USS Shiloh en route to Sendai with aid from CFAY families

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

USS Shiloh (CG 67) Sailors and workers from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East Crane and Rigging Department loaded "tri-wall" boxes on board *Shiloh* March 17, that are filled with donations from community members of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY).

The donations are headed to Sendai, Japan, to assist those affected by the aftermath of the 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that struck the northern part of Japan March 11.

"We're doing an onload operation. We're taking 10 tri-walls that we've loaded up from one of the tower donation centers for support for Sendai," said NAVFAC Far East Senior Chief Construction Electrician Cajan Nelms, one of the coordinators for the event. "They are going to load up these tri-walls and put them on the *Shiloh* and take them up to Sendai. We've got all kinds of clothes, blankets, diapers, and any kind of goods that they are going to need up there and the support to help them out."

While the crew was getting the ship ready to leave for Sendai, even more donations were collected and were ready to get shipped out as well.

"We also have another two or three hundred bags of more goods to donate that are over at the tower. Once this is done, this truck is going to go back over to the tower and load up all the other bags and then go to Atsugi. We have on-going [helicopter operations] with the goods up there," said Nelms.

"We're sorting [the donations] and putting Japanese writing and English labeling on them and we are also weighing them. So any place they have to go, they can get offloaded and sent up there," said Nelms.

Shiloh Commanding Officer Capt. Matthew Loughlin was just as excited as his crew to lend a helping hand.

"We're going to get underway and head up and join the effort up north and we are really looking forward to participating," said Loughlin. "We're very proud of the Navy effort that's ongoing and really proud of our association with our Japanese friends and looking forward to helping out in any way we can."

As the last boxes were loaded into the ship's hold, some of the Sailors said they were happy a little piece of CFAY was heading to the people in need.

"I think that just the pure fact that everybody wants to help out and the fact that within three days we've had thousands and thousands of things donated, I think that it shows the Japanese we are here to support them," said Nelms.

***USS Shiloh* (CG 67) Sailors and workers from NAVFAC FE Crane and Rigging Department load "tri-wall" boxes on board *Shiloh* March 17, filled with donations from community members of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka. The boxes of donations are headed to Sendai, Japan, to assist those affected by the aftermath of the 9.0 earthquake and tsunami that struck the northern part of Japan March 11.**

USS McCampbell replenishes to continue relief efforts to Japan

By Ensign Emily McMenamin, *USS McCampbell* Public Affairs

*USS McCampbel*l (DDG 85) took on supplies to continue Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations off the eastern coast of Japan March 23.

McCampbell Sailors moved tons of materials ashore to the civilian population in some of the hardest struck areas, as displaced Japanese continue to have a critical need for food, supplies and fuel.

A port operations tug boat from CFAY assists the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) as it gets underway. *McCampbell* is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15, and currently part of the *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) Strike Group to support disaster relief ashore.

U.S. Navy file photo by MC1 Brock A. Taylor

Over a period of more than two hours, *McCampbell* took on 45 pallets of food and supplies from *USNS Matthew Perry* (T-AKE 9) to prepare for a new wave of emergency provisions, and move them to the Japanese ashore.

"It was incredible to watch the pallets swing across between our two ships and know all of these supplies were going ashore soon, to help our Japanese friends," said *McCampbell* Sailor Seaman Cyd M. Vargas of Aguada, Puerto Rico.

The crew worked in near freezing temperatures to bring an abnormally large amount of supplies aboard.

"The crew pulled together to on load nearly three times the normal amount of supplies in support of HADR operations ashore," said Ensign Thad Brill, assistant supply officer aboard *McCampbell*. "These items will greatly help to sustain the victims ashore."

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 51 Detachment 5 "Warlords," embarked on board *McCampbell*, will be transferring needed supplies to shore over the next few days based on information gathered during previous drops at established shelters. The air crew customizes the loads to various sizes and content in order to best suit the needs for each group of survivors. Aware that there may be additional groups with needs, the air crew is constantly vigilant to identify additional previously unestablished shelters.

Sailors have been working tirelessly to ensure that all available resources are getting ashore in a timely manner since arriving on scene March 11, immediately following a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami.

"*McCampbell* and nearly every U.S. Navy ship forward-deployed to Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan have joined with the Reagan [*USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76)] Strike Group to support disaster relief ashore," said *McCampbell* Commanding Officer Cmdr. Steven H. DeMoss. "There is a tremendous commitment by our nation and our Navy to ensure Japan overcomes and recovers from this tragedy."

McCampbell is one of seven Arleigh Burke-class destroyers assigned to Destroyer Squadron Fifteen and is forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. *McCampbell* will remain on scene, continuing to provide assistance, as part of the overall humanitarian effort being conducted by U.S. Navy 7th Fleet forces.

The editor asks:

Did you know, manning the rails is a method of saluting or rendering honors used by naval vessels?

The custom evolved from that of manning the yards, which dates from the days of sail. On sailing ships, men stood evenly spaced on all the yards (the spars holding the sails) and gave three cheers to honor distinguished persons. Today the crew are stationed along the rails and superstructure of a ship when honors are rendered.

Manning the rail is also the traditional way to honor the *USS Arizona* Memorial when it is passed by all U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Merchant Marine vessels. More recently, as foreign military vessels are entering Pearl Harbor for joint military exercises, foreign troops have participated in the traditional manning the rails.

Another notable instance occurred Sept. 14, 2001, when the crew of the German destroyer *FGS Lütjens* (D 185) manned the rails as they approached the destroyer *USS Winston Churchill* (DDG 81) and displayed an American flag and a banner reading "We Stand By You."