Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY participates in Yokosuka City Traffic Safety Campaign

Story and photo by MC3 Andrew Ryan Smith, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Members of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) community participated in the Yokosuka City Traffic Safety Campaign, which kicked off July 14 at the Daiei shopping mall.

The event was sponsored by the local police, CFAY Safety Office and the Yokosuka Safety Organization to promote traffic safety in the area.

CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen offers an information packet to a Japanese woman during the Yokosuka City Traffic Safety Campaign kick off July 14 at Daiei shopping mall. The event was sponsored by local Japanese police, CFAY Safety Office and the Yokosuka City Safety Organization to promote traffic safety in the area.

"The purpose of this event is to warn drivers and pedestrians about the dangers of the summer season," said Sgt. Hiroshi Ootsuji, a police officer with the Yokosuka City Police Department. "With school letting out in a week, we wanted to remind both children and adults to stay safe."

The local police set up a crash simulator allowing event attendees to experience a low-speed crash with air bag deployment, as well as a reflex test to demonstrate how quickly road conditions can change.

According to CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen, getting members of the base community involved in this safety endeavor will pay dividends in less Sailors being involved in traffic accidents within and outside the base gates.

"We would like to work along side Yokosuka citizens who allow us to share their roads with them and reduce the number of traffic incidents to zero," Owen said.

Owen attended the event and spoke about how U.S. Sailors and their families can work with the local Japanese population to improve safety conditions on the roads. He also took some time to hand out safety information to event attendees.

"This year we brought down the number of traffic incidents by 11 percent and we hope to do even better next year," said Owen.

While the event was designed to bring traffic safety to the forefront of the minds of all Yokosuka community members, Ootsuji offered some simple advice to American drivers in Japan.

"If American service members are not familiar with Japanese traffic laws they should consult the base safety office before driving in Japan," Ootsuji said. "They should always be responsible as a driver, be cautious as a pedestrian or bike rider and always follow the rules."

George Washington officer aids in rescue of Mount Fuji hiker

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

A Sailor assigned to *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) assisted in the rescue of an American tourist during his climb of Japan's world famous Mount Fuji.

Lt. Jay Furman, an assistant strike operator officer aboard *GW* and Austin, Texas native, assisted Erwin Kuhns, an 84-year-old American tourist, who was also climbing the mountain.

"I did anything that anyone else would have done in my situation on that mountain," Furman said. "There was someone who needed assistance and I had the abilities to take care of the situation. I was blown away at how appreciative everyone was and have been since that day."

The avid outdoorsman began his 12,388 foot journey up Mount Fuji July 8. Furman initially planned to begin his journey up the mountain before daybreak, but was not able to begin until noon. "With the ship being in for a few days, I didn't want to miss the chance of climbing Fuji before we had to return to sea."

Furman reached the summit of Fuji, a feat typically taking five to six hours, in four hours. "It was a gloomy day to climb," he said. "The weather conditions were not in the hiker's favor to see any views from the top. It was windy, cold and there was a drizzly haze that would not go away that day."

On his way down, he came across Kuhns, who had become separated from his son on their way down the mountain. Furman said he noticed the man having difficulties.

"He looked physically worn out," he said.

As Furman began to assist Kuhns back down the mountain he learned that Kuhns was a U.S. Navy Coxswain's Mate in World War II on a ship ferrying troops to the beaches of Normandy during "D-Day." While stationed in Japan, Kuhns climbed Mount Fuji more than 60 years ago and recently returned to climb it again with his son.

Lt. Jay Furman, assistant strike operations officer aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), assisted in the rescue of an 84-year-old American tourist, during his climb of Japan's world famous Mount Fuji July 8.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jared Hill

After carrying Kuhns some distance down the mountain he noticed the sun was setting and the weather was worsening. He realized that he and Kuhns were the only ones left on the trail and that Kuhn's health was continuing to deteriorate.

"I pulled us to the side of the hiking trail and tried to find shelter due to the blowing and freezing rain at the time," he said. "Once I did that, I climbed a little crevice nearby to try to get a cell phone signal."

After not being able to get in contact with park rangers, Furman was able to contact the Navy liaison at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka for assistance. Informing them of his situation, they immediately called the Japanese police and alerted authorities about the men on the mountain. The Japanese police and park rangers arrived to the base of the mountain and began to search for the men.

The sun had set. Hours passed by as Furman assisted in guiding the rescue team to his location by using a hiking trail map, his cell phone, a flashlight and whistle that he had brought along for the hike.

See ***RESCUE***, pg. 4

INSIDE

Blue Ridge earns 10th consecutive "Green H" Award

***USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) painted two green stars onto its bridge wing to distinguish itself as a ten-time consecutive winner of the "Green H" Award.**

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CFAY Farmer's Market creates opportunity for cultural exchange

CFAY teamed up with the Yokosuka-Hayama Agricultural Association to sponsor a Farmer's Market that offered base residents a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables July 10.

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