司令官の相談室

Capt. Daniel L. Weed, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

CMDCM Wayne E. Smith, Command Master Chief

New CFAY Web site URL – Effective immediately, the new CFAY Web site URL is *www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka*.

Visa Waiver Program Travel Changes – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), a new online system that is part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) this past August. The ESTA web-based system is now open for voluntary applications but becomes mandatory Jan. 12. Once ESTA is mandatory, all nationals or citizens of participating VWP countries who plan to travel to the United States for 90 days or less for temporary business or pleasure under the VWP will need to receive an electronic travel authorization prior to boarding a U.S. bound airplane or cruise ship. Anyone traveling using VWP will need to ensure to process ESTA at least 72 hours prior to departure. This is applicable not only for official travel such as Temporary Additional Duty (TAD), Emergency Leave travel and medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) but also for your private travel. Visit the U.S. Embassy Web site at http://tokyo.usembassy.gov/e/visa/tvisa-esta2008.html or the Travel Web site at: https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html?_flowExecutionKey=_cDF02137F-CF9C-11CE-9929-C2D7A8FDD806_kA0E1E0C7-8022-4497-57F8-7A4123696F7D for more information.

Stars and Stripes "Heroes" Feature – Stars and Stripes newspaper is getting ready to begin production of its annual "Hereos" feature. They are looking for service members who received medals for valor in 2008 and 2009 (recipients prior to 2008 will be considered if not previously profiled). Recipients who received the following medals for valorous act will be considered: Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross, Bronze Star with "V" device, Army Commendation Medal (heroism) and the Navy/Marine Corps Medal (heroism). Submit the service members name, type of medal and date received, name of command or unit, current e-mail/telephone number and photo of service member (preferably at sea or down range) to Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs Office at ben.avey@fe.navy.mil by close of business Feb. 27.

BZ: Bravo Zulu to Second Hand Rose Assistant Manager Ms. Bruni. I would like to thank her for the support and generous donations she made to the Sacred Heart Catholic Community, Chapel of Hope, in their ministry of helping the homeless in Tokyo and Yokosuka. Ms. Bruni has been very helpful and friendly and her efforts are deeply appreciated by the base community and especially by our less fortunate Japanese citizens.

Q: I am new to Yokosuka and really enjoy the Seahawk newspaper but I do have a suggestion. Would it be possible to have the schedule for the Yokosuka Performing Arts Center included in the paper, in English? I had the great fortune, along with my family and friends, to attend a spectacular Taiko drum show at the center recently. We would love to attend more shows, but it is difficult to understand what shows are being offered because the schedule is in Japanese. The center is so close to the base, I wonder if more people would take advantage of such a gem if they only knew what was being offered with an English schedule.

A: Thank you for your comments in regards to our base newspaper the Seahawk. You can view the Yokosuka Performing Arts Center schedule of events in English by visiting their Web site at: http://www.yokosuka-arts.or.jp/en/e_index.html.

Q: I am writing to inquire what facilities my daughter may or may not be allowed to use while studying at a Japanese university. She is 20 years old and remains my dependent and carries a dependent ID card. Does she have base access privileges? Is she allowed to use the commissary or exchange at any time? Can she take advantage of any Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities?

A: Thank you for your question. Yes; your daughter can access the installation with her dependent ID card. She does have access to the Navy Exchange and commissary and can participate in MWR activities with a valid Dependent ID card.

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 e-mail to cfay.pao.watch@fe.navy.mil. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk, call 243-5607/3003 or send an e-mail to: Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil.

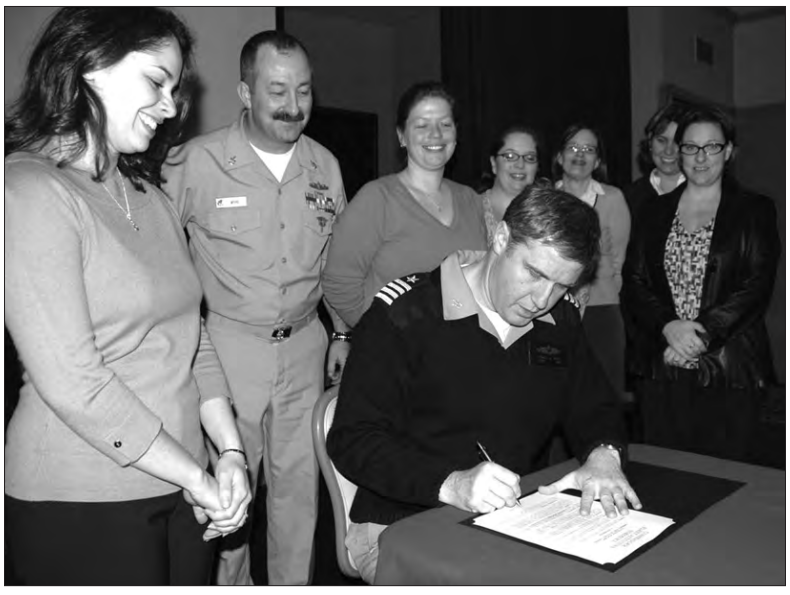
CFAY kicks off Military Saves Week Feb. 22

Story and photo by Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

As part of the Military Saves Campaign, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel L. Weed signed a proclamation, Feb. 11, designating the week of Feb. 22 through Mar. 1 as CFAY Military Saves Week.

According to the Military Saves communication plan from Commander Naval Installations Command (CNIC), the Military Saves Campaign is a social marketing campaign to persuade, motivate and encourage Department of Defense (DoD) employees to save money and reduce consumer debt.

In the plan, CNIC states that its vision is "for the Navy community to be financially fit by making a commitment to save, have a savings plan, saving money and eliminated debt."



CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel L. Weed signs a proclamation, Feb. 11, designating the week of Feb. 22 through Mar. 1 as CFAY Military Saves Week. Military Saves is a social marketing campaign to persuade, motivate and encourage Department of Defense (DoD) employees to save money and reduce consumer debt.

Being financially fit means, being comfortable with your finances, having them under control and knowing what you spend your money on, according to Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Financial Educator Rebecca Reimer.

Financial fitness helps make the peoples' lives run more smoothly, which in turn, help other aspects of their lives. It is especially helpful for military members.

"Essentially, it helps with preparedness for general military operations," said Reimer. "If your finances are settled, especially if you are married and you are deployed, it makes things a lot easier. It makes people a lot more comfortable."

Even single individuals can benefit from having a financial plan in place.

"Just having some plan in place gives something less to worry about, so it doesn't take away from daily operations worrying about paying debt, things like that," said Reimer.

For people who are not familiar with setting up financial plans, FFSC is helping to educate them.

"We have a lot of things around the base and even on the ships," said Reimer. "For ship-side we have command financial specialist training that we hold here on base, where all the commands send representatives to, basically, learn about financial fitness. Then when they take [the training] back [to their ships] they are able to hold classes and one-on-one consultations with members of the ship, especially when they are deployed, so it very important."

Individuals whom are deployed to Japan have an opportunity to get ahead on their finances.

"Being overseas, with the COLA (cost of living allowance) and things like that is a great opportunity to pay down debt," Reimer said.

To learn more about Military Saves and to enroll as a Saver, visit www.militarysaves.org and the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center Web site at www.nffsp.org.

For more information on local financial education programs contact FFSC at 243-3372, or for one one-on-one financial consultation contact Rebecca Reimer at 243-9910.

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