memory of our service members beautiful, they deserve it," he said. "Today is a constant reminder of the overseas service that was put forth for our freedom. Even though we are not in the states we cannot forget the support from home and appreciate those service members who came before us."

The Japanese government-owned cemetery grounds, which cover more than 20,000 square meters and contains approximately 4,200 graves, has been in use by the area foreign community since 1854 when a Sailor from one of the ships under the command of Commodore William Perry was buried on the hill overlooking Yokohama.

Today, people from more than 40 countries are buried at the cemetery. Most of the deceased helped establish the city of Yokohama. Many of the foreigners who founded area schools and colleges also rest here.

Sailors who volunteered said the experience is one any Sailor should take part in and something they will always remember.

"This is my fourth time taking part in this cleanup project and every time I come, it makes me feel good about helping those who served our country overseas," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Derek Clark, a native of Phoenix. "It is always nice to know that you are doing something positive and to be given the opportunity by the Navy to participate in such a project showing appreciation for the sacrifices made for us."



Sailors from CFAY Negishi Housing Detachment and volunteers clean up a monument dedicated to U.S. Navy and Marines during a cleanup project at the Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery May 25. The cemetery is the final resting place to hundreds of foreigners who died in Japan during World Wars I and II.

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INSIDE

McCampbell participates in IMDEX during Singapore visit

***USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) Sailors participated in several events as part of IMDEX Asia 2011 prior to the ships departure from Singapore May 21.**

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Sullivans annual MIme festival aims to inspire children

The Sullivans School held its 9th annual Multiple Intelligent Me festival May 2-3, featuring a variety of performances chosen to help expand a child's learning experience.

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