Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Japanese, American children share in Negishi cultural exchange

Story and photo by MC1(SW/AW) Brock A. Taylor, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Japanese and American children learned about each other's culture during a special event held at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Negishi Housing Detachment Richard E. Byrd Elementary School June 23.

CS1 Anthony Sykes of Chicago, paints the hand of a Japanese student from Shin Yokohama's Mama Shinohara Preschool at a special event held at Richard E. Byrd Elementary School June 23. The child development center at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Negishi Housing Detachment played host to 32 children from the Japanese preschool as part of a cultural exchange with the local community.

Negishi's Child Development Center (CDC), in coordination with CFAY Yokohama Detachment, hosted 32 Japanese students from Shin Yokohama Mama Shinohara Preschool. The five and six year-old children spent several hours singing, dancing, playing and plainly stated - just having fun together.

Negishi CDC Director Sue Proctor says this is the first time the center has reached out to the community in this manner and she hopes the experience will help expand the children's minds culturally.

"This will teach these kids a lot about diversity," said Proctor. "Children are never too young to learn about other cultures and see how other people live, so that they can learn from an early age how to get along with everyone in the world."

It was a long bus ride for the Japanese children, as they had to trek across Yokohama to take part in the activities. As the students made their way to the school cafeteria, the CDC students welcomed them with open arms. The American children broke the ice quickly with a few popular children's song-and-dance routines. The Japanese children returned the favor with a few songs of their own. It didn't take long before the children did what kids do best - play!

Culinary Specialist 1st Class (AW) Anthony Sykes from Chicago, who volunteers a lot of his time with community outreach projects, says this is one event that truly displays the strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance.

"These kids are just having a good time," Sykes said. "They are young and this is the perfect time to show them that times have changed and as they grow up they will see how we have become tighter and stronger," he added, referencing the bond between the United States and Japan.

Following song and dance, the children took turns showing each other one popular school activity. The American children got their hands dirty, literally, with hand paint, while the Japanese children put on an origami making display. Before hopping back on the bus and heading home, the Japanese students were treated to a taste of America, with a hot dog and hamburger lunch. Mama Shinohara Principal Katsuko Niwa expressed her gratitude for being able to share in the cultural exchange.

"I am grateful that we got a chance to come here today and everyone had a really great time. We hope to do this again soon," Niwa said.

Proctor says she believes the event accomplished the task of bringing two cultures together and she too looks forward to hosting more visits in the future.

George Washington returns to Yokosuka, celebrates 18th birthday

By MC3(SW) Devon Dow, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

USS George Washington (CVN 73) (*GW*) returned to her forward-deployed base of Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, July 3, after a three-week underway period on time to celebrate the 18th anniversary of her commissioning on Independence Day.

During the underway period, *GW* conducted Undersea Warfare Exercise (USWEX) 10 with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

The Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier will also commemorate a special day in its service to the U.S. Navy. Commissioned July 4, 1992 in Newport News, Va., the return of *GW* to Yokosuka will allow the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier to celebrate its 18th birthday in port. The United States, the country which the ship's namesake helped found, turns 234 that same day.

"I am extremely proud and honored to be able to bring this great warship into the port of Yokosuka to celebrate one of the most significant days in our country's history and the day this great aircraft carrier was commissioned into our Navy," said Capt. David Lausman, *GW* commanding officer. "I am very happy that the course of our summer patrol coincided with this very important day."

While conducting routine operations, the ship frocked 149 new petty officers. The ship also conducted a joint USWEX with the JMSDF and executed weeks of intense air wing and shipboard readiness that included more than 1,300 sorties, or flight missions, the onload of nearly 7 million gallons of jet fuel and serving more than 360,000 meals to the 5,500 *GW* and Carrier Wing (CVW) 5 Sailors who tallied more than 1.2 million man-hours of work.

"We polished our skills underway and as always, we are honored to be the flagship of the forward-deployed naval force," Lausman said. "Being forward-deployed, we are able to have constant interaction with many maritime partner countries throughout the Pacific Rim. With that interaction, we are able to promote stability through understanding and cooperation."

This interaction included USWEX 10, a joint submarine detection and engagement exercise with the JMSDF, further enhancing the 50-year alliance between the United States and Japan.

"This year, we continued to strengthen our interoperability between the U.S. Navy and the JMSDF and trained against tactics, techniques and procedures to develop new concepts in [undersea warfare]," said Lt. Justin Santos, a surface operations officer with Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15. "Throughout the exercise, I believe everyone involved had executed in a professional manner and to the best of their expertise."

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***USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) Commanding Officer Capt. David Lausman and JMSDF Rear Adm. Umio Otsuka, Escort Flotilla 2 commander, watch a replenishment-at-sea with *USNS Tippecanoe* (T-AO 199) from the *GW* bridge June 24. *GW* returned to Yokosuka Base July 3, after a three-week underway period in time to celebrate the 18th anniversary of her commissioning on Independence Day.**

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Danielle A. Brandt

INSIDE

U.S. Navy, JMSDF participate in Undersea Warfare Exercise

***USS George Washington* (CVN 73) and other U.S. Navy elements participated in Undersea Warfare Exercise (USWEX) with elements from the JMSDF June 21-25.**

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Child protection conference in Japan unique training opportunity

CFAY Fleet and Family Support Center sponsored a three-day child maltreatment prevention conference presented by the Armed Forces Center for Child Protection June 22-24.

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