

NAF Atsugi prepares to host Spring Festival

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FESTIVAL

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – Service members and their families enjoyed the warm weather by attending Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi’s Spring Festival on Apr. 28.

Previously known as the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Spring Festival presented some of the best entertainment through games, live bands and aerial demonstrations. There was also an opportunity for visitors and guests to meet and speak to members of the Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 squadrons.

“I’d say the quality of entertainment that we get now is a little bit better,” said Paul Perry, the entertainment coordinator for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR). “Over the years, we’ve stepped it up and we’ve done pretty well with getting really good, local entertainment for the Spring Festival.”

Japanese citizens from the local communities were also invited to join in the festivities with over 30,000 visitors, to enjoy the American atmosphere with food and entertainment.

Sumie Maruyama, the community relations specialist for the Host Nations Relations Office, encouraged those within the Japanese community to attend. “I want the local community to enjoy the great opportunity and to understand that it’s not just a military force here on the base, but also just people living here and enjoying the Japanese culture.”

To emphasize the partnership between NAF Atsugi and the local communities, the nine Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), agreements highlighting the roles between the base and the corresponding city in the event of a disaster, were put on display for attendees to see and reflect upon.

“I think it brings us closer together,” said Perry. “Any time we can do joint events where the Japanese can come in and join something we have, it gives them confidence in us as good neighbors.”

For more information about other open-base events, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 264-4455.