Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY Energy Fair raises conservation, efficiency awareness

Story and photo by Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Public Works Department (PWD) held an Energy Fair here at the red-brick area in front of the commissary Oct. 22.

October is National Energy Awareness Month in the United States and, according to CFAY Chief Staff Officer Capt. Donna M. Kaspar, the U.S. Navy embraces the event and the Navy's theme for the month, which is "Strength Through Energy Security."

"Energy efficiency is critical to our mission's success in the Navy. It minimizes operational risk; it saves money; it's also very connected to environmental issues. By saving energy and pursuing renewable sources we reduce carbon emissions, reduce greenhouse gases and reduce our dependency on fossil fuels," Kaspar said.

CFAY Chief Staff Officer Capt. Donna M. Kaspar delivers opening remarks during the CFAY PWD Energy Fair held at the red-brick area Oct. 22. The Energy Fair was the culmination of a week of events that included a 5k Energy Run and tours of the meteorological tour near Berkey Field.

"The Navy's energy goals are to reduce energy consumption through efficiency upgrades, pursuing renewable energy sources, and through transforming culture and behavior, that's often the hardest part, getting people to break bad habits of leaving the lights on all the time, and the water running," she added.

The Energy Fair, which featured displays of water conserving faucets and shower heads, a steam convection oven, and green-energy light bulbs, was the culmination of a week of events that included a 5k Energy Run, and tours for approximately 170 local students of the meteorological tower which stands near Berkey Field collecting wind data to see it is viable to erect a wind turbine to help provide green energy for the base.

According to Kaspar, the Energy Fair is just one of many things CFAY has done over the last year to meet mandated federal goals for energy consumption reduction.

She cited that a contract has been awarded to cover the roof of the Navy Exchange (NEX) with a thin, solar-film that will utilize energy from the sun to offset the current energy source.

Additionally, energy efficient lighting was installed in the NEX and is soon to follow in the James D. Kelly Fleet Recreation Center and housing, along with double-pane windows in residential dwellings.

Though the event displayed various types of energy conserving appliances and equipment, it was more geared toward people.

"It's pretty much to raise awareness about energy conservation and water conservation here on base," said CFAY PWD Energy Manager Tom Bawden. "The hope is that, the more people know about it, the more they can do about their own behaviors and actions to help the Navy meet its goals and support the mission here. It's a lot easier and cheaper to waste energy than it is to have to go make more and cause larger environmental problems in doing so."

Kaspar mentioned a few things that the local community can do to help conserve energy.

"What we can do, as CFAY citizens, to help do our part is… turn the lights off when you leave the room, leave your thermostat set at 20 C during the winter and take 'Navy showers' (quick showers)."

U.S. Navy, JMSDF logisticians display sportsmanship on, off field

By H. Sam Samuelson, FISC Yokosuka Office of Corporate Communications

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution, Yokosuka joined logisticians from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) for friendly athletic competition here during the U.S. Navy-JMSDF Sports Day Oct. 8.

The annual competition is hosted locally to help build and sustain the bilateral relations between the logistical arms of the two countries' logistics' arms of their respective navies and includes classic competitions in relay race, softball, soccer and volleyball.

During the event, JMSDF teams took top honors in all scored categories of the games and, for what is believed to be the first time, also bested the U.S. Navy teams in tug-o-war, typically a U.S. Navy dominated competition.

"But, we didn't really lose," said FISC Executive Officer Cmdr. Ed Butzirus, who was a soccer participant in the games. "It may seem cliché, but the truth is we were all winners in a higher sense. Competition such as this helps support a greater understanding of our host country navy counterparts."

FISC enjoys a close relationship and frequently teams up with JMSDF logistics agency counterparts on the waterfront. Each year, JMSDF logisticians intern with FISC, participating in operations, planning, regional services and fuel management. Last year, FISC and the JMSDF initiated higher level supply talks designed to share common logistics practices between the two navies.

JMSDF Ship Supply Depot Lt. Cmdr. Kanako Muto said, where bilateral talks help the two countries' logisticians share common practices that build efficiencies, the annual sports day competition helps build common bonds that engender mutual admiration and respect.

U.S. Navy and JMSDF logisticians prepare to race in the three-wheel pedaled event during the annual bilateral FISC Yokosuka and JMSDF Sports Day logistics competition held here Oct. 8.

U.S. Navy photo by OS2(SW) Michael W. Giddens

"I appreciated the U.S. Navy's invitation to this competition; they really worked very hard and were good sportsmen," she added. "When we are able to come together in this manner, compete and enjoy friendship, then we are better at learning about our work in maritime logistics. We learn to work together."

It is a sentiment shared by Butzirus.

"This was my first experience participating in these games, I think we can all be proud of the roles we play in contributing to the defense of this great country, our mutual support agreements and our logistics partnering," Butzirus said.

"But, at the same time, it was an honor just being out there in a non-logistic, non-operational environment – and joining our fellow JMSDF counterparts in a day of competition, fun and camaraderie, he added. "I think this kind of competition establishes a powerful sense of partnership."

As the JMSDF teams departed the fields, taking the championship trophy, U.S. Navy defenders began looking to next year to regain at least one or two title games.

"If not," Butzirus says, "we'll certainly remain happy that in the international sense, we are all on the same team."

INSIDE

Some Sailors to receive one-time, targeted NWU allowance

The Navy announced a targeted, one-time clothing replacement allowance for Sailors who did not receive the required amount of NWUs or annual allowances.

Pg. 4

Active shooter drill tests mettle of responders to real-life scenario

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka tested its capabilities to respond to an event such as the one that took place in Ft. Hood, Texas, by conducting an active shooter drill Oct. 21.

Pg. 9