Serving Yokosuka for 50 years

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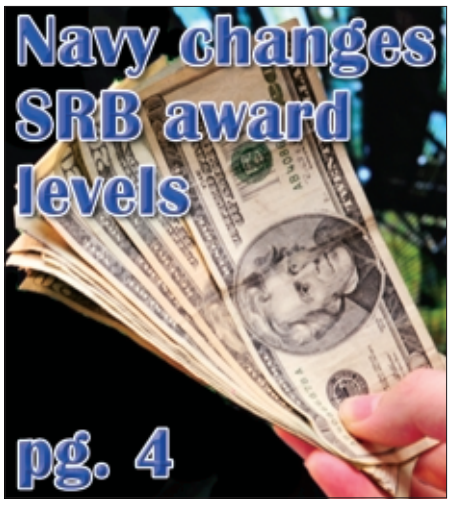

Japanese students learn Yokosuka history with CFAY tour

By Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Japanese students from Meiji University in Tokyo came aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) to learn more about the origins of Yokosuka's original ship yard and its founder, Lord Oguri-Kozukenosuke Feb. 14.

Oguri, who was the Minister of Finance to the Tokugawa Shogunate Government in the mid-1800s, is recognized as a person who had a large impact in the decision to build a major ship yard and port in Yokosuka, Japan. Due to the lasting impact of his actions, about 25 Japanese students were able to enroll in an educational course focused entirely on the life and legacy of Oguri.

According to command history, Oguri was prompted to act in the wake of two major events in Japanese history. The first was the historic visit by United States naval officer Commodore Mathew Perry in 1853, which ended two decades of Japanese isolationism and prompted a new "open door" trade policy in Japan. The second was Oguri's role as the assistant chief of the first Japanese mission to the United States in 1860. It was on this trip that Oguri realized the importance of preparing for the economic prosperity of Japan by developing a shipbuilding capability. "If Japan is to assume an active role in world trade, she must have proper facilities to build and maintain large seagoing vessels," said Oguri at the time.

(Right) Course instructor Taiken Murakami explains the historical significance of SRF-JRMC dry dock 1 to Meiji University students aboard CFAY Feb. 14. The students toured CFAY and the USS George Washington (CVN 73) to supplement a course focused on the life and legacy of Lord Oguri-Kozukenosuke who helped prompt Yokosuka's original ship yard around 1865.

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

One of the course instructors, Taiken Murakami, organized the trip in order to supplement the student's classroom education and to help them better understand the long-term affects of Oguri's initiatives. "Studying history is not only about reading a book. It is important to visit the actual places to deepen our understanding of the history," said Murakami.

While Oguri is not as widely recognized by Americans as other Japanese historical figures, he is credited with turning the quaint fishing village of Yokosuka into an international industrial hub that accelerated the globalization of Japan. "Modernization in Japan started in Yokosuka," said Murakami. "I hope the students will learn that modernization in Japan couldn't have been accomplished without Oguri's achievements."

Almost 150 years after Oguri spurred the creation of a port for large ships, students were able to take a tour of *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73) which has a total combat load displacement of 97,000 tons.

In addition to visiting *GW*, students visited dry dock 1, the first dry dock built to increase the port capabilities in Yokosuka. The dry dock was completed in 1871 and is built from igneous stones. Dry docks 2 and 3 followed and were completed in 1884 and 1874 respectively. All three are currently operated by Ship Repair Facility and Japanese Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC).

DESRON 15 completes change of command

By MC3 Bryan Reckard, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Capt. Mark C. Montgomery turned over the reigns as Commander Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 to Capt. Charles F. Williams during a change of command ceremony at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Feb. 5.

Montgomery recalled fond memories at the helm of the squadron and expressed his pleasure in handing over command to Williams.

"It's my honor today to turn over command of Destroyer Squadron 15 to my Deputy Commander Charles Williams," Montgomery said. "It seems only too recently that I took this fantastic assignment in April 2007. I must say that this has been the most enjoyable, rewarding and probably challenging two years for my family and me. I appreciate so many of my friends and mentors coming to today's ceremony."

As the squadron's former deputy commander, Williams understands the dynamics of the DESRON 15 team and is confident he will be successful in his new role as commander of the squadron.

"Today is a wonderful and perfect day to take command of the most dynamic and combat ready destroyer squadron in our Navy," Williams said. "As the first deputy to plate up to commodore here at DESRON 15, I know my marching orders better than any. I know this business is a team sport. I also know at Battle Force 7th Fleet, we have an all-star team."

CNO directs network security training

By MC2(SW) Christopher Koons, Naval Network Warfare Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead has directed all Navy activities to conduct a network security training and awareness day no later than Feb. 28. Every Navy member who uses government computers including Sailors, civilians and contractors are required to complete this training.

The CNO mandated this policy due to wide-spread non-compliance with established guidelines, regulations and directives concerning the use of Navy networks and multiple malware infections that have recently occurred.

"The recent setting of Information Operations Condition (INFOCON) Level 3 set the stage for the CNO to mandate this training," said Lt. Cmdr. Damen Hofheinz, Naval Network Warfare Command's (NETWARCOM) deputy for information assurance.

INFOCON is a comprehensive defense posture and response system based on the number and level of threats posed to military information systems. It has five parts, with INFOCON Level 5 being the lowest threat to military networks and Level 1 being the greatest threat condition.

Commands will be required to conduct training for all users in the following areas: removable media, anti-phishing, safe home computing and personally identifiable information (PII) handling procedures.

Members will also review their commander's expectations regarding user accountability and network security. The goal is to increase awareness and ensure compliance with information assurance policies and procedures.

"Bad practices such as using thumb drives to transfer data between domains, not digitally signing e-mails with links and attachments, and people opening spam and phishing e-mails are all areas that will be addressed," said Hofheinz. "It will increase awareness of these practices and the vulnerabilities that can arise from them and will hopefully stop people from doing them in the future."

CNO Adm. Gary Roughead has directed all Navy activities to conduct network security training no later than Feb. 28.

U.S. Navy file photo

NETWARCOM conducted its scheduled training Feb. 23. Vice Adm. Denby Starling, NETWARCOM commander, hopes all personnel came away from it with a better sense of what must be done to increase security.

"Recent events have reinforced the continuing need for network operators who are aware of the threat, are well trained in network security guidelines, and whose command leadership has high expectations for compliance and accountability," Starling said.