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

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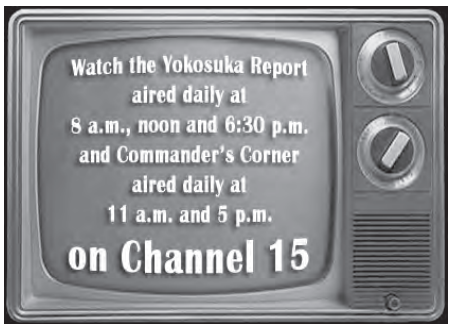

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Heads Up Yokosuka!

Community announcements/Action line

Berkey Field Tennis Court Facility Renovation – The Berkey Field Tennis Court Facility will be closed for renovation from Jan. 27 through May 12. For safety reasons, the entire facility including the skate park will be enclosed by a construction barrier and unavailable to the public during the renovation time period. Call 243-7250 for more information.

BZ: Good day, I wanted to express my gratitude to Personnel Support Detachment Yokosuka Assistant Transportation Officer PSC Louis Saldana and his team of professionals as they did a superb job of handling emergent travel for two attorneys traveling from Haneda to Naha for an important case. He and his team did a fantastic job in a last-minute, four-hour period. With little to no advanced notice, Chief Saldana ensured that reservations were made and ticketing was expeditiously handled while providing direction and quick results! Thank you.

BZ: On behalf of Lt. Victoriano Naval, SPARWAR Officer in Charge Cmdr. Andrew Gibbons, SPAWAR Managing Director Tom Mills and the whole Team SPAWAR Japan, we would like to recognize and offer this Bravo Zulu to PS1 Oliver Santy of Personnel Support Detachment Yokosuka for all your outstanding support in assisting Lt. Naval and his family with their travel. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity also to thank the entire Personnel Support Detachment for their outstanding support to the fleet and shore duty commands. Bravo Zulu and many thanks.

Q: Two of my close friends and I were going to go on the base to eat lunch. When we were in the pass office getting the one-day guest pass, one of my two friends was using her driver license as identification. The license is one of the newer ones with no nationality and she needed to provide her PIN number. She did this but the girl behind the desk told her that it was the wrong number. My friend told her the number a second time but the girl said that it is still the wrong number. The girl behind the counter told us that we can go to the police station and get the number. We did this and not only did my friend give her the correct number but the police officer gave her a piece of paper with her nationality, name and birth date. We returned to the pass office, but this time we went to a different window. The guy behind the desk asked my friend for her PIN number and she showed him the paper she got from the police. The girl who took care of us on our first visit said you need to see it on the screen. The guy told her she showed him the paper issued by the police. Then the girl behind the counter said that will work. We received our passes and went to lunch. However, when I went into the pass office the following week with my mother, the guy behind the counter told me that I didn't turn in the previous pass. I asked him if this happens often, do people often lose passes that have been returned. He told me sometimes they fly out of the return box or get lost in the process. They also said that the main gate is safer than Womble Gate. During a visit two months later, my mother and I went onto the base to do laundry and errands. When we left the base I put the pass in the red box located at the main gate. A few weeks later, I went to the base for some errands. However, the same girl who kept telling my friend that her PIN number was wrong told me that I didn't turn in the pass I got for my mother a few weeks earlier. This time she gave me a lecture about base policies and that I was wrong not turning the pass in and gave me a very strong warning. She also had me sign a piece of paper acknowledging the fact that the pass was not turned in. I signed the paper but I do know for a fact that I have never left the base without turning in any of my guest's one-day passes. My friends, family members, and I have no reason to keep any of the passes. As I talk to others and compare events similar to my issues, I see that this is happening to a lot of people not just me. When I go to Camp Zama or Sagamihara, the policy there is to leave the ID card of your guest there and get it back when you turn in your pass. I am very thankful that this is not the policy in Yokosuka because they would surely lose peoples ID cards.

A: Security sends an apology to the situation you were met with previously and will continue to assist as best we can as we strive to provide the best customer service to our community. Please understand that there are certain parameters that we must follow in regards to the Japanese Drivers License (ID card reader). We are unable to view the eight-digit pin number that is entered. When the member inputs the information into the reader they do so utilizing the first four digits and then the second four digits. We simply just enter the READ card button. At this point either the card will be read successfully and the ID card information and photo will display on the monitor. If the member enters an incorrect pin (either the first or second pin) will display on the screen stating which pin number was incorrect; however it does not show us what pin that was entered into the system. The ID card pin reader will be locked after the third consecutive incorrect pin number is entered and the individual must return to the Japanese Police Station (JPS) to have the card unlocked. For guests that do not provide the correct pin number, they will be advised of this prior to allowing them to try a third time. If they decide to return to JPS, they will be issued a print out that shows their Japanese Drivers License number on it along with a few other numbers on the paper. The PIN is never shown to us, nor is the PIN printed on the paper that they are given. They are responsible for keeping track of their pin. If a visitor is a regular visitor, meaning that they come to the base more than just once or twice, it is easier if they carry the print out with them from JPS. We verify that the drivers' license number matches the paperwork. Three incorrect entries of the PIN will lock the reader and we can not unlock it from the Industrial Security Office (ISO). The member must report to JPS at that point. In regards to the passes being 'safer' to return at Carney Gate versus Womble Gate, we don't encounter any major discrepancies that would account for this. One of the main issues that we run into is personnel departing the base utilizing a taxi. They hand the passes to the taxi driver for them to place into the red box, at which point the sponsor is not the one placing the passes into the box; therefore they are truly not aware if the pass was actually placed into the drop box. Remember, the responsibility is with the member to return the pass. In order to ensure that their passes are returned on time the sponsor must be the one escorting and returning the passes to the drop box. If someone comes to ISO stating that they are sure their pass was returned, we revert to our file of returned guest passes as we keep all passes to verify accuracy. The passes are sorted by date of entry and return. The passes are stamped with the date they were returned and also the word entered after they are scanned back into the database. Whenever we show that a customer has a missing, unreturned pass in the system we advise them verbally and then they also must sign our log book stating that they had an unreturned pass. Depending on how many unreturned passes the sponsor has will determine the duration of the escort privileges being suspended. If someone is concerned about the pass not being entered into the system, please have the member visit directly to ISO for immediate assistance and update the database while they wait. I hope this information is helpful to you as we look forward to seeing you on your next visit to Yokosuka base.

One piece makes a difference

By Capt. David Owen,
Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka

As I walk about the base, which is normally multiple times a day, I have a habit which I'd like to challenge all those who work or live on the installation to develop.

I make it a point to pick up at least one piece of trash and throw it away in a proper receptacle. It is a simple act, especially considering the fact that a lot of the litter I find is quite close to a trash can. I pick up cans on the sidewalk, plastic bottles in the bushes and fast food containers in the grass.

I realize that not all trash has been discarded by careless litterbugs. Animals, especially crows and cats, often get into the trash bins and, in some cases, high winds make a mess.

However, we could make great strides toward a more beautiful installation if everyone threw their waste away properly, including cigarette butts. I have never understood why smokers think its okay to toss their cigarette butts out the window of a car or flick them off to the side instead of throwing them away. If you wouldn't dispose of it by leaving it on the floor of your home, then tossing it on the ground is not acceptable either.

I like to believe that everyone who works or lives on board Yokosuka base wants to make it a beautiful and enjoyable place - a place they would be proud show their family and friends.

With more than 25,000 people on this base, there should be a lot of available hands to pick up after ourselves and help keep our base clean. So please, instead of walking past litter, I ask you all to help and pick some up, even if it's just one piece every time you go out. One piece makes a difference.