# National Women's History Month celebrated aboard CFAY

**Story and photo by Fumiyo Sato, CFAY Public Affairs**

The Yokosuka Diversity Empowerment Committee (YDEC) celebrated National Women's History Month with a luncheon at the Commodore Matthew C. Perry General Mess aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) March 18.

The luncheon, which was opened to the entire CFAY community, was attended by approximately 40 active duty service members and civilians.

**CNFJ's Regional Business Manager Ann Jackson gives a speech during the Yokosuka Diversity Empowerment Committee's National Women's History Month luncheon at the Commodore Matthew C. Perry General Mess March 18.**

According to the Naval Historical Center archives, the Naval Reserve Act of 1916 had conspicuously omitted mention of gender as a condition for service, leading to formal permission to begin enlisting women in 1917. The newly enlisted women served in the Yeoman rating, working in secretarial or clerical positions.

Today, women are serving in many various positions of the U.S. government in the military and civilian sectors. Approximately 146,239 women are serving as active duty, reserve and civilians in the Navy total work force.

"It's good to see the command wants to celebrate something like this, promote people to do the best they can," said luncheon guest speaker and Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan's (CNFJ) Executive Director and Regional Business Manager Ann Jackson. "It is important to celebrate Women's History Month like any other thing to celebrate to keep the remembrance because we have a tendency to forget things."

At the luncheon, YDEC honored Jackson's hard work and contribution to the military.

"She has accomplished many things, as far as working for the military. She started off as a clerk and worked all the way to the position she is in now," said Operation Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Monique Hudson.

Jackson's honors and awards include the Meritorious Civilian Commendation Medal, Performance Report Award, Total Quality Leadership Award and Meritorious Unit Award.

Although this year's theme was "Women Taking the lead to Save Our Planet," the celebration didn't only refer to the environment. Jackson, talked about how each individual could start making a positive difference on a small scale, which would eventually influence on a larger scale.

"Do something new. When you are afraid of failure, you are afraid of movement. Keep moving," said Jackson, speaking to the audience. "Be the example. The next generation is watching us. Children are watching you and Sailors are watching you."

Jackson's speech encouraged not only active duty personnel, but also other attendees.

"It was very empowering," said CNFJ Comptroller Adelia Montgomery after the event. "I think it credited both sides, civilians and military, and women and men. She talked about individuals making it better, so even though it was geared towards women's history, it affected men and women, military and civilians."

# DoDDS Misawa bus drivers travel to CFAY for safety training

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

Representatives of the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) bus drivers from Misawa Air Base, Kuniharu Sasaki and Hiroshi Koizumi, visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) to learn Yokosuka school bus safety emergency procedures and fire safety at Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) Regional Fire Department March. 3.

"We are conducting training in the event they are out on the roads in school buses with school children and run into an emergency situation," said CNFJ Regional Fire Dept. Fire Chief Daniel Vogel. "We are providing them with some emergency training and some fire safety training."

According to DoDDS Yokosuka Student Transportation Office Manager Mike Frechette who coordinated the school bus safety training, while the construction and safety equipment of school buses is critical to providing safety to school bus occupants when a crash occurs, it is the school bus drivers who often prevent incidents and crashes from happening each school day.

Fire department personnel provided a live fire safety training demonstration and also taught Sasaki and Koizumi how to use various fire extinguishers.

"I'm glad that we were given the opportunity to learn about Yokosuka's safety procedures today." Koizumi said.

During a tour of the CNFJ Emergency Dispatcher Center, Sasaki and Koizumi were briefed with specific information the Misawa school bus drivers would need when reporting to the Emergency Dispatcher Center during an actual emergency.

CFAY Security also provided a quick review on how to properly conduct a tour bus security check and what procedures the Misawa drivers would need to follow to report a suspicious person or item.

The two school bus drivers said that they would share what they learned with other Misawa school bus drivers to assist with their ongoing student transportation safety program improvement efforts.

"The school bus safety training we learned here is very useful and we were impressed," said Sasaki. "We are ready to go back to Misawa and share the knowledge we learned with the other Misawa school bus drivers."

**(Left) DoDDS Misawa bus drivers Kuniharu Sasaki and Hiroshi Koizumi are briefed by Yokosuka Student Transportation Office Manager Mike Frechette and CFAY Security Personnel on Yokosuka school bus safety procedures March 3.**