Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Military Saves Week helps community save for future

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed signed The Military Saves Week campaign proclamation Feb. 12.

The proclamation calls upon all Sailors, civilians and family members on board CFAY to engage in positive wealth-building actions in 2010 and to take the military saves pledge which states, "I will help myself by saving money, reducing debt and building wealth over time. I will help my family and my country by encouraging other Americans to build wealth, not debt."

"The number one thing is to have a plan," said Fleet and Family Support Financial Counselor Michael Spiltener, who is planning a financial road show for *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) during Military Saves Week. "Most people don't plan to fail, they just fail to plan."

One example Spiltener uses is about something many CFAY residents do everyday – buying a cup of coffee. A cup of coffee at a local vendor costs about $4.00. That's $20.00 a week, $80.00 a month, $960.00 a year for your daily fix. While he wouldn't suggest anyone cut out their cup of java, he asks they imagine making the same commitment to saving money as they do to getting their morning coffee. That's just one example.

According to the Web site www.militarysaves.org, financial stability is a product of a consistent action over time more than having any specific knowledge of accounting or the stock market. The campaign, which is a part of the Department of Defense Financial Readiness campaign and the national America Saves campaign, aims to create an environment where enough members of the community become active in spending responsibly to help transform every military community into a saving community.

CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed signs the Military Saves Week proclamation in his office Feb. 12, as FFSC Financial Counselors Michael Spiltener and Theron Nolen look on. The proclamation calls upon all Sailors, civilians and family members on board CFAY to engage in positive wealth-building actions in 2010.

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

One area Spiltener would like to see CFAY residents do better in is creating spending plans they stick to day in and day out.

"Most people call it a budget; I don't like that term," he said. "It's really a spending plan. I encourage everyone to contact their command financial specialist and to get the free financial planning worksheet which allows them to keep track of all of their income and spending, and a special program to help with debt repayment. Best of all it's a free program that can really help."

Military Saves was developed and tested by its non-profit sponsor, Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the military services from 2003 to 2006 and launched Feb. 25, 2007 throughout the Department of Defense (DoD).

While it is an ongoing campaign designed to persuade, motivate and encourage DoD employees to save money and reduce debt, the entire military community comes together to focus on financial readiness during Military Saves Week, Feb. 21 – 28. Log on to www.militarysaves.org and take the Savers Pledge today.

SPAWAR admiral recognizes Sailors during Yokosuka visit

Story and photo by MC3 Devon Dow,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Commander of Space and Naval Warfare System Command (SPAWAR), Rear Adm. Michael C. Bachmann paid a visit to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) on an annual swing to SPAWAR Center Pacific Detachment Japan Feb. 16.

Bachmann says he visited the SPAWAR remote detachment to show appreciation, recognize top performing SPAWAR Sailors and to visit with its customers.

"The SPAWAR detachment is doing an outstanding job here, I could not be more pleased with their performance," Bachmann said. "We are getting rave reviews from all of the fleet customers on the support that the detachment provides here and will provide in the future."

According to Bachmann, an added reason to making the trip was to review the plans for installing a complex modernization package aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), a job slated for next year.

"SPAWAR does both shipboard and shore modernization efforts, I made sure to visit with the commanders we supply to make sure we are providing them with all of the support that they require," he said.

With its headquarters in San Diego and approximately 12,000 civilian and military contractors worldwide, SPAWAR is the Navy's premier Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) command for acquisition and life-cycle management of communications and warfare systems.

(Right) Commander Space and Naval Warfare System Command (SPAWAR) Rear Adm. Michael C. Bachmann speaks to SPAWAR Japan Detachment Officer in Charge Cmdr. Andy Gibbons, during a visit to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Feb. 16. During his visit, Bachmann met with various officials from the base and presented awards to top performers in the SPAWAR Japan detachment.

"A lot of work is done by our SPAWAR Center Pacific Detachment Japan that is pretty significant for supporting forward-deployed forces," Bachmann said. "I always make an attempt to get here, talk to our people, explain to them what is going on in our community and take their questions."

Bachmann took the time to recognize the accomplishments of the local SPAWAR staff during an all hands awards presentation and also took time to visit with the Commander of Submarine Group 7, Rear Adm. Michael Connor, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan, Rear Adm. Richard Wren and Commander of Battle Force 7th Fleet, Rear Adm. Kevin Donegan.

Between his scheduled events and meetings on base, Bachmann said he enjoyed the opportunity to venture off base with the SPAWAR staff and enjoy the sights and cuisine of the host nation of CFAY.

"My time here has been wonderful," he said. "It is even more wonderful being in a fleet concentration area that is without a doubt the forward-deployed forces for our great Navy. This is certainly a national treasure here."

INSIDE

CFAY rolls out Navy Working Uniform (NWU)

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Navy Exchange (NEX) rolled out the new Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Feb. 10.

Pg. 4

State primary elections near, Sailors urged to register to vote

As the memory of past elections fades from our national consciousness, it's time to re-spark the fire of election fever and again begin the task of electing our country's leaders.

Pg. 8