Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Vol. LXI, No. 7 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Feb. 19, 2010

Anti-smoking law expands in Japan

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Expanding on the 2002 *Kenkouzoushinhou*, or Health Promotion Law, which banned smoking in central government and other public buildings, Kanagawa prefecture is enacting the Kanagawa Prefectural Government Ordinance on Prevention of Exposure to Secondhand Smoke in Public Facilities April 1.

The new ordinance sets concrete rules and regulations for facility managers to follow in regards to smoking in public spaces and will also set fines for individuals smoking in nonsmoking areas and for facility managers who do not comply with the new ordinance.

According to the ordinance, public areas are divided into class 1 and class 2 facilities. Class 1 facilities, which include, schools, hospitals, theaters, movie theaters, sports facilities, retail shops, financial institutions, et cetera, will not allow smoking anywhere on the premises and will be required to post no smoking signs at the entrances of the facilities. Class 2 facilities, which include restaurants, amusement arcades, et cetera, may allow or prohibit smoking in the facility. However, any facility that allows smoking will be required to post signs informing customers of the smoking policy of the individual shop and ensure that smoke in the smoking area is properly ventilated out of the building and does not enter into designated nonsmoking areas and ensure that smoke in the smoking area is properly ventilated out of the building and does not enter into designated nonsmoking areas.

The ordinance is intended to protect nonsmokers and especially minors under the age of 20 from the harmful chemicals in secondhand smoke. According to www.tobaccoatlas.org, secondhand smoke remains one of the world's most critical environmental health hazards, leading all other lethal indoor air contaminants - including wood fires, asbestos particles and radon. Smoke-free policies are necessary to protect children from a serious health hazard - environmental tobacco smoke. In order to protect every child's right to a healthy future, adult smoking needs to be highly regulated or eliminated, especially among parents and expectant parents.

The National Cancer Institute lists the harmful consequences of exposure to secondhand smoke on their Web site, www.cancer.gov. According to the site, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, the U.S. Surgeon General and the International Agency for Research on Cancer have classified secondhand smoke as a known human carcinogen (cancer-causing agent). Approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths occur each year among adult nonsmokers in the United States as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Girl Scouts net 400 plus books for USO library

Story and photo by Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

If you are a Sailor who likes nothing better than to unwind after a long day at sea with a good book, look no further than the recently restocked Lending Library of the United Service Organization (USO) inside Club Alliance on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

Thanks to the ambitious young patriots of the Girl Scouts of America Brownie Troop 235, the shelves of the library are packed with both new and used books for those to borrow.

"We gave a lot of books away, to let the Sailors use them when they go away," said Girl Scout Brownie Sienna Crumpacker. "Thank you for helping our country."

The Brownies, who are based in Yokosuka, made the donation to the USO following a two week book drive which netted more than 400 different books specifically collected for the USO Lending Library.

"The girls decorated donation boxes and we put them out at the Navy Exchange to collect books because we heard the USO was running low," said Troop Leader Tricia Marino. "We know Sailors come into the USO and take books [out to sea] with them, so we wanted to help restock their supply."

USO Director of Programs and Marketing Vernichel Tharps accepted the donation on behalf of the organization and was on hand to see the Brownie's excitement when they started piling the shelves high with donated texts and realized that their own parents might be the true beneficiary.

"It's amazing," said Tharps. "They learned that the books they collected are going to the Sailors and a lot of them say 'my dad's on a boat!', so they got the connection."

According to Marino, the book drive was the second community service project in which the Brownies and USO have teamed up together.

Girl Scouts of America Brownie Troop 235 hold up books they collected and donated to the USO Yokosuka Lending Library Feb. 4.

"It shows that the kids want to give back to the community they live in," she said.

The Lending Library is available to all USO patrons and especially useful for Sailors getting underway.

"If you need a book and want some entertainment, if you're on your way out and you're going to be out for a couple of months, help yourself," said Tharps. "That's what its there for, that's what the donations are given for."

Tharps added that the USO is interested in helping to build a ship to ship lending program in association with the lending library, but it's all contingent on book donations. In addition to the Brownies, the USO has received book donations from local libraries and a number of generous donors who have handed over their personal collections.

College 101 for Spouses first step to degree

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

Spouses at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) got a look into educational opportunities offered to them during a class held at the Navy College Office Feb. 10.

The class, 'College 101 for Spouses,' is a two-hour session offered once a month and provides spouses with resources so they can begin working towards a college degree or complete a preexisting degree. The class describes in detail programs like the Military Spouse College Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) and the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill.

"It's tailored to the spouse to show them that, as military spouses, there are resources out there that are available just to them," said Cynthia Cross, the regional senior education technician from CFAY Navy College Office.

Cynthia Cross, senior regional education technician from the Navy College Office Yokosuka, speaks to military spouses about their educational opportunities during a College 101 for Spouses class Feb. 10.

The class was started by Cross and so far CFAY is the only installation in the world offering this type of class specifically for military spouses.

"The highlights are the MyCAA program and the Post 9/11 G.I. bill, which gives huge financial incentives. MyCAA gives a free $6,000 and the Post 9/11 G.I. bill gives many other benefits for tuition."

Cross believes that living overseas is a perfect opportunity for spouses to begin or complete a degree.

"If they're sitting at home and the excitement of Japan has kind of worn off it's a great time to get started in something new," said Cross. "My goal is just to empower them to know the resources that they have available. Being overseas in a small community like this, it is a great opportunity to further develop them selves both professionally and personally."

Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan Ombudsman Nizzah Bradley attended the class to help advance her education and to gather information to give to other spouses.

"I'm taking the class because I think there are a lot of spouses that are not aware of the avenues that are available to them to get a free education," she said. "We always see the news that the cost of education is going up but there are a lot of roads that are available to the military that aren't necessarily available to the average person, and I think that by taking this class I can push that information out."

Cross says that spouses who want to attend the class should contact the Yokosuka Navy College Office.

"I would recommend this class to anybody out there who is thinking about going back to school," Bradley added.

INSIDE

GW recognizes "key players" during SRA period

***USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) recognized several key players of the week Feb. 5 for outstanding professionalism in the performance of their duties.**

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CFAY goes green during Earth Day friendship exchange

In the morning chill, volunteers from both on base and off base came together to help clean up CFAY during an Earth Day event Feb. 6.

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