Capt. David A. Owen, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

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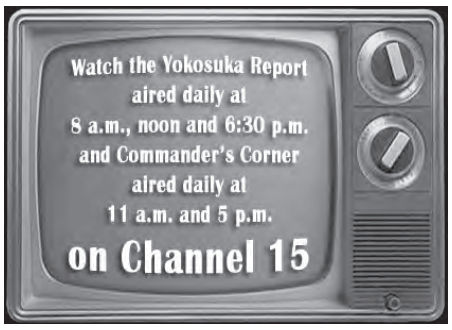
Action Line correspondence may be edited for length and readability. Your questions, suggestions and "Bravo Zulu" comments are appreciated. Address concerns with your chain of command or directly with the parties involved, at the lowest level possible. If you don't get results, send an e-mail to cfay.pao.watch@fe.navy.mil. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk, call 243-5607/3003 or send an e-mail to: Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil.



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Heads Up Yokosuka!

Community announcements/Action line

Navy Exchange Yokosuka Early Closure – All locations of the Yokosuka Navy Exchange (NEX), with the exception of the Yokosuka NEX AutoPort MiniMart, will close at 6 p.m. Jan. 8, to allow employees to attend the NEX holiday party. The AutoPort MiniMart will remain open at regular hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call 243-4438 for more information.

USNH Yokosuka Limited Holiday Hours – U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka outpatient clinics will be closed Dec. 24, 27, 31 and Jan. 3 for the holidays. The emergency room and inpatient wards will remain open. Normal operations will resume on Jan. 4. Please call the hospital Information Desk at 243-7144 or 046-816-7144 for more information. If it is an emergency, please dial 911 (on base) or 119 (off base) for immediate help.

Base Communication Office Closure – The Base Communication Office (building C-20) will be closed from Dec. 29 through Jan. 3 in observance of the holiday season. During this period, BCO will only provide emergency service and final close outs due to PCS moves. Additionally, BCO will be closed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 12 due to a command function. Call 243-5538 for more information.

Vehicle Registration Office Holiday Closure – The Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) will be closed from Dec. 29 and reopen Jan. 4 for the holidays. Please plan accordingly. As a reminder, VRO is now located in building J-196 next to Navy Lodge. Call 243-9052 for more information.

Second Hand Rose/Takusan Treasures Closure – Second Hand Rose and Takusan Treasures will be closed Dec.17 through Jan. 3 for the holiday season. No donations will be accepted during the closure period. Both stores will re-open Tuesday, Jan. 4 and resume regular business hours. E-mail to secondhandrose1956@yahoo.com for more information. Happy holidays.

Carney Gate (main gate) Construction – There will be lane closures near guard house area due to a current construction project from now through Feb. 5, 2011. Additionally, the boardwalk pedestrian gate will be closed from Dec. 13-23 and Feb. 3-5. Dates on this project are tentative and may change due to site conditions and work progress. Please plan ahead and obey posted traffic signs during this construction period.
現在、正面ゲートでは建設プロジェクトが進んでおり、ガード小屋付近で車両レーン規制が行われています。規制は来年2月5日まで行われる予定です（月～金：午前8時30分～午後4時45分。週末・祝日：午前8時～午後4時45分）。また、ボードウオーク側歩行者用ゲートは12月13日から23日まで、及び2月3日から5日まで終日閉鎖となりますのでご注意下さい。上記の日程は現場の状況や工事の進捗により変更されますのでご了承下さい。時間に余裕を持ち、ゲートの標識に従うようお願いします。

The Orkand Family Military Scholarship Fund – University of Maryland University College (UMUC) Asia offers scholarships for military service members and their family members for the spring sessions. Spouses of active-duty enlisted service members can enroll in the scholarship to receive $1,000 per semester towards the cost of tuition. The eligibility requirements are: must be the spouse of an enlisted active duty member of the armed forces, a undergraduate student maintaining a minimum 2.5 grade-point average (GPA) or a graduate student maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA at UMUC, enrolled in a minimum of six or more credit hours for the semester and demonstrate financial need. For an application, log on to http://www.asia.umuc.edu/finaid/. Contact your local field representative or the UMUC Asia Financial Aid Office at 225-3680 for any questions or information regarding available financial aid programs.

DBIDS Registration – Don't forget to register in the Defense Biometric Identification Data System (DBIDS)! Due to the updated Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) plan and increase in force protection and random anti-terrorism measures, all military, civilian employees, Navy contractors and their family members including children 10 years of age and older, Master Labor Contract (MLC) employees and local contractors onboard Yokosuka Base or assigned to afloat units are required to register in DBIDS. Personnel who are currently registered in DBIDS but have changes to their profile must come in and update their information. The DBIDS registration office is located at the main gate inside building 1495. Customer service hours are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
横須賀基地に関係する軍人、軍属、契約従業員及び10歳以上のご家族、MLC従業員、契約業者の方は全て指紋認識データシステム（DBIDS）に登録する必要があります。既に登録された方で、データに変更がある方は、1495ビルのDBIDS登録事務所でデータの更新を行って下さい。受付は月～金曜の午前7時から午後4時まで。

Seahawk-Umitaka Community Announcements, Article and photo submissions – Deadline for community announcements and article and photo submissions for the Seahawk is the Thursday before the next Seahawk edition. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Please include your telephone contact information in the body of the e-mail so we can contact you if necessary. Contact the Seahawk editor by e-mail to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for more information.

BZ: To the good samaritan, Ikego MiniMart employee Nicole Atienza, who found my wallet last week and returned it to me, thank you very much! Although she refused to accept any reward, I wanted to let her know that her act of kindness is truly appreciated.

Sticky fingers

By Capt. David A. Owen, Commander, Fleet Activities, Yokosuka

Shoplifting continues to be an area of concern – on and off base. On average, three to four Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) members get caught shoplifting every month. How many do not get caught?

Despite our best efforts, the problem continues to grow. The offenders are a diverse group, including active duty service members, civilian adults and children of which, middle and high school age children account for most of our cases.

The range of consequences is also diverse, depending on the offender, victim and circumstances of the theft. Typical consequences may include: a Civilian Administrative Forum hearing, community service hours, restitution, a $200 civil demand penalty, attending the shoplifting awareness course, punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, debarment from the Navy Exchange (NEX) or installation, a gomenasai (apology) visit, Japanese prosecution and removal from Japan.

Recently, I debarred a retired 1st class petty officer from the base for shoplifting at the NEX. Who knows how many times he was successful before being caught during his 20-plus year career.

Those most affected by shoplifting are those SOFA members in Japan who are honest and do not steal. Consider the lost revenue of the NEX and other merchants. In 2009, NEX worldwide reported an estimated $2.9 million in loss due to theft. Since our Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) budget is augmented by approximately 25 percent of the locally-generated NEX profits, shoplifting from our NEX results in fewer MWR program dollars for our Sailors and their family members.

Also, consider our reputation in Japan. What message do we send to our host nation when a juvenile is caught shoplifting by the Japanese police for the second time? Finally, consider the countless hours spent investigating, processing paperwork, conducting interviews and hearings and supervising community service hours. There are better things to be done with that time.

Shoplifting and stealing have no place within our community and will not be tolerated. Everyone who works or lives on this installation must be better than to allow themselves to sink to the low level of becoming a common thief, and no one deserves to be the victim of such a petty and thoughtless crime. I have not seen a single case of the proverbial "Jean Valjean," stealing out of necessity. Instead, our SOFA members are stealing out of greed or for sport. To the parents: please educate and caution your children. To those with sticky fingers: you are only hurting your own and in the end, yourself.