Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Camp Adventure provides summer activities for local youth

Story and photo by Jeffrey C. Doepp, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department Camp Adventure program is offering summer activities for local youth through Aug. 26.

According to Yokosuka MWR Child and Youth Program Director Genia Wessels, the program is a partnership between Yokosuka MWR and Camp Adventure Youth Services.

"The Camp Adventure program is a not-for-profit organization that recruits college students from across the United States and puts them through a 10-week youth development training program. Yokosuka MWR then contracts with Camp Adventure to bring these students overseas to supplement our MWR staff for our summer programs," said Wessels. "Camp Adventure staff typically work in our School Age Care (SAC) Summer Camp program and our Aquatics programs. In our SAC program, they work as camp counselors alongside our MWR staff and in aquatics, they serve as lifeguards as well as instructing swim lessons."

The Camp Adventure program, which was founded in 1986, is offered at 150 sites in Asia, Europe and the United States, and serves more than 750,000 youth annually. Yokosuka MWR has been contracting Camp Adventure staff since 1991.

"The day camp starts the week after school ends for summer and continues until school starts back up in the fall," said Yokosuka MWR School Age Care Coordinator Jarod Bailey. "[Status of Forces Agreement] sponsored children who have completed kindergarten through sixth-grade participate in a wide range of activities that suit many different interests. They participate in many high-active and low-active games, arts and crafts, sports, drama, educational and life-skill activities. We also take weekly bowling trips, swimming trips to the pool, water activities to the (Green Bay) marina and outdoor activities at the (Ikego Housing Detachment) West Valley campgrounds."

Local Children take part in some indoor activities after lunch with a Camp Adventure counselor at the School Age Care Program Facility (Youth Center) July 27. The MWR Camp Adventure program onboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka will run through Aug. 26.

Camp Adventure activities are not limited to just on base locations, participants take part in off base activities as well.

"Every week we also take a field trip to an off base location such as a museum where we can learn more about our host nation or we visit a theme park where we can have some fun," Bailey said.

For deployed or full-time working parents, the existence of MWR summer programs such as Camp Adventure provides a positive impact on the Yokosuka base community with structured, organized and well supervised activities for children.

"It gives kids something fun and exciting to do for the summer," Wessels said "It also gives deployed or full-time working parents peace of mind knowing their child is well cared for."

According to Bailey, the program is an extension of school programs by continuingly focusing on core areas such as education, career, health and life skills, fitness, arts, character, leadership, and technology.

"Just as in our school year program, children gain friendship and socialization skills," said Bailey. "Not only that, they continue to learn through play and gain valuable skills that will last a lifetime."

For more information on Camp Adventure, call the MWR Child and Youth Programs Office at 241-4100 or visit http://mwryokosuka.wordpress.com/.

NOAC Yokosuka conducts change-of-command ceremony

Flanked by Capt. John Van Gurley (left) and Naval Oceanography Operations Command Commanding Officer Cmdr. John A. Okon (right) Cmdr. Dominick A. Vincent (center) speaks to the attendees of the Naval Oceanography Antisubmarine Warfare Center (NOAC), Yokosuka change-of-command ceremony July 22. During the ceremony, Vincent relieved by Van Gurley as NOAC commanding officer.

From NOAC Public Affairs

Cmdr. Dominick A. Vincent relieved Cmdr. John A. Okon as Commanding Officer, in a change-of command ceremony at Naval Oceanography Antisubmarine Warfare Center (NOAC) July 22 here.

Naval Oceanography Operations Command Commanding Officer Capt. John Van Gurley presided over the event.

During the ceremony, Okon thanked the many organizations that had worked with NOAC, Yokosuka during his time in Japan. Additionally, rendering his expressions of gratitude in Japanese, he thanked the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force organizations that NOAC Yokosuka has worked with for their efforts to build a strong alliance.

During his speech, Commander Okon also thanked Typhoon Ma-on for giving him "...one more day in Command, and another day with these great Sailors."

Gurley's speech highlighted work by NOAC, Yokosuka members in providing support to base, tenant commands, and local installations, building trust and open lines of communication with meteorology and oceanography commands around the world during the previous two years under his command.

Following his speech, Gurley presented Okon with the Meritorious Service Medal for his tenure as commanding officer of NOAC Yokosuka.

After relieving Okon, Vincent took a moment to thank him.

"I consider myself the luckiest man on the planet for relieving you of this fine organization," said Vincent.

Prior to arriving at NOAC Yokosuka, Vincent, a Kansas City, Mo. native, and graduate of Texas A&M University, served on the staff of the Naval Oceanography Operations Command as the director of oceanographic operations for Expeditionary Warfare.

INSIDE

Cowpens pollywogs become shellbacks during ceremony

Sailors aboard *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) took part in an historical Navy tradition when the ship conducted a crossing the line ceremony July 27.

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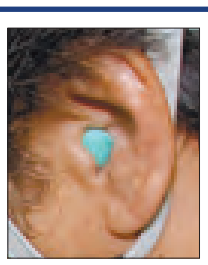

Conserving one of your most valuable senses

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, every year nearly 30 million people in the United States are exposed to hazardous noise in the workplace.

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