FISC logistics teams support POTUS visit to Western Pacific

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

President Barack Obama's recent sweep through the Western Pacific reinforcing U.S. diplomacy efforts and economic interests during the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference in Yokohama had around-the-clock support from Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka, Japan.

Obama's APEC schedule demanded special, on-call fueling and refueling requirements provided by FISC Yokosuka Site in Atsugi, Japan.

FISC refueling teams refueled the C-17s that carried not only specially equipped U.S. Secret Service ground vehicles but the pre-fueled Marine One presidential helicopter.

"When they needed fuel, we were there to top them off, day or night," said FISC Site Atsugi Fuels Responsible Officer Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) Rammil Embile.

Obama's diplomatic visit to Jakarta – and premature departure due to a rapidly approaching volcanic ash cloud from recently erupted Mount Merapi – mandated a different and more juggled logistics effort supported by FISC Yokosuka, Fleet Support Office (FSO), Jakarta.

Logistics Specialist First Class (SW) Mark Bettencourt, FISC go-to logistics point of contact in Indonesia, provided the Joint Task Force – POTUS Support (JTF-PS) team with transportation contracting, lodging arrangements, expedited customs and immigration clearance, security access and locale briefing arrangements.

"Supporting the logistics needs for this presidential visit was a real undertaking," Bettencourt said. "You're juggling services and coordinating with multiple agencies, all the while doing it with a sense of pride because you're supporting the president's diplomatic outreach and economic goals in the region.

"You just want to get everything right," Bettencourt said.

The president visited Jakarta to join the President of the Republic of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in launching a United States – Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership.

In addition to support for the Commander-in-Chief and staff, Bettencourt's FSO coordinated U.S. Embassy Jakarta services for more than 100 other staff members of Joint Task Force POTUS Support (JTF-PS) and on-scene JTF platforms, *USS Essex* (LHD 2) and *USS Halsey* (DDG 97).

For the President and his staff, Bettencourt established a satellite post office at the Shangri la Hotel in downtown Jakarta, where the president and his wife, First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, were staying.

"Meanwhile, we were also coordinating customs clearance, unloading, transfer and loading of materials from KC-130, CH-46, and CH-53 aircraft bound for the ships off Indonesia," Bettencourt said.

During the presidential stay, embassy staff members – including Bettencourt and family – were invited to a meeting room where the Commander-in-Chief entered to thank the staff for their dedication.

"His was sincere and said he appreciated everyone's effort to support his goals in the region, and then he said, 'well, that's about all I have,' then stepped off the platform to shake hands," Bettencourt said.

Bettencourt said the president approached some family members, stopping first to put his arm around Bettencourt's daughter, 10-year-old Kayleen.

"He leaned over and said, 'cheese,' and I took a picture," he said. "My daughter was so thrilled she couldn't wait to show her friends."

On a personal level, it was a highlight for Bettencourt and his family. But Bettencourt said the true highlight of the visit was the support he provided for the president.

For Bettencourt's efforts, Commander, JTF-PS, Rear Admiral Richard Landolt presented Bettencourt an on-the-spot Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, "for [his] brilliant, collaborative ability that was instrumental in the joint task force support to a successful presidential visit."

FISC Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. Matt Feely agreed.

"He is a recognized expert in country and well regarded by the embassy staff. We – and they – are fortunate to have a professional like Bettencourt on the FISC team."

Bettencourt has been stationed at FSO Jakarta located in the Embassy for five years. His is the only Navy logistics billet assigned there.

President of the United States Barack Obama, stops to pose with FISC Yokosuka FSO Leading Petty Officer LS1 Mark Bettencourt's 10-year-old daughter Kayleen during a recent diplomatic visit to the Republic of Indonesia, much of which was supported by Bettencourt.

U.S. Navy photo by LS1 Mark Bettencourt

"This billet is great for personnel who want to experience the culture," Bettencourt said. "You're working out of the embassy. There is no base to depend on and you must interact with the community for everything."

Bettencourt has now had the pleasure of meeting two Presidents of the United States. He met President George W. Bush in 2006.

Tips for getting to your winter, holiday season destination safely

By CFAY Traffic Safety

As winter weather and holiday travel nears, it's time to review a few safety tips. Prepare yourself now by winterizing your vehicle and being equipped with essential survival items before driving. There is nothing worse than having a day planned full of shopping, making stops to friends' houses to deliver cards and gifts and then; what you never thought would happen to you, does. The car breaks down. Is it the windshield wiper rubber that finally broke and offers zero visibility, the battery finally gave you all it had on the last start, or did that tire you were hoping would hold on finally give out and your spare is as flat as the other tire?

Winterizing your vehicle is easy; the following are a few simple checks that you can make:

• Check all exterior lights and clean off excess snow and ice to make sure you are visible to other drivers and pedestrians.

• Tires should be inflated to manufacturer recommendations and tread depth no less than 1/16 inch.

• Replenish your windshield wiper fluid and confirm wipers are in good condition; also, consider installing winter wipers.

• Check your oil level and (if suggested by manufacturer) change to lighter weight oil for the winter.

• Make sure that your car is braking evenly; also, check your brake fluid levels.

• Clean your battery terminals and assure the battery is fully charged.

• Confirm your vehicle cooling system is filled with the proper (50/50) antifreeze and water mix.

• Always drive with a full tank of gas when leaving the city limits.

Now that the vehicle is prepared, are you? It is important to have emergency supplies on hand, but it's most important to be able to find them during the actual emergency. Store all supplies in sealed containers such as small plastic cases with secure lids. In the event of an emergency, all your supplies will be in a central location and can be easily found in the dark. Check expiration dates on emergency supplies. Do you have the following necessary emergency supplies?

• Tow chain, rope or straps.

• Jumper cables or jump starter.

• Sand and ice melting agent (bag of salt).

• Shovel.

• Windshield ice scraper and snow brush.

• Road map.

• Emergency flares, fuses or light sticks.

• Extra winter clothes, coats, hats and gloves.

• Regular or emergency blankets.

Many of these items can be found in Emergency Road kits which are available online as well as the Navy Exchange Autoport. They come in many varieties depending on your travel habits.

Finally, to help ensure a holiday filled with safe driving, elect yourself to be a designated driver. Clear Vision has many campaigns throughout the year, this year, "Give the Gift of a Designated Driver." This helps to ensure people will be able to enjoy holiday fun. Remember, this is the time of giving so if you have been blessed with a "Gift of a Designated Driver," return the gift so other drivers can enjoy the festivities at the next holiday get-together.

Before you hit the road, make sure your car is ready for the trip. Go to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Auto Hobby Shop or the NEX Autoport to get things checked out. Have a planned route, and let someone else know the route you are taking. Sunglasses help reduce the glare from snow and sleet, providing better driving visibility. Let's do our part to make sure everyone drives and arrives safely through the winter and holiday season.

NAVSUP Naval Supply Systems Command

U.S. FLEET & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CENTER YOKOSUKA HOLIDAY MAILING DATES

Holiday Mailing Dates 2010

(For Planned Delivery by Christmas Day)

Military Mail Address to: ⇨ Mail Class: ⇩	APO/FPO AE ZIPS 090-092	APO/FPO AE ZIPS 093	APO/FPO ZIPS 094-098	APO/FPO ZIPS 340	APO/FPO ZIPS 962-966	United States
Express Mail Military Service	18 Dec 10	Not Available	18 Dec 10	18 Dec 10	18 Dec 10	18 Dec 10
First Class Mail Letters/Cards	10 Dec 10	4 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10
Priority Mail	10 Dec 10	4 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10
Parcel Airlift	3 Dec 10	1 Dec 10	3 Dec 10	3 Dec 10	3 Dec 10	3 Dec 10
Space Available Mail	26 Nov 10	20 Nov 10	26 Nov 10	26 Nov 10	26 Nov 10	26 Nov 10
Parcel Post	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10