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Yokosuka Holds Military Working Dog Joint Training

Story by Taylor Curry, CFAY Public Affairs
Photos by Taylor Curry & Edward Holland, CFAY Public Affairs

For the first time ever, the Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Navy Security Forces Military Working Dog (MWD) division held a day of joint training with fellow MWD handlers from the U.S. Air Force and Army, Jan. 8.

CFAY’s MWD Kennel Master, Master-at-Arms Petty Officer 1st Class Thomas Marsh, explained why the joint training with dog handlers across the three services was so important to the overall mission in Japan.

“Knowledge. Exchanging knowledge to multiple kennels around so that everyone is working from the same basis,” he said. “If anyone has issues with training areas, whether it be training scenarios that their dogs are not performing, we just want to get the knowledge out from Yokosuka, because we have the knowledge here and our goal is to try to help has many personnel as possible with their dogs.”

The drills began bright and early, with all service members meeting at the training location to set up the scenarios in which they would run the dogs through with the handler at the lead. “I think it’s great that we can get together and do these joint training events,” said U.S. Army Sergeant Michael Coffey, MWD handler from Camp Zama. “Our program in the Army is different than both the Navy’s program and the Air Force’s program. It’s really cool to get together and share ideas, share training experiences…it just helps us all become better military working dog handlers.”

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The MWDs from Yokosuka are all trained for a variety of purposes, whether it be bomb detection or drug finding, but all the dogs are trained to work side by side with their handler, continuously strengthening the bond between dog and human. Handlers often don a protective bite suit and act as an aggressor to keep the dogs proficient in subduing an assailant, along with many other training techniques.

The CFAY kennel currently houses 7 dogs, all of which go through an extensive training program at Joint Base San Antonio/Lackland, Texas, and continue that training daily at their duty stations upon arrival. With said training, that allows the dog and its handler to provide the base and the fleet the safety that it needs when it comes to deterrence of illegal activities and overall protection from those that wish to do it harm.

Marsh explained the bond with his MWD in one word – deep. “That’s our lifeline. Without them, we can’t smell these bombs. We have a dog on a 26-foot leash. When he sits on a device, we are 26 feet away. If he misses it, then I step on it and I die, or if he misses it and steps on it, we both die. Or if we both miss it and not step on it, and someone from our team behind steps on it, or if the vehicles in route roll over it, people die. So it’s a lot of weight on every handler’s shoulders.”

The average time in service for most working dogs is between 10 and 12 years, then upon retirement they are often adopted out to past MWD handlers or civilian law enforcement. The dedication and loyalty put forth by the dogs have been a major asset to the U.S armed forces and reflects the hard work displayed by their handlers as well.

“It’s definitely different than owning a pet at home because you are actually working with this animal on a daily basis and you build a relationship that you don’t really see anywhere else,” said U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Seth Shannon, MWD handler from Yokota Air Base. “You and that dog almost become one…and that’s your partner. It’s not necessarily heartbreaking but its bittersweet when it comes time for you and that dog to separate and you see someone else work with that dog or that dog retires.”

Marsh stated that this is the first time this joint training has taken place at Yokosuka, but hopefully it can be something that happens more often.
UPCOMING EVENTS

**New Year, New You**

- **Event Registration:** 13-24 Jan
- **Event Period:** Jan 27-Mar 20

Kick off 2020 with a fitness challenge. Take part in an 8-week weight loss, fat loss and lifestyle behavioral challenge. Register at the Health Promotion Clinic in the Fleet Rec Center (3rd Floor/Rm. 323).

**Modeling in Japan**

- **Information Class**
  - **10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Are you interested in modeling in Japan? Participate in this information class to learn how to get started. Please call FFSC at 243-3372 or email ffscinfo@fe.navy.mil.

**Family Sensory Film**

- **10 a.m. | Benny Decker Theater**
  - **Movie:** Spies in Disguise

The auditorium lights are dimmed and the volume turned down. Audience members are welcome to dance, to walk, to shout, or to sing! In other words, the theater’s quiet policy is not enforced unless the audience’s safety is questioned.

**CPO Club Brunch**

- **Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday**
  - **9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Dining Room**

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, the CPO Club is hosting a brunch featuring his favorite foods to include Southern-fried chicken, candied sweet potatoes, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, black-eyed peas and cornbread. Additionally, all of your favorite Sunday Brunch breakfast and lunch items will be available. Adults $21.95/Children (6-11) $11.95.

**Super Bowl LIV Parties**

- **8:30 a.m. | CPO Club, Officers’ Club, Club Alliance and Club Takemiya**

Are you a football fan? Want to see the game with some friends? Come to one of CFAY’s clubs to enjoy the big game! $15 per person. That price includes a breakfast and lunch buffet. Each facility will have prizes and giveaways featuring MWR and NEX gift cards. For more information, please call 243-1268.
Now to January 13 (Monday)
Higashi Zushi Illumination 2019
Sunset to when the last JR Yokosuka train arrives to the station | JR Higashi Zushi Station
JR Higashi Zushi Station’s Fureai Square is decorated with illuminations for the holiday season. This event features a 45-feet high tree that is adorned with rainbow-colored lights. Donations will be collected for Shuri castle in Okinawa which burned down recently, as the Zushi area has a number of people who moved from Okinawa to work for the Yokosuka Naval Arsenal.

January 11-13 (Sat-Mon)
Pet Expo
10:00 am - 5:00 pm | Minatomirai at the PACIFICO venue in Yokohama
If you are a pet/animal lover, you won’t want to miss this Pet Expo in Yokohama. Animal demonstrations, fashion contests, instructional events, pet-centric shopping and so much more. Adults: 1,400 yen (advance sale 1,200 yen) Children (4 years old ~ elementary school students): 800 yen (advance sale 600 yen), under 3 years old free admission. http://www.pethaku.com/yokohama/event.php

Now to February 16 (Sunday)
The Jewel of Shonan
5 to 8 p.m. (weekdays, including the end of the year to the new year); 5 to 9 p.m. (Until Jan. 13); 5:30 to 9 p.m. (Jan. 14 to Feb. 16) | Enoshima area (20-minute walk from Enoden Enoshima Station)
The Enoshima area is brightened with illuminations at several locations to include the 200-foot-tall symbolic observation tower called the Enoshima Sea Candle (center of the photo) and in the Samuel Cocking Garden area. The Jewel of Shonan festival is one of the top three greatest winter illuminations in the Kanto Region.

Jan 25- Feb 8
Chinese New Year Celebration
Various times depending on the day | Yokohama Chinatown | Motomachi Station
The Lunar New Year celebration is a multi-day event, offering visitors a variety of celebration displays and parades to enjoy. China Lion Dance Date: 01/25, 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Lion will pray for the prosperity and good harvest and dance around and bite on envelopes containing congratulatory gifts of money hanged in front the stores. Celebration Parade Date: 01/26 : 4:00 p.m.
Extravagant parade to celebrate the New Year’s with costumes of the Emperor, ethnic clothing, lion dance, and dragon dance. https://www.chinatown.or.jp/event/celebration/shunsetsu2020/
UNAUTHORIZED CHILD CARE
As a reminder, per OPNAVINST 1700.9E, any individual caring for other families’ children for a total of ten or more hours per week on a regular basis, paid or unpaid, must be a certified Child Development Home (CDH) provider. One child for one hour equals one child care hour. Providing child care in government quarters is a privilege extended only to Navy CDH Certified Providers. Repeat unauthorized care may result in loss of housing privileges.

CFAY FINGERPRINTS
The finger printing machine at Bldg J-196 has been experiencing technical issues. Please call ahead to confirm the machine is operational prior to arrival DSN:243-9052 or commercial 046-816-9052.

CDNS & GIANT VOICE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TESTING
Over the next four weeks, CFAY will be conducting tests of the CDNS and Giant Voice Public Announcement Systems. If there is a real emergency or important information, the message will state the condition or information.

NARITA SHUTTLE SPACE A
For personnel wishing to use Space A for travel, please make reservations on the CNIC website. Reservations do not guarantee you a seat as the priority may shift based on personnel who are traveling on official orders.

For more information please visit: https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnri/installations/cfa_yokosuka/about/installation_guide/getting_here/narita_airport_shuttle_bus.html

CONSTRUCTION AND CLOSURES
A Street Partial Closure:
A Street, in front of Kinnick High School, remains closed until Feb 28, 2020.

Rickert Drive:
Rickert Drive will be partially closed for repaving project until Feb. 21, 2020.

CFAY TOWN HALL INITIATIVES

TOPIC: TOO MUCH CONFUSION CONCERNING ADULT SUPERVISION DURING YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS.

SOLUTION: PUT THE CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM YOUTH SPORTS SELF-CARE POLICY IN WRITING.

• CHILDREN AGES 3-5: A PARENT (OR AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE) IS REQUIRED TO ACCOMPANY THE CHILD AND BE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES WHILE THE CHILD IS PARTICIPATING IN THE START SMART PROGRAM.

• CHILDREN AGES 6-9: A PARENT (OR AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE), CERTIFIED BABYSITTER 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, OR AN ADULT LISTED AS AN EMERGENCY CONTACT ON THE YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED TO ACCOMPANY THE CHILD TO AND FROM ANY YOUTH SPORTS ACTIVITY AND SIGN IN THE CHILD ON THE SIGN-IN SHEET. ONCE THE CHILD IS OFFICIALLY SIGNED IN, THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY MAY LEAVE THE AREA UNTIL PICK UP. THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY IS REQUIRED TO SIGN THE CHILD OUT OF THE YOUTH SPORTS ACTIVITY.

• CHILDREN 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER: A CHILD MAY PARTICIPATE IN, AND TRANSIT TO AND FROM, YOUTH SPORTS ACTIVITIES UNACCOMPANIED.

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