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# Scouts, veterans retire U.S. flags at ceremony

**Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs**

Members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1054 and Fleet Reserve Association Branch 103 retired U.S. flags in a ceremony here on Flag Day, June 14.

"This is a very solemn ceremony. All of the troops here are very proud to do this and it gives you a good feeling inside to know that you are contributing to what we do as a whole on the base," said Kim McCann, Yokosuka Boy Scouts unit commissioner.

One of the flags retired at the ceremony was flown on *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) during the relief effort "Operation Tomodachi." Some of the scouts present had parents who were serving on the ship when the flag was still in service.

"The flag is a symbol of our freedom, of everything our country has gone through, all the hardships we had, it's flown every day in Afghanistan," said McCann. "The flags we had were from (*George Washington*), from the school and from the community. It's very important that the scouts learn these things and show them to the community."

The flags were first cut into pieces along the stripes with each person in the ceremony receiving either a long red or white stripe. The stars and blue field section was the last piece and was not cut apart but folded into a triangle and given to one of the scouts.

"There are only two organizations that have been honored to do this. The VFW and the Boy Scouts of America were enacted by Congress to be allowed to retire our flags when they become too old to stay in service," said McCann. "We do this honorably with all the pride and integrity we can for what (the flags) deserve."

A pair of participants each took a piece of the flag and placed it in the fire before rendering a salute and turning away so the next set could advance and do the same.

"While they were lined up for the burning of the flag, I read about what the flag means and what it should be to those past, future or present," said Troop 35 Eagle Scout Nigal Shah, who spoke at the ceremony.

Shah was one of the senior scouts who has been involved in several flag retirement ceremonies. He said that each ceremony is a chance to learn something about our history and those who fought to protect our flag.

"I'm glad that people here got to see what we did today," Shah said. "Hopefully we can pass this on to other children so they could learn to respect these values like us."

**(Right) Cub Scout Colby Fahrney places his section of a flag into the fire in front of Boy Scouts and their Scout Master Richard Wegemann, during a flag retirement ceremony held here on Flag Day, June 14. The ceremony respectfully retires U.S. flags that are too old or damaged to continue their service.**

# FISC name change to emphasize global role

**Story and photo by Sam Samuelson, FISC Yokosuka office of Corporate Communications**

U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka will officially change its name to NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Yokosuka July 1.

The new name for FISC Yokosuka – as well as all the other seven FISC commands around the world – is being changed to better emphasize the FISC specific roles in the NAVSUP global logistics support enterprise.

This change is part of the Naval Supply Systems Command overall "One NAVSUP… One Enterprise" branding initiative to provide customers and stakeholders a clearer understanding of the capabilities of NAVSUP organizations.

According to NAVSUP commander, Rear Adm. Mike Lyden, 'One NAVSUP…One Enterprise' connects NAVSUP global logistics support network construct where each activity executes its mission as a node of the network, vice an individual entity. FISC Yokosuka's next, higher echelon command, Commander Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers, is also changing its command moniker July 1, to NAVSUP Global Logistics Support, as well.

"FISCs emphasize the capabilities in the NAVSUP global logistics support business lines, helping customers easily navigate the products and services available within our organization," said COMFISCS Rear Adm. Mark Heinrich.

**This is one of the final published images of FISC Yokosuka under the old name. As part of the "One NAVSUP, One Enterprise" initiative, FISC Yokosuka is being renamed to NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka July 1.**

FISC Yokosuka's 11 sites and detachments throughout the Western Pacific will also change names, each to be known as "NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Centers."

"Our names are changing but our mission remains to deliver the right operational logistics solutions to the Navy and our joint war fighters," said Heinrich. "The COMFISCS team of military, civilian logistics professionals, contractors and foreign nationals located around the world will continue to supply the Navy's ships, aircraft, shore commands and expeditionary forces with the essential items needed to execute their missions."

# U.S. flag facts

On June 14, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day, a holiday commemorating the anniversary of the 1777 adoption of the U.S. flag. The following are some facts and trivia about the U.S. flag:

• In the 1950s, when it seemed certain that Alaska would be admitted to the Union, designers began retooling the American flag to add a 49th star to the existing 48. Meanwhile, Bob Heft, a 17-year-old student from Ohio, borrowed his mother's sewing machine, disassembled his family's 48-star flag and stitched on 50 stars in a proportional pattern. He handed in his creation to his history teacher for a class project, explaining that he expected Hawaii would soon achieve statehood as well. Heft also sent the flag to his congressman, Walter Moeller, who presented it to President Eisenhower after both new states joined the Union. Eisenhower selected Heft's design, and on July 4, 1960, the president and the high school student stood together as the 50-star flag was raised for the first time. Heft's teacher promptly changed his grade from a "B-" to an "A."

• The Flag Protection Act of 1968 was enacted in response, making it illegal to burn or otherwise deface the U.S. flag. In two landmark decisions 20 years later, the Supreme Court ruled that the government couldn't curb individuals' First Amendment rights by prohibiting desecration of the U.S. flag. Respectful burning of damaged flags according to established protocol has always been acceptable.

• Despite the preponderance of "patriotic" gear ranging from tee shirts to swimsuits to boxer shorts, the Flag Code stipulates that the U.S. flag should not appear on apparel, bedding or decorative items.

• The practice of draping coffins in the American flag is not reserved for military veterans and government officials. On the contrary, any burial may incorporate this tradition.

• Etiquette calls for American flags to be illuminated by sunlight or another light source while on display.

• The Flag Code strictly prohibits adding an insignia, drawing or other markings to the American flag. Some American politicians have been known to defy this regulation by signing copies of the U.S. flag for their supporters.

## INSIDE

### *USS George Washington* begins summer patrol

**After completing sea trails June 5, the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), returned to sea June 12 to begin its summer patrol.**

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### Personal Trainer Program helps you achieve fitness goals

**CFAY Morale Welfare and Recreation is helping community members meet their fitness goals with certified personal trainers via their Personal Trainer Program.**

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