Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Vol. LXII, No. 13 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka April 8, 2011

CFAY efforts reduce electrical power consumption significantly

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) significantly reduced the amount of power they use in an effort to lessen their draw from the Japanese power grid that was damaged from the recent earthquake, tsunami and failure of the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear reactors.

"From the very beginning of these devastating events CFAY wanted to help contribute in anyway we could to support the community we are very much a part of," said CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen. "Vigilance in securing lights and other electrical sources we do not absolutely need along with suspending activities, such as night time sports, to conserve electricity vital to impacted areas for recovery are vital to the relief cause."

CFAY Public Works Department is part of the team that keeps track of the amount of kilowatts used by the base.

"We have the SCADA system, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system," said Yuuichi Fukawa, utilities and energy management director. "We can monitor how much we purchase from Tokyo Electric and Power Company as well as how much we generate with the system from the generator and we also measure customers use, not just individual buildings but by the feed. We monitor all the high voltage and how much they are using."

The three areas that use electrical power distributed from CFAY are the Negishi and Ikego housing detachments and CFAY itself, have all contributed to the successful effort.

"Before and after, like the same time last year in March and compared to the current situation, we reduced our consumption by more than half," Fukawa said. "So, the most significant saving day was last week when we reduced by almost 75 percent."

Devices like televisions and personal computers, which are categorized as "vampire loads," can draw power even when they don't appear to be running. Thomas Bawden, Yokosuka base energy manager, suggestions ways on how to deal with them that could help bring the power usage down even lower.

"It's sitting there drawing electricity just waiting so it can be turned on," said Bawden. "Simply unplugging those devices when you go to work can save a lot of electricity.

Electric Power Dispatcher Foreman Tomonubu Suzuki operates the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to balance an electrical load inside the SCADA control room March 28. CFAY significantly reduced the amount of power they use in an effort to lessen their draw from the Japanese power grid that was damaged from the recent earthquake, tsunami and failure of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear reactors.

Bawden also offered some other ideas and suggestions on how to help conserver energy.

"When you take food out of the freezer, it takes less energy if you let the [frozen] food thaw before cooking it. Likewise for leftovers; when you finish cooking, let the cooked food cool down for a bit before putting [it in the refrigerator]. Once people get thinking, they can save power in lots of ways," Bawden said.

When ships are inport at Yokosuka base, they also draw electrical power from the same system that the base uses.

"For safety reasons, some places, like the ships and hospital, can't turn off all their power, but we have seen that they are also implementing some of these suggestions and lowering how much [electricity] they are using," Bawden added.

Both Bawden and Fukawa stress that such a large drop in energy consumption is not the efforts of one single workplace or command. It indicates that everyone on the base has been doing their part to help conserve electricity.

USS Fitzgerald provides humanitarian aid supplies to Japan

Story and photo by MC2(AW) William Pittman, C7F Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) donated humanitarian aid supplies while at sea east of the Miyagi Prefecture of Japan, March 26.

Fitzgerald conducted a replenishment-at-sea with *USNS Carl Brashear* (T-AKE 7) and took on 30 pallets stocked with humanitarian aid supplies such as blankets, food and water, hygiene products, medicine and warm clothing to donate to the population hit hardest by the disaster.

Fitzgerald also held a charity drive where crew members could donate necessary items to the people of Sendai.

"The whole idea for our own charity drive was that everybody wanted to give, and this was the perfect opportunity," said Lt. j.g. Elizabeth Claxton, *Fitzgerald* assistant supply officer. "While we did receive several pallets of humanitarian aid from [Carl Brashear] to send to the people of Japan, our crew wanted to take a more direct approach and donate some of their own personal effects to those in need."

The crew set up boxes in the ship's store and mess decks where Sailors could make donations to the survivors.

"Our ship store also has a full stock of toiletries, socks and T-shirts, and perishable food that Sailors could purchase to donate to the people of Sendai," said Claxton. "The charity drive was amazing. We've had Sailors spend $50 at the ship store for things that they wanted to donate, and overall the crew purchased more than $1,500 worth of donations.

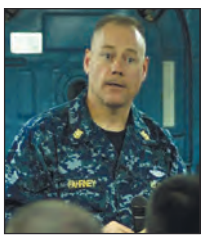
"Considering that the people who purchased items for donation at the ship store was the minority compared to Sailors who donated their own belongings, this really is a testament to this crew's dedication to the people of Japan," Claxton added.

"This really was a wonderful idea, and I am only too proud to help out," said Senior Chief Fire Controlman Daniel Bowen, a Sailor aboard *Fitzgerald* who donated blankets and several items of clothing. "I've lived in Japan for nine years, and I've since fallen in love with this country's culture and people. I am truly proud to help out to repay the Japanese people for their kindness."

***USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) Sailor SHSN Steven Day places food into a box set aside for donations to Sendai, Japan. *Fitzgerald* Sailors donated some of their own blankets, toiletries, clothing and perishable food to contribute to relief efforts.**

Fitzgerald is at sea providing disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to Japan in support of Operation Tomodachi. Other ships assisting with humanitarian efforts in Japan include *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), *USS John S. McCain* (DDG 56), *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) and *USS Mustin* (DDG 89).

INSIDE



CTF70 CMC holds town hall meeting aboard *USS Shiloh*

Due to recent events in Japan, CTF70 CMC held a town hall meeting aboard *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) March 29, to answer questions on the minds of many Sailors.

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Student museums displayed at The Sullivans Elementary School

Sullivans school creatively filled instruction time with live-action museums staged by students and featured a host of historical figures to recount their lives for all listeners.

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