

NAF Atsugi holds major Energy Fair

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## ENERGY

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – “When it comes to building a secure energy future for the United States, there is more at stake than meets the eye. Safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy are vital not only to our personal mobility and comfort, but also to our Nation’s productivity and security.” These words were given in a 1991 presidential proclamation by President George W. Bush, on file at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Through this proclamation, Energy Awareness Month was established and 20 years later, energy conservation efforts are still part of the military’s mission.

For Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, energy awareness is not only a military standard, but an ongoing mission to assist the people of Japan.

“We put in a lot of different efforts to look at conservation, to see where we could cut back,” said Capt. Eric Gardner, commanding officer of NAF Atsugi, “Increase of temperatures during the summer, so a little bit warmer, not as much air conditioning. We ended up asking people to run the dish washers and laundry at night, not during the peak demand hours.”

Due to the earth quake and tsunami that impacted the northern part of Honshu Island, the Fukushima power plant was made unstable.

To help the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) stabilize the power plant, rolling blackouts became a common occurrence in the Kanto Plains region for a short period of time, including NAF Atsugi.

Although the situation in Fukushima, Japan has been stabilized and black outs are no longer a common occurrence for NAF Atsugi, energy conservation is still a major part of daily life and routine on the installation.

“TEPCO asked the large organizations,” said Gardner, “and companies including NAF Atsugi to conserve energy over the summer following the loss of the Fukushima Daiichi plant and a large portion of the available energy throughout the Tokyo metro area. They asked us to cut our demand by 15%.”

NAF Atsugi was able to successfully meet and exceed their request by cutting their energy demands by 19% during the summer months.

To recognize Energy Awareness Month, an Energy Fair was held on NAF Atsugi.

Speakers included Gardner and Mr. Hashi Oshama, a representative of TEPCO.

The main attraction of the fair was an award winning Solar-Hydrogen powered vehicle showcased by Professor Hiroyuki Obara, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Intelligent Mechanical Systems at Tamagawa University.

“Hydrogen is mostly generated by fuel energy, said Obara. “Mixing the fuel energy with solar power it makes a more stable, renewable energy with no emissions.”

In the past year, energy conservation for NAF Atsugi has gone beyond the military-wide focus on energy reduction. It became a mission to assist the installation’s host country recover from a disaster and build itself back up. It has become even more a part of NAF Atsugi’s way of life.