CFAY Safety and Environmental Fair raises community awareness

By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Safety Office held it's first fall and winter Safety and Environmental Fair in the red brick area Sept. 25.

"This is our first ever fall and winter safety fair," said Acting CFAY Safety Manager Dana Calvin, who was one of the coordinators for the event. "The commanding officer of Fleet Activities Yokosuka wanted to have this fair to get the word out to everyone about [the fact that] we've been doing well in the summer months, but now with the change of weather coming, we want to make sure that we are prepared for safety issues in the upcoming fall and winter months."

The event, which is expected to be held annually, was in support of the CFAY Safety Office mission.

"[The purpose of] this safety fair is to reiterate the commanding officer's policy that we should be safe at all times," Calvin said.

A lot of commands throughout the Navy hold safety standdowns prior to the beginning of summer in order to raise awareness of potential dangers.

"We've always thought about these safety fairs for the summer months, but we really need to take a look at the fall and winter months coming up [and] the different hazards associated with them," said Calvin. "We switch from barbeque grills, in the summer time, to turkey fryers and kerosene heaters in the winter time.

"So, we just want to get the word out to everybody to maintain safety awareness about them all the time."

On board CFAY, there are 82 tenant commands, each one of them with an individual role that contributes to one mission. The different aspects of safety help to keep Sailors safe, which in turn, helps the mission.

"I think safety fairs are important, because it gives a chance to put a lot of information in one central location for people to take a look at," said Calvin. "A lot of times we have the base safety and NAVFAC (Naval Facilities Engineering Command) environmental, and the hospital in different locations and it's nice to have it in one location."

Among the activities during the event, attendees had an opportunity to receive free literature, view a demonstration on how to properly check the brakes of an automobile and operate the Safe Motorcyclist Awareness and Recognition Trainer (SMART), a simulator aimed at raising awareness of traffic hazards posed to motorcycle riders.

Douglas Knight, an instructor of the U.S. Navy's Recreation and Off Duty Safety (RODS) program looks on as CSSC Randy Cliff operates a motorcycle simulator Sept. 25. The Safe Motorcyclist Awareness and Recognition Trainer (SMART) was one of the highlights at the fall and winter CFAY Safety and Environmental Fair. The simulator allows riders to practice driving in various, realistic traffic environments without associated injury, damage or loss.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardelito Gervacio

Calvin hopes that more people will attend and get involved in safety fairs in the future.

"I would encourage people to take part in safety fairs, because it gives them an opportunity to see who their base safety professionals are and what they are doing," said Calvin. "Also it gives them a chance to take a look at and become a little more aware of the programs that are out there in regards to safety."

Musical artist, Flo Rida entertains Yokosuka with free concert

By MC2 Bryan Reckard, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

International rap star and musical artist Flo Rida performed a free concert for more than 1,000 Sailors, family members and friends at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Sept. 28.

CFAY Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), Navy Entertainment and Armed Force Entertainment teamed up to present the show, Flo Rida's third gig on a military installation in Japan. Although he's performed in Japan several times before, Flo Rida said supporting the troops is a rewarding experience.

"I've been here quite a few times, but to come here and support the Navy and the Army and to perform, it's definitely been great," said Flo Rida. "The hospitality has been wonderful and I'm enjoying every bit of it."

Flo Rida has produced six top 20 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the last two years, including "*Low*" from his first solo album titled "*Mail on Sunday*" and "*Right Round*" from his second album "*R.O.O.T.S.*"

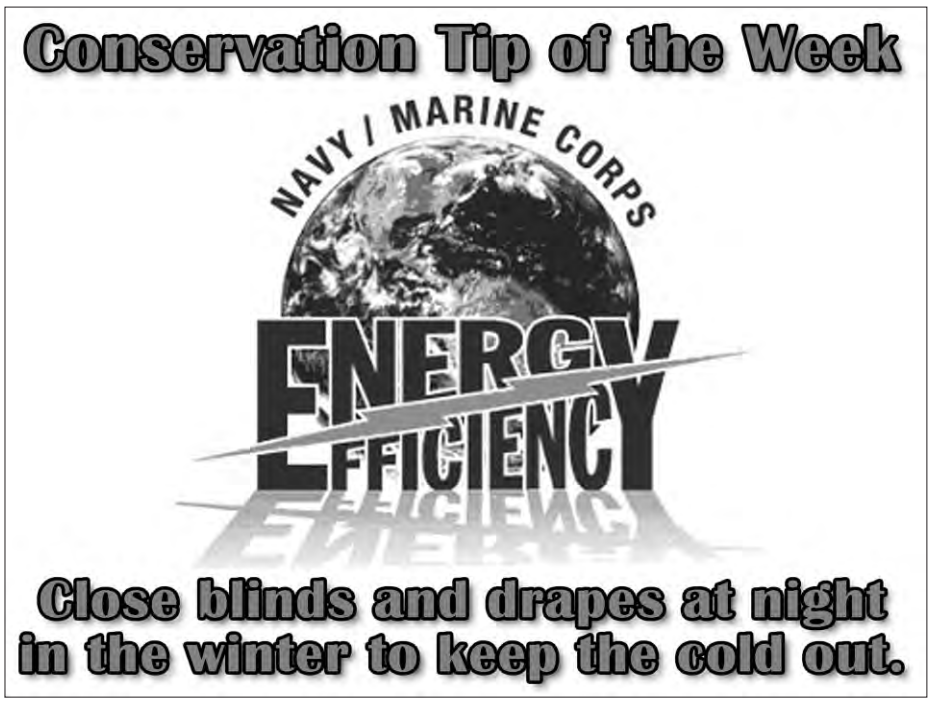
Flo Rida said he's been in the music business for a long time and has achieved a lot, but he's glad he's been able to travel to Japan and show some appreciation for everything the troops have done to defend our country.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate Airman Apprentice (Handling) Ahmal Allen, who is assigned to *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), said he just arrived in Yokosuka and he can't believe there are events like the Flo Rida concert for Sailors overseas.

"I just got here and already they have all this stuff happening for us," said Allen. "It's good for the people in the armed forces to see someone come out here and actually rap for us and sing for us."

Flo Rida said he really enjoys performing for his fans and thinks it's great to be able to make people happy not only in the United States, but around the globe.

Rapper Flo Rida performs a free concert for the Yokosuka community during a show presented by CFAY MWR and Armed Forces Entertainment Sept. 28.

Photo by Kazuyuki Takagi

"I love it. It's a job, but at the same time to put smiles on people's faces around the world," he said. "I think it's important and it's great to be in my shoes."