FISC Yokosuka unwraps humanitarian assistance for storm victims

By H. Sam Samuelson,
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As a lethal string of storms and natural disasters swept across the Western Pacific as recent as last week, thousands of pre-positioned foreign humanitarian assistance (FHA) supplies were readied by U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka for delivery to ships already speeding to distant disaster areas.

FISC Yokosuka supports a theaterwide plan to pre-stage and distribute disaster relief aid in anticipation of disasters such as those troubling the Western Pacific region today.

A key hub for disaster relief aid is FISC Yokosuka Detachment Singapore.

As this season's natural disasters mounted, FISC Yokosuka Detachment Singapore initiated an audit and assembly of a full compliment of disaster aid supplies, readying them for delivery to Navy ships and aircraft operating in the area.

"We were ready for anything and everything," said FISC Yokosuka Detachment Singapore Logistics Support Representative Rodolfo "Rey" Ranada. "These disasters can happen anytime, so we assume they will and we prepare for them. We stay up as late into the night as we need to get these supplies ready."

Following the most recent storms, earthquakes and landslides here in the Western Pacific, humanitarian supplies were staged and prepped for loading aboard the combat logistics force (CLF) ships *USNS San Jose* (T-AFS 7) and *USNS Walter S. Diehl* (T- AO 193), and aircraft from a P-3 squadron out of Kadena Air Base in Okinawa.

Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) heave around a line during a replenishment at sea with the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler *USNS Walter S. Diehl* (T-AO 193). *McCampbell* received thousands of foreign humanitarian assistance supplies, pre-positioned by FISC Yokosuka, from a combat logistics force ship to assist in relief efforts after a recent string of storms and natural disasters swept the Western Pacific.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Byron C. Linder

FISC Detachment Singapore facilitated loading the disaster aid on board *Diehl* and *San Jose* in Singapore. Then, each rendezvoused with either *USS Denver* (LPD 9) or *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85), already en route to disaster sites in Indonesia.

"During transit, they performed a replenishment at sea from the CLF ships [*Diehl* and *San Jose*] to the *Denver* and *McCampbell*," said Ranada.

With the "hand-off" completed, *Denver* and *McCampbell* peeled off and continued toward the disaster areas.

Thousands of disaster supplies were inventoried and readied for delivery, according to Ranada. They include: almost 4,000 20-gallon standard plastic Jerry Cans (liquid container); almost 2,000 more collapsible water containers; 2,500 blankets; 1,200 blue poly tarps and hundreds of cases of insect repellent and sun screen.

"We were also prepared if needed to conduct market research of the local economy for additional supply aid if necessary," said Ranada. "This is an important and, we hope, life-saving effort; humanitarian assistance always is. So, we do the best we can.

"I have family who were just flooded out in the Philippines; so, I know how valuable this is to storm and mudslide victims. In the FISC world, there really is no 'aftermath' just more preparation for the next disaster," said Ranada.

FISC Yokosuka supports national defense strategies by providing around-the-clock logistics solutions for Navy, Marine Corps, joint and allied forces operating in the 7th Fleet area of operations.

FISC Fuel Department upholds high standards while fueling 7th Fleet

Story and photo by Blake Vives,
CFAY Public Affairs

Imagine fueling 40 million average passenger cars and not spilling a drop of gas; looking back at fiscal year 2009, U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka Fuel Department realized it and essentially accomplished this, but with ships instead of cars.

Despite having no automated fuel handling equipment, the fuels staff of more than 300 employees and technicians supported its customers throughout the 7th Fleet area of operations in 2009 with more than 6,200 high-risk fuel handling evolutions, totaling more than 500 million gallons dispensed - all without incident. The FISC Yokosuka Fuel Department also offloaded more than 1.2 million gallons of fuel from forward-deployed ships at a cost savings of $2 million.

Safely moving this amount of fuel is no small achievement considering FISC Yokosuka stores and distributes about 10 percent of all defense-managed fuel worldwide, making it the largest fuel department in the Department of Defense.

"Fiscal year 2009 went by extremely fast, largely because the FISC Fuel Department has so much on its plate and everyone has worked so hard to accomplish an extremely ambitious set of goals," said FISC Yokosuka Fuel Department Director Lt. Cmdr. Matt Holman. "I think we were all motivated at the beginning of fiscal year 2009 by our strong showing in the American Petroleum Institute awards: winning two individual awards, and early in 2008, being named 2007 Best Navy Bulk Fuel Terminal."

Holman credits an incredibly cooperative work environment for the sustained success in fiscal year 2009.

"The cooperative environment created by our employees during the performance of the fuel delivery mission we take so seriously is really how we are able to operate so safely and efficiently," said Holman. "Looking back, the fuel department's accomplishments this year are too numerous to list."

Holman highlighted a few of those achievements: "Our employees found extremely innovative ways to enhance our ability to defuel [remove fuel from] ships at minimal cost to the fleet; they implemented a new railcar contract [for fuel transportation] at Tsurumi Fuel Terminal in Yokohama, which required significant planning, trial runs and physical modifications to the rail-loading stand."

Another achievement is the record-setting safety practices of employees.

"Because of the dedication to safety each and every employee has taken to heart, all six of our defense fuel support points continue to pile up an outstanding safety record with zero lost time incidents this year," said Holman. "Kanto Plain division leads the way with a truly amazing record of 1,077 incident-free work days and counting."

Although the FISC Fuel Department continues to set records and receive awards, Holman catalogs a list of challenges to overcome the next fiscal year for further improvement.

"Fiscal year 2010 is shaping up to be even more challenging and even more successful," said Holman. "Among the major challenges on our plate are not only our usual high-tempo operations and maintenance but a major upcoming inspection; continued planning for the future of the Tsurumi Fuel Terminal in Yokohama; training our incredible workforce to maintain its reputation as one of the best fuels teams in the world; and aggressive pursuit of the centrally managed inspection programs for tanks, pipelines and other infrastructure," said Holman. "I am proud to see that our team is leaning forward into a new year and I am confident that we'll continue to accelerate into fiscal year 2011."

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U.S. Fleet & Industrial Supply Center Yokosuka Holiday Mailing Dates

HOLIDAY MAILING DEADLINES

It is never too early to start planning to ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25.
Recommended mailing dates below:

• Parcel Post	Nov. 13
• Space Available Mail (SAM)	Nov. 28
• Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL)	Dec. 4
• First-Class Mail (Letters/Cards less than 13 ounces)	Dec. 11
• Priority Mail (more than 13 ounces)	Dec. 11
• Express Mail Military Service	Dec. 18

Ready. Resourceful. Responsive!

A small tanker completes a fueling evolution at FISC Yokosuka Hakozaki Fuel Terminal, one of the many FISC fuel sites that contributed to the more than 500 million gallons of fuel safely pumped in support of 7th Fleet operations in fiscal year 2009.