Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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SECNAV visits Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka

Story and photo by MC2 Devon Dow, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

The secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) July, 16.

Ray Mabus, SECNAV, visited CFAY to meet with Sailors and U.S. Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) senior leadership.

While at CFAY, Mabus visited both U.S. 7th Fleet Flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) and guided missile destroyer *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62), where he met with Sailors and joined them for lunch onboard.

"It's not every day you get an opportunity like this to show off your ship and crew and all they have accomplished, we are all honored we had the chance to meet him," said *Fitzgerald* Commanding Officer Cmdr. Brian Mutty.

Later in the day, Mabus held an all-hands at the CFAY Fleet Theatre.

Mabus spoke with to Sailors and Marines about the future plans of the Navy, the Navy 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative, and Navy personnel goals and requirements. He also thanked them for their service and dedication to the country.

"Thank you for what you do on a day to day basis," said Mabus. "Americans do not get the chance to see how skilled and talented you are and how good you are for our country. They do not get to see the sacrifices you are making everyday."

Mabus also answered questions from Sailors about fleet manning, the Navy's continuing role in the Pacific, and the Navy's green energy initiatives.

The secretary stressed that the work being done at CFAY, aboard forward deployed ships and by Sailors and Marines all over the Pacific is critical to the security of the United States and its partner nations.

"We are going to continue to build the fleet, continue to work on energy security," said Mabus. "The main thing is to continue to keep the faith with our Sailors, Marines and their families. I want to thank you for doing it so well in so many places and keeping America what it is today."

Secretary of the Navy, (SECNAV) Ray Mabus, addresses Sailors from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) and tenant commands during an all-hands call at the CFAY Fleet Theatre July 16. During his visit to CFAY, Mabus also visited guided-missile destroyer *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) and U.S. 7th Fleet Flagship *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19).
U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Amanda S. Kitchner

Secretary of the Navy presents awards to JMSDF leaders

By U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs

The Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus awarded medals to two Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) leaders July 16 during a ceremony aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet flagship, *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19).

Mabus awarded JMSDF Self-Defense Fleet Vice Adm. Commander in Chief Katsutoshi Kawano with the Legion of Merit. The Legion of Merit is the most prestigious non-combat related military medal the United States can confer to a foreign military officer. Kawano was awarded in recognition of his initiative to improve the interoperability between the U.S. Navy and the JMSDF and his direction over participation in more than 20 bi-lateral and multi-lateral exercises with the U.S. military.

Mabus also awarded Command Master Chief Petty Officer Takenori Shimoyuse, command master chief of the Self-Defense Fleet, with the Meritorious Service Medal. The medal was given in recognition of Shimoyuse's effort during "Operation: Tomodachi," the response to the earthquake March 11, 2011 earthquake off the coast of Japan and his initiative to broaden engagement activities with the U. S. Navy.

"Over the past 50 years, we have met the challenges we have faced together, from countering piracy to missile defense to providing humanitarian relief during Operation Tomodachi," said Mabus. "Although we can not know the challenges we will face in the next 50 years, we can be certain the men and women of the U.S. Navy will face them standing shoulder to shoulder with the Maritime Self-Defense Force."

(Left) SECNAV Ray Mabus congratulates Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Fleet Master Chief Takenori Shimoyuse after awarding him the Meritorious Service Medal aboard *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) July 16.
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Mel Orr

Held aboard a U.S. Navy ship in the heart of Japan's Kanagawa prefecture, the ceremony symbolized the close and enduring ties between the two countries. Participants said the ceremony made clear how generation after generation of military officers have worked so closely together in continuing the dynamic relationship between the U.S. Navy and JMSDF.

"Vice Adm. Kawano and Fleet Master Chief Shimoyuse embody the cooperation and friendship that is so strong between our two great navies," said Vice Adm. Scott Swift, Commander U.S. 7th Fleet, "Whether we are participating in an exercise, coordinating operations, or planning for contingencies, their leadership ensures that our alliance with Japan is built on more than words; it is built on strong personal and professional relationships and actions that we take together each and every day,"

Kawano and Shimoyuse recognized the magnitude of the awards. Both expressed appreciation for their awards and mentioned how they value the opportunity to work with the United States Navy.

"I am grateful to receive this award," said Shimoyuse. "I guarantee you, the U.S. Navy and JMSDF will continue to build on our brotherhood and our relationship will continue to grow even more important in the years to come."

INSIDE

Cowpens Sailors spend time with Hong Kong elderly

Sailors assigned to *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) volunteered to participate in a community service project with some of Hong Kong senior citizens, July 11.

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Fleet Mail Center delivers piece of home

From the first letter a sailor is sent at boot camp to the care packages received while deployed, the mail is a constant in the lives of the Fleet and their families.

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