Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXII, No. 31 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Aug. 12, 2011

CFAY celebrates Friendship Day with local community

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka celebrated its 35th annual Friendship Day with the Japanese community Aug. 6. Friendship Day is an open base event that allows the Japanese public and other visitors to come on base to see and enjoy what the CFAY community has to offer.

"It's one of our six major events throughout the year," said Michelle Stewart, CFAY Public Affairs Officer. "It happens every August and it's a chance for the Japanese to come on base and see how we live. They get to taste our food, see some performances and we get to interact with them more than we do on a daily basis."

The event included a car show, food booths, a concert by former American Idol contestants, an earthquake simulator and other displays by the Commander Naval Forces Japan Fire Department, concerts by the 7th Fleet Band, tours of *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) which participated in relief efforts for the victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, a *soba* noodle eating contest with members of Major League Eating, many other events. The day finished with a firework display.

Nearly, 49,000 turned out for CFAY's 35th annual Friendship Day Aug. 6. Friendship Day is an open base event where CFAY invites the off-base community to come on base for a day of fun and cultural exchange.

The fireworks were special this year due to most displays being canceled after the earthquake and tsunami. The number of fireworks were also reduced after CFAY donated two of the barges, usually used for fireworks, to transfer fresh water from Yokosuka to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant earlier in the year.

At the opening ceremony, CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. David Owen said "It helps strengthen our cooperation and our alliance with the local population, especially this year with the events that happened earlier, the tsunami and the earthquakes. It's a good opportunity for us to try and put some smiles back on peoples' faces after they've had a pretty rough year and are still trying to recover."

The Mayor of Yokosuka, Yuto Yoshida, joined Owen on stage for the opening ceremony where he said, "Each year we have many visitors, both from within and outside the city to join us for this event. Thanks to Navy friendship day, this lively festival has become a great opportunity for Japan-U.S. exchange and has become a new Yokosuka annual standard."

Almost 49,000 people came on base during the day with about 85 percent of the group coming from the off-base community. Some of the visitors came on base in traditional Japanese festival clothes called *happi* or *jinbei* for men, which are straight coats with short or long pants, and *yukata*, which are a less formal version of the kimono, for women.

Sharmaine Jones, who has been in Japan for less than two months, said "This was very nice and everyone was out having a good time. It's important to come out and meet new people and learn some new things."

At the end of the day, both the base residents and the visitors gathered together on the fields facing Miura Bay and watched the fireworks display before heading home. CFAY will hold another open base event called the "*Mikoshi* Day Parade" later this year in October.

Celebrity Chefs visit Yokosuka Sailors, prepare meals

Story and photo by MC3 Matthew Cole, Navy Public Affairs Element West

Chefs, "Panini" Pete Blohme, Jeff "Gorilla" Greathouse, and Jeff "Stretch" Rumaner, of the nonprofit, public benefit corporation America's Chefs, prepared their signature dishes for service members in the Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's Commodore Matthew C. Perry galley Aug. 2.

America's Chefs provides celebrity chefs and other culinary related personalities with a vehicle capable of presenting shows and demonstrations at select military bases and installations. The culinary experts of America's Chefs offer educational opportunities as well as healthy rivalries through demonstrations and cooking competitions.

The chefs are in Yokosuka in support of U.S. service members living overseas, taking an opportunity to work side by side with Navy culinary specialist assigned to the galley and to give Sailors a taste from home.

"We're here cooking for the military. Navy Entertainment invited us, to entertain, educate and to have a lot of fun," said Rumaner. "It's something I can give back to the troops; I've had family members in the military. These guys and gals keep us free to do the crazy things I do, so what ever I can do to support them and their families I'll do it."

For the chefs it's not only about being able to give something back to service members, but more importantly the opportunity to interact with the men and women who serve.

"I knew it was going to be special; but to be able to do it and the interaction, to bring the support of my family, my friends and my town here, it's just such a privilege and an honor to be here," said Panini Pete. "There are few moments for a civilian to get a chance to give back to the Navy. We all support them, and it is really easy to say we support the troops, but being able to contribute and get out there to donate my time, to cook for the guys and cook with the culinary specialists in the galley, it's a rare opportunity."

American Chef's Jeff 'STRETCH' Rumaner, and Culinary Specialist 1st Class Allen Alvarado, prepare lunch in Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's Commodore Matthew C. Perry galley Aug. 3. The American Chefs are in Yokosuka in support of service members living overseas and to give them a taste from home.

The chefs began their visit at the Chief Petty Officer Club for autographs, photos and an exchange of recipes with service members.

They also took time after preparing lunch for Sailors and base personnel who came to the galley, to speak and provide autographs.

"I had a chance to learn a lot from this, it's been great," said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Hector Diaz. "It was great for them to come out here; I learned lots of new ways to prepare product items that aren't the normal for the way we usually do things. I think that the other Sailors will love the food; because it's different for them."

After visiting multiple bases in Japan the American Chefs will move on to Guam before returning home.

INSIDE

McCampbell holds ceremony for Battle of Leyte Gulf

The crew *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) held a memorial ceremony to honor those who fought in the Battle of Leyte Gulf Aug. 4.

Pg. 8

CFAY Security hosts event for Kofu Kodomo-en children

CFAY Security Department hosted a community relations event with the children and workers from Kofu Kodomo-en children's home July 29.

Pg. 9