

New Readiness Center heart of command activities, services

By Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

With the snip of a ribbon and the cutting of a cake, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) officially opened the new Community Readiness Center (CRC) and welcomed guests to explore the facility at a ceremony June 12.

The four level CRC, which is located adjacent to the commissary and the red brick area, houses a state-of-the-art library, Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), an auditorium to conduct the Intercultural Relations/Area Orientation Brief, community rooms and a host of other service offices.

According to Lt. Jaclyn Fischer, division officer for Fleet and Family Support Center, the CRC's convenient central location and variety of services will help to make it a hub of command activity.

"It's going to be more convenient for everybody to come here, it's more time efficient and we have a lot of customer friendly services we provide," said Fischer. "So instead of having to walk around to the WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Office, or the tax office, or MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation), FFSC, or the library, it's all in one building."

With the doors to the CRC open, Sailors, family members and civilians will have more options than ever when visiting the red brick area, which has become the heart of shopping and community support for those aboard CFAY.

Retired warrant officer and current U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka family member Greg Martin expressed his opinion about the new community center while visiting the library with his two children.

"I think this is a much better location," said Martin. "A stay at home mom or dad, can go to the commissary, roll by [the library], grab a couple books for the kids and drop books off. It's right across the street. I feel like I'm living in small town U.S.A."

Ikego Housing resident Angela Shultz shared similar thoughts as she visited the CRC with her three children in between appointments on base.

"Definitely check it out, it's got a lot to offer," said Shultz. "Everything is centralized now. When we first came [to CFAY], we were running all over base trying to find everything. Now everything is here, pretty much anything you need is here, and if not, they can tell you where it is...It's a lot more convenient."

Paid for by the South Kanto Defense Bureau, the approximately \$17 million CRC



(Left) FFSC Director Cathy Adams-Bomar; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer District Japan Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Richard Davis; Translator and Public Works Office Administrative Specialist Tsukiko Okada; South Kanto Defense Bureau Deputy Director of Procurement Shigenori Hayasaka and NAVFAC Far East Commanding Officer Capt. Chris Kiwus look on as CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed provides remarks during the grand opening of the Community Readiness Center June 12.

Photo by John Sullivan

was built by a coalition of partners that included CFAY, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Japan Engineer District and Naval Facility Engineering Command Far East.

The CRC is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

McLean relieves Kiwus during NAVFAC change of command

By Ron Inman, NAVFAC Far East Public Affairs

Capt. Robert A. McLean, Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) relieved Capt. Christopher H. Kiwus (CEC) as regional engineer for Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Korea and Commander Singapore Area Coordinator and as commanding officer Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East at a change of command ceremony held at the Fleet Theater June 18.

Kiwus led a diverse team of more than 2,000 military, U.S. civilian and host nation employees, spanning four nations and geographically dispersed over 7,000 miles, from May 2007 to June 2009. Under Kiwus' leadership, NAVFAC Far East significantly contributed to improved operational and material readiness of 7th Fleet and naval shore activities in Japan, Korea, Singapore and Diego Garcia.

Commander NAVFAC Pacific Rear Adm. Michael A. Giorgione awarded Kiwus the Legion of Merit during the ceremony in recognition of his superb performance. Kiwus will assume the duties of chief engineer, U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

"From the first day I arrived, I have been in awe of NAVFAC Far East employees' professionalism, work ethic and skill," said Kiwus during his remarks. "You have done the high visibility work of complex preparations for the

historic arrival of *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) and the construction of the environmentally friendly Co-generation power plant - the largest such contract in the U.S. Federal government, together totaling more than \$200 million. You've earned praise for making the voyage repair periods at Diego Garcia so successful and you have been on the international news for providing relief after the Niigata earthquake to the thousands of victims in temporary shelters. You are out there everyday and every night, no matter what the weather conditions, making sure the ships receive the utilities and other services they need. You tirelessly take care of all those ashore including all our families, 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year."

McLean reports from a tour as commander, 22nd Naval Construction Regiment from 2007 to 2009 where he led a joint Navy, Marine and Army engineer task force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We will stay laser focused on operational requirements critical to our Navy's mission while maintaining our daily support for Navy families and quality of life," said McLean. "We will take care of today's emergency but invest in planning for tomorrow. We will be responsive to our supported commanders but remain good stewards of scarce natural and fiscal resources. And we will be open, direct and transparent in everything we do. Thank you for all of your hard work and I look forward to working with you the next few years."



(Left) Captains Christopher Kiwus and Robert McLean perform the traditional cake cutting following the Naval Facilities Command Far East change of command ceremony at the Fleet Theater aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka June 18.

Photo by Yuki Toizume

