Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Night out against crime heightens community awareness

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

Sailors and their families participated in National Night Out at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Aug. 3.

National Night Out, celebrating its 27th year, is an event celebrated in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

Dubbed as America's night out against crime, the event is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

The Yokosuka 2010 edition featured emergency responders and service members giving others a glimpse of what they do on a daily basis.

"This is a great opportunity for the community to get together and see what activities there are for children, such as scouting," said Lt. Cmdr. Rome de las Alas, who volunteers his time as Boy Scout Troop 35 scout master. "As a case review committee officer for the base, I think events like these are important so kids get a chance to see all the base has to offer. There are lots of sports and activities available to keep kids busy and active so they don't get bored and end up getting themselves in trouble."

The Fleet and Family Support Center, Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit 5, Marine Corps Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Pacific and Navy Region Japan Fire Department sent representatives to join patrolmen from base security, local Boy and Girl Scout troops and Yokosuka City police officers to meet with and answer questions for members of the community.

In an effort to keep things interesting, demonstrations and hands-on interaction were added to enhance static displays. Security personnel from base demonstrated how they perform traffic stops and gave a military working dog demonstration. EOD Mobile Unit 5 gave attendees an opportunity to test drive their bomb disposal robot.

Boy Scouts from Troop 35 compete in a knot tying contest at the CFAY National Night Out Aug. 3. National Night Out is an event designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

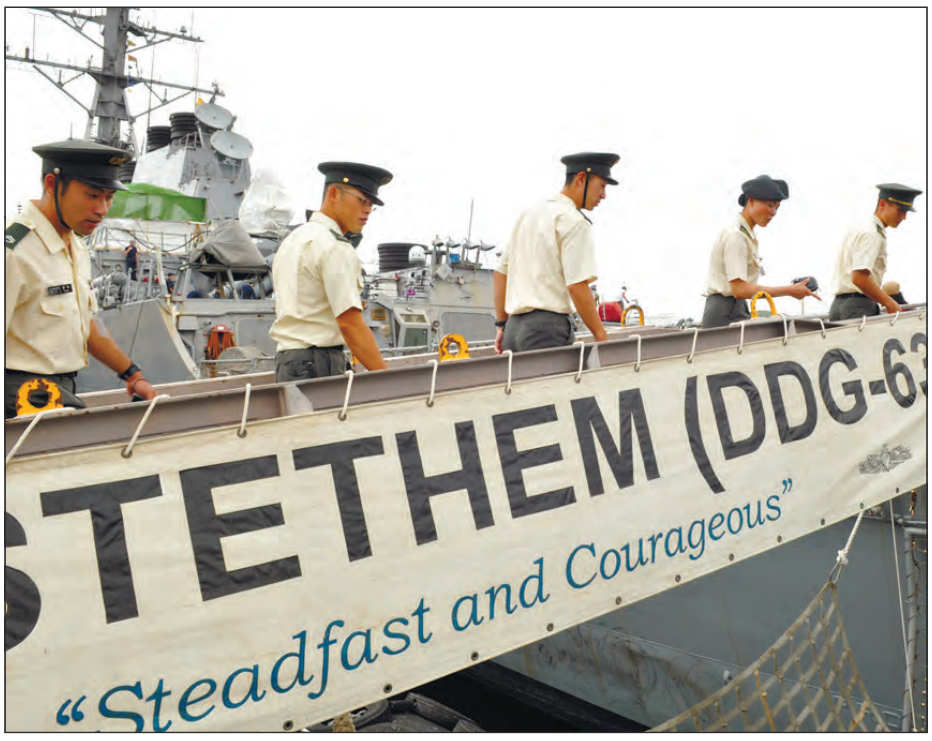
Eric Ferrer and his seven-year-old son said they enjoyed the demonstrations.

"It is good they hold events like this on base so kids can have fun while learning about safety," said Ferrer.

Co-op program offers Japanese soldiers tour of *USS Stethem*

Story and photo by MC1 N. Ross Taylor, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

A group of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) soldiers from various regions visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) for a tour of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile cruiser *USS Stethem* (DDG 63) Aug. 12.



The soldiers are part of a cooperative work program that blends a group of Japanese service members into select U.S. Army commands at Camp Zama to practice English and learn about U.S. military structure.

The U.S. Army and JGSDF have been running the co-op program for more than 16 years adding credence to the strong and successful bilateral relationship between Japan and the United States.

The JGSDF visit to CFAY and *Stethem* is one that the soldiers have been looking forward to, as shipboard life is not something they experience in the Army.

"We are soldiers, not Sailors, so this was very interesting," said JGSDF Sgt. Osamu Hirai, 1st Infantry Regiment, Tokyo. "I had a great time learning about the day-to-day operations and life aboard a U.S. Navy ship. I can't wait to tell my fellow soldiers and my parents about my trip today," he said.

The tour group visited and learned about the ship's vertical launching system and shipboard guns, the pilot house and navigation tools and the combat information center.

"To see the brain of the ship, the combat information center, was my favorite part," said Hirai. "To see first-hand the techniques and communication and warfare capabilities of the ship was a unique opportunity."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Eric Rodriguez, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Camp Zama's host nation relations, the group spends 72 days embedded in an American unit; sponsored by a U.S. soldier.

"They spend the entire 72 days learning about our culture and the different aspects of the U.S. Army," said Rodriguez. "They also get to visit the bases of different branches like Yokosuka, Yokota Air Base and Naval Air Facility Atsugi. The really get an insight as to how we all work together."

JGSDF soldiers board the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Stethem* (DDG 63) for a cooperative work program shipboard tour Aug. 12. The work program is a partnership between the U.S. Army and the Japanese Army that blends a group of JGSDF service members into various commands at U.S. Army Garrison, Japan at Camp Zama to practice English and learn about U.S. military structure.

INSIDE

John S. McCain makes historic port visit to Vietnam

***USS John S. McCain* (DDG 56) arrived in Vietnam Aug. 10 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam.**

Pg. 4

Japanese college students tour Yokosuka base, talk with Sailors

U.S. Embassy Tokyo and CNFJ organized and hosted a tour of CFAY for 11 Japanese university students Aug. 12 as part of a community outreach program.

Pg. 8