Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY community makes big difference for Haiti earthquake victims

By Emma Gallimore, Seahawk Contributor

The recent catastrophe in Haiti roused the altruistic spirit of residents on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), leading to several private initiatives to raise more than $25,000 in aid for the victims of one of the most devastating natural disasters in recent history.

Students from Yokosuka Department of Defense Dependant (DoDD) schools presented the American Red Cross with a check for $3,231; the Chapel of Hope donated $18,021; and many of the private organizations on the base, such as the CFAY Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA), gave $4,000 to benefit the Haiti Relief Fund.

The money will help provide food, medical care and basic housing to the people of Haiti. The American Red Cross has already committed $80 million to meet the most urgent needs of earthquake survivors. About 70 percent of the funds have been committed to food and water, another 20 percent to shelter and the rest for health and family services. An average of 91 cents of every dollar received by the American Red Cross is invested directly into humanitarian services and programs.

(Center) American Red Cross Yokosuka Station Manager Anita McPherson receives a "giant" check for $4,000 donated to the Haiti Relief Fund March 3. More than $25,000 in aid has been raised by various private organizations on board CFAY.
Photo by Dan Bowen

Chief Damage Controlman Ted Leavitt of the CFAY CPOA spearheaded the effort to offer the many private organizations on base a chance to pool their resources together and help the American Red Cross in Haiti.

"It's very nice to see that organizations [on board CFAY] are stepping up to the plate," said Leavitt. "Private organizations make positive contributions not only to this worthy cause, but to other worthy causes as well."

The fundraising effort at The Sullivans Elementary School, Nile C. Kinnick High School and Yokosuka Middle School was coordinated by 16-year-old Hannah Chicowlas.

"I'm a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) and we're required to do one service project every year," Chicowlas said. "After the Haiti earthquake happened it was obvious that's what I wanted to do."

She decided she could make the biggest impact by combining the fundraising power of all three schools. "Of course we were aware of the tragic events that happened in Haiti," said The Sullivans School Vice Principal Andrea Mial. "Shortly after that, the student council made a plan."

Assisted by NHS members from the high school, The Sullivans Elementary School raised $1,504.25 by holding two bake sales.

"With us living overseas in Japan, these children really get a unique sense of the world. For them to recognize that they can impact other countries is really big for an elementary school," said Mial.

Yokosuka Middle School raised $1,200.00 and Kinnick High School raised $527.00 by collecting donations in jars during their seminar classes.

"When this first came up I thought that we were talking about a few hundred dollars," said Red Cross Station Manager Anita McPherson. "I had no idea [the schools] would raise this much."

If you would like to make a donation, visit the Web site www.redcross.org. For more information about the American Red Cross on Yokosuka Base, call 243-7490.

CFAY security personnel, JGSDF team up for Guard and Protect

Story and photo by MCSN Mike Mulcare, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Security Department personnel and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), 2nd Company, 13th Infantry Regiment, worked together during the cooperative Guard and Protect exercise March 2-4 within the confines of Yokosuka Base.

The annual exercise teamed security personnel and 120 members of the JGSDF together to handle a wide variety of scenarios for the sixth successful time.

"The various scenarios are designed to enhance communication between the JGSDF and CFAY security, in case we need each other's support in defense of our bases," said Lt. Antoine Thornton, CFAY security officer.

The exercise included a suspicious person scenario where a Sailor played the role of a suspect and was intercepted and apprehended. Exercise participants also enjoyed a live-fire scenario and cultural exchange.

Thornton said it is essential that the two forces run scenarios together, because it allows them both to work out any quirks or shortfalls in advance, so in the event of a real threat they can operate as a cohesive and efficient team.

For members of the CFAY security team, the exercise was a chance to enhance interoperability by working with their Japanese counterparts in defensive counter measure scenarios.

"I think this was a great way to interact with the JGSDF," said Master-At-Arms 1st Class (AW) David Menke, leading petty officer of security training. "I'm confident that if something ever goes wrong, we can handle it together."

"I think that during the exercise we shared information well and we achieved a good mutual understanding between both of our forces," said JGSDF Maj. Shin Taniguchi.

Guard and Protect concluded with a cultural exchange where all participants enjoyed a taiko drum performance, karate demonstrations and calligraphy writing.

"It's a benefit to meet any new faces from the JGSDF, share personal experiences and to work with them as a team," said Thornton.

JGSDF Maj. Shin Taniguchi, debriefs service members of the JGSDF and CFAY security personnel following the 6th annual cooperative Guard and Protect training exercise March 2-4.

INSIDE

New basketball team takes players to competitive edge

The recently formed Yokohama Blue Devils Basketball team helps young players develop their skills and play in a more competitive environment while overseas.

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Tommy Davison brings stand-up comedy to CFAY

Stand-up comedian and actor, Tommy Davidson visited CFAY along with his opening act, comedian Lav Luv, to perform a stand-up comedy show at the Fleet Theater Feb. 25.

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