Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY members, citizens of Zushi join in historical celebration

By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Members of the Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) community joined citizens of Zushi City to participate in the 19th annual Yabusame and Period Costume Parade hosted by the Zushi City Society of Commerce and Industry in Zushi City Nov. 21.

(Left) Dressed as a samurai court guard for the Shogun, MA1 Adladdin Slate from CFAY Security Department, participates in the 19th annual Yabusame and Period Costume Parade hosted by the Zushi City Society of Commerce and Industry in Zushi City Nov. 21.

Photo by Yutaka Matsumori

The celebration began with a parade featuring CFAY volunteers and local residents dressed as 12th century samurai warriors.

"I played one of the samurai court guards for the Shogun," said Master-At-Arms 1st Class Adladdin Slate, who is attached to CFAY Security Department. "It is a glimpse into the past when samurai clans prepared to go into battle, and very elaborate. I really like experiencing and learning Japanese history and culture. Any chance I get, I do so. Moreover, participating in these kinds of events has a good reflection on the United States, the U.S. Navy and relations between the two nations."

The parade started at the Kamegaoka shrine located next to Zushi City Hall and continued through the city down to Zushi Beach.

After arriving at the beach, attendees were treated to a Yabusame demonstration.

Yabusame is a type of traditional Japanese archery where archers shoot at wooden targets while riding a horse at full gallop.

"The Samurai archery is very comparable to the way Native American Indians conducted their archery skills," said Slate. "I also think the amount of armor samurai used to wear made it even more difficult for them during battle. The samurai stamina and skills were more challenged by that."

Yabusame demonstrations between Zushi residents and U.S. military personnel serving in the area go back to the end of World War II.

"When U.S. forces occupied the Nagisa Hotel in Zushi in 1945, they practiced yabusame on the beach," said Ikego Community Relations Specialist Michiko Kamioka.

The event proved to be a great way for Zushi residents and the CFAY community to engage with each other.

"I feel proud and happy to see foreigners appreciating my history and culture," said Haruyuki Fujita, a local resident.

Slate, who volunteers to participate in any ceremony he can, thinks that people stationed here should take the opportunity to get to know the local culture.

"This event and other host nation events really give CFAY personnel an opportunity to experience the Japanese culture first hand and make new friends," said Slate. "I think the overall event and ceremony were very rewarding because it made me feel more a part of the Japanese culture, which few people get to experience, at all."

GW Strike Group welcomes United Nations military officials

By MC3 Juan M. Pinalez,
***USS George Washington* Public Affairs**

On the second day of the naval exercise in the series announced at the 2-plus-2 meetings in July between *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group (GWCSG) and Republic of Korea (ROK) naval forces, the aircraft carrier welcomed four Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) dignitaries aboard the ship Nov. 29.

The four NNSC members are also delegates to the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) and were aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) to observe the four-day naval exercise taking place in waters west of the Korean peninsula, which includes training opportunities that develop all areas of preparedness including fleet readiness, air defense, logistics, enhancing communications and subject matter exchanges.

"We are conducting routine operations in international waters, demonstrating our commitment to the Republic of Korea and to improve the interoperability and readiness of both Republic of Korea and U.S. forces, and our collective commitment to security and stability across the Pacific region. These operations strengthen deterrence against North Korea. None of our operations involve live fire exercises," said Commander Task Force 70 Rear Adm. Dan Cloyd.

Military officials from the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), who are on board *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) to observe the four-day naval exercise taking place in waters west of the Korean peninula, are greeted in the in-port cabin before a tour of the aircraft carrier Nov. 29.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Marcus D. Mince

"We are training and working together to prepare ourselves for any number of missions, from the types you are seeing here today, as well as humanitarian assistance or disaster response missions that we may conduct anywhere in the region," Cloyd added.

More than two dozen ROK navy officers are also on board *GW* working side-by-side with their U.S. Navy counterparts, along with six ROK navy ships coordinating and conducting naval training evolutions with GWCSG.

The exercise includes more than 7,000 personnel, 11 ships and a variety of aircraft to include F-18 Super Hornets, F-16C Fighting Falcons, A-10C Thunderbolt II, F-15Ks and KF-16s.

The U.S. Navy ships participating in the exercise along with ROK navy ships include: the Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *GW* with embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, the guided-missile cruiser *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) and the guided-missile destroyers *USS Lassen* (DDG 82), *USS Stethem* (DDG 63) and *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62).

The United States notified China, Japan and other nations in the region of the exercise in international waters.

INSIDE

MCPON West sends 2010 holiday message to fleet

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West released his annual holiday message to the fleet Dec. 1.

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FISC logistic teams support POTUS visit to Western Pacific

FISC Yokosuka logistic teams provided around-the-clock support to the president of the United States during his recent sweep through the Western Pacific.

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