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.

Dr. Seuss Celebration/Read-A-Thon Kick off – Byrd Elementary School is inviting you and your family to help celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday and to kick off their March Read-A-Thon at Byrd Elementary School from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., March 2. Contact Nancy Turner at 242-4889 or e-mail to NancyL.Turner@pac.dodea.edu for more information.

The Sullivans School presents Poetry Alive – The Sullivans School presents Poetry Alive, a week-long event sponsored by the PTO, March 2 – 6 at The Sullivans School. Visit the Poetry Alive Web site at www.poetryalive.com or contact Megan Cullen at 243-2583 or megan.cullen@pac.dodea.edu for more information.

Kannonzaki Beach Clean up – Volunteers are needed to participate in the Kannonzaki Beach clean up, 10 a.m. to noon, March 14. Volunteers should meet at Kenritsu Say-sho-nen no Mura across from Perry Park by 9:30 a.m. to register. Red flags will mark the location. Please bring gloves, hat, towel, sun block, etc., for this event. Please travel by train if possible as parking is available but limited. Contact CFAY Public Affairs Office Community Relations section Fumiyo Sato at 243-2566 or by e-mail to fumiyo.sato@fe.navy.mil for directions or for more information.

Higher Social Security Payment – If you have served on active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 you may qualify for a higher social security payment because of your military service. Up to $1,200 a year of earnings credited at time of application. Bring your DD214 to the Social Security Office when you apply. This benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it to receive it. Visit the Social Security Web site at www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm 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.

Q: We were told during Area Orientation Brief/Intercultural Relations (AOB/ICR) class that one should not be able to hear music from a car stereo outside the car, yet we permit our Sailors and other workers to fix up their cars so that their exhaust systems act as megaphones rather than mufflers. Since most vehicles pass the gate each week or two, why not have a small flier which warns that the policy will be enforced by a set date and then begin ticketing for this nuisance?

A: Thank you for your attention in this matter. Personal vehicles are inspected on and off base to the government of Japan's standards which includes noise levels of the exhaust system. If a vehicle is suspected of not being in compliance with noise levels, than that vehicle is addressed through the proper channels.

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.

View on eye protection

By Odie Smith, CFAY Safety Office

The structure of your face helps protect your eyes from injury. Still, injuries can damage your eye, sometimes severely enough that you could lose your vision. Most eye injuries are preventable. If you play sports or work in certain jobs, you may need eye protection.

Thousands of people are blinded each year from work-related eye injuries that could have been prevented with the proper selection and use of eye and face protection. Eye injuries in the workplace are very common. More than 2,000 people injure their eyes at work each day. One in 10 injuries require one or more missed workdays to recover from, and out of the total amount of work-related eye injuries, 10 to 20 percent will cause temporary or permanent vision loss. Eye injuries alone cost more than $300 million per year in lost production time, medical expenses and worker compensation.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) for the eyes and face is designed to prevent or lessen the severity of injuries to workers. A hazard assessment should determine the risk of exposure to eye and face hazards, including those which may be encountered in an emergency.

Common causes for eye injuries are flying objects (bits of metal or glass), tools, particles, chemicals, harmful radiation, or any combination of these or other hazards. Supervisors should be aware of the possibility of multiple and simultaneous hazard exposures, be prepared to protect against the highest level of each hazard, and must assess the workplace to determine if hazards that necessitate the use of eye and face protection are present or are likely to be present before assigning PPE to workers.

A Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of workers who suffered eye injuries revealed that nearly three out of five were not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident. These workers most often reported that they believed protection was not required for the situation.

The following are four things you can do to protect your eyes from injury:

- Know the eye safety dangers in your workplace.
- Eliminate hazards before starting work by using machine guards, work screens or other engineering controls.
- Use proper eye protection.
- Keep your safety eyewear in good condition and have it replaced if it becomes damaged.

For more information concerning sight conservation and PPE, contact the CFAY Safety Office at 243-8688.

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