Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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USO Yokosuka provides CFAY service members free meals

Story and photo by MCSA Jordan T. Buttolph, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

United Service Organizations (USO) Yokosuka offered free meals to forward-deployed Sailors and Marines on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), July 6.

USO Yokosuka offers free meals every other Friday to service members as they head into their weekends.

"The USO offers free food on every non-pay day Friday, giving Sailors and anyone else who is stationed here the opportunity to save a few bucks and enjoy a free meal," said Jewell Willett, Programs and Marketing Director for USO Japan. "It's nice to have a regular home cooked meal sometimes."

USO Yokosuka provides a wide range of free activities to the CFAY community, from video games and movie nights to internet access and free phone calls home.

"Our mission is to provide unique, free services and special programs for active duty service members and their families," said Willett. "There's the movie room, an area to play video games, the internet bar with free Wi-Fi, and the living room area where people read books or take a nap."

USO Yokosuka is scheduled to be relocating in December 2012 to a more accessible location for Sailors at CFAY.

"There are several benefits to the new location, the first being the location at the newly renovated Outdoor Recreation Center, next to the Fleet Gym. With the center closer to the barracks, housing and the ships it will be easier to access," said Jason Rouse, Center Operations Manager for USO Yokosuka. "The new USO will also be larger and include a room dedicated to families with children," said Rouse.

Some Sailors expressed appreciation for the efforts of the USO, and how it benefits the CFAY community.

"A lot of Sailors still live on ships so just having a place where we can come to relax, and enjoy some down time is always good," said Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class (SW) David K. Archer, volunteer of the quarter at USO Yokosuka. "You can't really put a value on being able to get off a ship and not having to worry about what to do on liberty."

United Service Organizations (USO) Japan Program and Marketing Director Jewell Willett unwraps freshly made food for service members at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) during a Free Food Friday on board CFAY July 6.

"I think the USO is a morale booster," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Apprentice Abdul Karim, assigned to Commander 7th Fleet. "If I have been having a long day, I just come to the USO. It's a great place to unwind after a long day and the services they provide here are awesome."

USS George Washington, crew Return to Hong Kong

By Lt. Cmdr. James Stockman and MC3 Class Marissa Beasley, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

HONG KONG – The U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier arrived in Hong Kong for its second, routine port visit of its 2012 patrol, July 10.

Prior to this port visit, *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) conducted a trilateral exercise and other operations with ships and aircraft of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Republic of Korea Navy.

"Every opportunity we get to conduct exercises and maneuvers at sea with all maritime countries of the western Pacific increases collective, regional maritime security and stability," said Capt. David A. Lausman, *George Washington*'s commanding officer. "Through these critical interactions, we constantly increase our combined interoperability and understanding of each other that are essential components to eliminating misunderstanding and miscalculations."

This visit marks the third time *George Washington* has visited Hong Kong since relieving the now decommissioned *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) as the fleet's forward-deployed aircraft carrier in 2008.

"Hong Kong remains one of the crown jewels of liberty ports for the crew. As part of the Navy's forward-deployed naval force, our crew is fortunate to have the opportunity to visit this great city on a regular basis," said Lausman. "One of the crew's favorite activities remains our strong community service program, where Sailors volunteer their liberty to participate in activities with various local community centers, schools and hospitals. We have interacted with several of these organizations multiple times, and I have had the unique pleasure to watch these friendships blossom and grow with each successive visit."

During its port visit, *George Washington* will host a reception for more than 500 military and civilian dignitaries, conduct tours of the ship for more than 1,000 guests and participate in 12 community service projects sponsored by the ship's Command Religious Ministries Department.

Lt. Cmdr. James Stockman speaks to members of the media during a press conference on the flight deck of the Japan-based, Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) after arriving in Hong Kong for a port visit July 10.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

"These projects help give our Sailors a sense of unity and compassion for the people they serve. They go out and help people who are in need and it gives them a sense of responsibility as well," said Principle Assistant of Command Religious Ministries Lt. Cmdr. Young Song, from San Diego. "As for the people who are receiving this help, they realize that we are here for their well-being because they do not expect help from military members. It is a conduit to build a great nation-to-nation relationship, and it is extremely important for us to create a strong image while representing U.S. forces abroad."

The aircraft carrier's Morale Welfare and Recreation team will also be providing 13 tours for the crew to experience all that Hong Kong has to offer.

"The tours give the sailors an opportunity to explore Hong Kong and get some historical information about some of the sights they are seeing," said Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Stephanie Mae, from Fort Worth, Texas. "I will be doing four of the tours myself; I am going to Disneyland, the Aberdeen and Harbor Night Cruise, the Lantau Tour and The Land Between Tour. I am really excited to be visiting."

Many of the Sailors have been to Hong Kong before, but for new crew members such as Airman Brandon Fought, from Sand Springs, Okla., this is their first time experiencing this port.

"This is my first time here and I am curious to see what this country is like," said Fought. "I will also be representing the *George Washington* on the rugby team on the fourth day so I am excited."

INSIDE

McCampbell FRG presents '85 Ways to Wellness'

***USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) Family Readiness Group (FRG) offers *McCampbell* spouses and their children 85 ways to pass the time while their Sailors are underway.**

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USNH Yokosuka Health officer awarded for disaster relief efforts

U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka Radiation Health Officer Lt. Donald Ordinario was awarded the Capt. Ernest W. Brown award by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center for 2011.

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