Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Local Sailors remember the Battle of Midway

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Sailors on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) honored those who perished during the Battle of Midway with a remembrance ceremony June 4, the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the historic three-day battle.

According to the U.S. Navy historical center website, the Battle of Midway, fought over and near the tiny U.S. mid-Pacific base at Midway atoll, represents the strategic high-water mark of Japan's Pacific Ocean war. Prior to this action, Japan possessed general naval superiority over the United States and could usually choose where and when to attack.

After Midway, the two opposing fleets were essentially equals, and the United States soon took the offensive.

Japanese Combined Fleet Commander Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto moved on Midway in an effort to draw out and destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet's aircraft carrier striking forces, which had embarrassed the Japanese Navy in the mid-April Doolittle Raid on Japan's home islands and at the Battle of Coral Sea in early May.

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Sailors present wreaths during the Battle of Midway remembrance ceremony on board CFAY June 4. CFAY hosts the annual remembrance ceremonyduring the first week of each June the 70th anniversary of the battle near the Midway atoll.

USS McCampbell participates in Exercise Pacific Bond 2012

Story and photo by MC2 Matthew R. Cole, *USS McCampbell* Public Affairs

EAST CHINA SEA – The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) joined the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Hatakaze-class destroyer *JS Shimakaze* (DDG 172) and Royal Australian Navy Anzac-class frigate *HMAS Ballarat* (FFH 155) to participate in the exercise Pacific Bond 2012, June 6-7.

Pacific Bond is a multilateral exercise developed to build on prior exercises, improving coordination and interoperability between the participating nations. This year's exercise focused on anti-submarine warfare, maritime interdiction operations and various facets of maritime operations.

"The combined defense force organized and executed a perfect exercise. This event is another example of our countries' interoperability at sea and commitment to regional maritime security," said Cmdr. Thomas "T.J" Dixon, commanding officer of *McCampbell*. "It has been an honor to represent the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Bond trilateral exercise, and to work with the Royal Navy of Australia and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force."

The exercise began with tactical maneuvering operations which allowed the participating ships to practice coordinated movements while in formation at close interval. This exercise improved the ships' ability to communicate with each other and execute complex maneuvers.

In addition, *McCampbell* conducted a Replenishment-at-Sea (RAS) with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Towada-class fast-combat support ship *JS Hamana* (AOE 424) to practice and improve both countries capability to conduct underway refueling operations with foreign navies.

During the RAS, the Warlords of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HSL) 51 aboard *McCampbell*, conducted flight operations in their SH-60B Twin-engine helicopter and landed on the flight decks of the Shimakaze and Ballarat.

"Their landing procedures were very similar to our own, but they used slightly different hand signals than we were used to. Overall, we worked really well together," said Lt.j.g. James Walsh, who is assigned to the HSL Warlords Squadron. "This was really great, because in the case of an emergency, there's a chance we would have to divert and head to an allied ship. Having the experience of landing on different ships and platforms is great training."

A key goal of Pacific Bond is to enhance compatibility of each of the participating maritime forces in support of improving maritime security.

"During the exercise we were able to land on both the Shimakaze and the Ballarat. These exercises not only help us maintain ties with our allies by continuing to foster good will between our militaries, it also ensures we can operate together," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew A. Cole, aviation department head aboard *McCampbell*. "Learning what our counterparts are doing and thinking during these procedures is very important."

The multilateral training that exercise Pacific Bond provides is critical in times of crisis and response to regional contingencies.

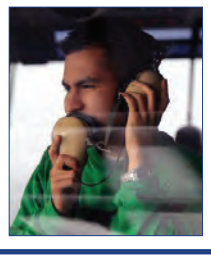
At the completion of the exercise, the crew of the *Shimakaze* invited the commanding officers of the allied ships for lunch while in port at Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa. The commanding officers ate together and discussed what each had learned from training together.

"We are here not only building valuable partners through exercise, but building friends through our work and visits together," said Dixon.

(Left) *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) Commanding Officer Cmdr. Thomas "T.J" Dixon and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Hatakaze-class destroyer *JS Shimakaze* (DDG 172) Commanding Officer Cmdr. Yukihiro Yano discuss the training conducted during exercise Pacific Bond 2012 June 8. Pacific Bond 2012 is a U.S. Navy, Royal Australian Navy, and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force maritime exercise designed to improve interoperability and further relations between the nations.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew R. Cole

INSIDE



George Washington 'Pri-Fly' maintains eyes on deck

Sailors rush into position as catapults shoot aircraft from the *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) June 10. These are only a handful of the Sailors who control flight operations.

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General safety tips for Bicycling in Japan

Bicycles on the road have the same responsibilities as a motor vehicle. It is easy to forget the challenge drivers, particularly of trucks, vans and buses face in avoiding bicycles.

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