# I need patience...now!

**By Chaplain William M. Stewart**

There is an old, humorous adage that goes, "Lord, give me patience and give it to me now!" I think most everyone can relate to this line of thinking at times in our lives. Recently, I guess I finally caught the Japanese bug of better appreciating the beauty of nature, flowers and certainly the Cherry Blossom trees. Hearing about it in the news, seeing it on all of the ads and listening to people talk about the predictions of when they will come out, got me even more excited. As I would drive down the road each day, I would look up and, well, hmmm, they still weren't out. My patience began to wear thin. When were those silly things going to show their pretty little faces! And then it happens; a few at first and then literally by the thousands or millions, they light up the trees with splendor that King Solomon himself could never match! They are just beautiful, aren't they?

It sure makes me think about patience, however. Our current society seems to be following the ongoing reasoning that everything is better, if it is faster. Everything from race cars to microwave popcorn to e-mail messages; it just seems that if we can get it done faster, we want it that way. While there certainly may be some advantages to having things quicker, I would contest that there are also some unseen drawbacks to this trend. As we get into the mode of "needing" everything quicker, the one thing that we are sacrificing is the tremendous character quality of patience.

Patience is good in many ways, both internal for ourselves, but also in how we act towards others. If we are not patient and do not get things as soon as we think we should, negative stress can build up within us that can end up being damaging to our health. Interestingly, like many stressors, it is the perception of the event that causes the stress, not necessarily the event itself. But just as important, or maybe more so, patience is vital in how we treat others. If we are impatient, we can easily fall into the trap of wanting those around us to be something they simply cannot be, at the time. That we start treating people, along with their abilities and character, like a bag of microwave popcorn that should be all ready in three minutes!

Instead of seeing people as a bud that will someday blossom into a beautiful flower, we might look down on them for not being what we already expect they should be. It takes the quality of patience to understand that some things in life were never meant to be quick. That the most beautiful things of life are not rushed, but gently cared for, nourished and appreciated even more by waiting for them. We see this wonderful quality of character most often in our more seasoned citizens. More than just slowed metabolism, they have actually learned through many years of experience, that the greatest things in life truly come to those who wait. May God grant each of us patience; with ourselves and with others.

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.* – Colossians 3:12-14

# Head's Up Yokosuka!

## Community Announcements

**Yokosuka Schools Mandatory Spring Re-registration –** Re-registration will be at Kinnick High School (KHS) April 21 - 24 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The following is the re-registration schedule:

| Date: | Last name begins with: |
|---|---|
| April 21 | A - D |
| April 22 | E - K |
| April 23 | L - P |
| April 24 | Q - Z |

If your family will be in Yokosuka during the next school year, you must re-register to guarantee the availability of appropriate staffing. Otherwise, your child's class schedule will not be issued on the first day of school. If you will be leaving the Yokosuka area, come in with your transfer orders and fill out a withdrawal form.

**USNH Yokosuka Health Care Consumer Council –** The Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka, will host a Health Care Consumer Council April 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the hospital's command auditorium. The meeting is open to all beneficiaries and will address a variety of health care topics. Call USNH Yokosuka at 243-8740 for more information.

**Month of the Military Child –** Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Yokosuka invites all Yokosuka, Ikego and Negishi school age children to enter the "What does it mean to be a Military Child" contest. You can write an essay, poem or a top ten list on what it means to be a military child. Entries must be received at FFSC, 2nd floor of Building 1555 by 4 p.m. April 22. If you are mailing in your entry, send it to: Fleet and Family Support Center, PSC 473 Box 116, FPO AP 96349-0116. The best entry and a first and second place runner up will be selected by a committee and will be announced April 24. Contact Bessie Smith at 243-9632 or Robyn Wilson at 243-7878 for more information.

**Tobacco use on base –** Tobacco use is the single largest cause of preventable premature mortality in the U.S. among adults. Smoking-related health care and productivity loss cost the Department of Defense (DoD) nearly a billion dollars each year. Cigarette smoking may cause heart disease, several kinds of cancer, and chronic lung disease. Because the health of tobacco users is adversely affected and because the health of all personnel must be protected by providing a safe, healthy and non-polluted workplace, the Navy's vision is to be tobacco free. Time spent for tobacco use shall occur only during approved break periods . Tobacco use is prohibited during time authorized for physical fitness, training and conditioning. Smokeless tobacco use is only permitted in designated tobacco use areas. Where smokeless tobacco use is permitted, tobacco spit shall be held in containers with sealing lids to prevent odor and accidental spills. The distance from building entry/egress which tobacco users must maintain is to be determined by commanding officers and must be at least 50 feet from any building entrance.

# Defense Logistics Agency holds 'DLA Day' aboard Yokosuka

**Story and Photo by Kazuyuki Takagi, CFAY Public Affairs**

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) hosted the first DLA Day, an open house event at Defense Distribution Depot, Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ) aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka March 19. Shore and sea commands were invited to learn more of what DLA does and the services they provide.

"What we decided to do since we have so many new customers here on base is, we thought we would get all the DLA agencies in the Kanto Plain area come in and talk to the war fighters here on base to let them know what we do to support them," said DDYJ Deputy Commander Joe Pirman.

DLA is part of the Department of Defense (DoD) and provides supply support and technical and logistics services to the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps as well as several federal agencies.

During the open house event, DLA and its seven organizations had a chance to showcase and explain what they do. They are:

• Defense Supply Center Philadelphia Pacific Region supplies and services U.S. service members by providing them food, clothing, textiles, medicines, medical equipment, general and industrial supplies, and supports U.S. humanitarian and disaster relief efforts.

• Defense Energy Support Center Japan purchases and manages DoD energy products.

• Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service provides DoD with worldwide reuse, recycling and disposal solutions that focus on efficiency, cost avoidance and compliance.

• Defense Distribution Center and Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka stores, issues, packs, preserves and provides worldwide transportation of supplies and parts.

**(Right) Document Automation and Productions Services (DAPS) Pacific Production Manager Nora C. C. Gay-Snowden explains to a visitor what services DAPS provides during Defense Logistics Agency DLA Day March 19.**

• Defense Mapping Activity is responsible for worldwide physical distribution of all maps, charts and other geodetic material for the DoD.

• Document Automation and Production Service is the single manager for all printing and duplicating, providing automated information products and services to DoD and designated federal activities.

Pirman said that DLA Day is also a good opportunity for the DLA partners to get to know each other better as well as meet and get to know new customers.

"It's a great turnout for us and there are a lot of new faces in town. We got to even meet some of the DLA people we have never met before," he said. "It's great to be able to get together. Not only to meet new customers on base, but also partners in the logistics community."