NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka graduates Japanese intern

Story by Sky M. Laron,
NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Corporate Communications

Naval Supply Fleet Logistics NAVSUP (Naval Supply Systems Command) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Yokosuka recently hosted a ceremony for its Japanese Maritime Self–Defense Force (JMSDF) graduating intern.

The ceremony was held at the Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Commissioned Officers' Mess onboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) July 20.

"I am taking away a greater understanding of the U.S. Navy's efficiencies in the fuel management business," said Lt. Junpei Kataoka, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka – JMSDF Officer Internship Program graduate.

As a member of the FLC Yokosuka Fuel Operations Department, Kataoka's seven months of training focused on observing, researching and participating in the fuel management and movement processes, this ensures western pacific fleet readiness.

"We know fuel is an essential component in providing a forward presence," said Capt. Craig Doyle, Commanding Officer, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka. "It is this support of our forward deployed naval forces that is key to aiding U.S. and Japanese goals of strengthening alliances, defeating global terrorist networks, maintaining regional peace and promoting the free flow of trade."

(Left) NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. Craig Doyle presents Lt. Junpei Kataoka, of the Japan Maritime Self–Defense Force (JMSDF) his graduation certificate during a graduation ceremony held in the Arleigh A. Burke Commissioned Officers' Mess onboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka July 20. NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka has been training JMSDF Officers in supply practices since 1967.

Photo courtesy of NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Corporate Communications

NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka has been training JMSDF officers in supply practices since the program began in 1967.

The relationship between Japan and the United States has been a close and strategic alliance for many decades and the individual friendships between JMSDF and U.S. Navy personnel contribute in large part to the strength of this partnership, Doyle said.

"The internship program is a well-known hallmark of the professional bilateral relationship with our supply corps partners in the kaijo jieitai (JMSDF)," Doyle said.

The importance of the internship program is well understood by commanding officers from both countries.

"For our young supply officers, this is one of the most important assignments in their career," said JMSDF Ship Supply Depot Commanding Officer Capt. Kiyoshi Matsuura.

Many officers who graduate from the internship program go on to other prestigious assignments throughout their careers. Some interns have achieved flag officer status.

Although Kataoka's time at NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka had ended, the next intern, Lt. Takushi Kino, was soon introduced to his new shipmates in Operations Department.

"We look forward to Lt. Kino's service," said Doyle. "We look forward to assisting him in learning some of the practices that I believe not only help us serve our fleet but also help us learn how to continuously build good relations with our close partners in the JMSDF."

"I am sure these seven months will be a treasure in my career," Kino said.

USNH Yokosuka promotes importance of mother's milk

From USNH Yokosuka Public Affairs

In support of the 20th annual World Breastfeeding Week, August 1-7, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka promoted the importance of a mother's milk over formula with different events throughout the week. A poster contest, information tables and pamphlets were just a few tools the hospital used to encourage this important practice.

"From a medical standpoint we feel breastfeeding is a better alternative to formula," said Lt.j.g. Natalie Mills, OB/GYN Clinic Division officer. "Studies have shown that breastfeeding helps with the growth of a baby and also fights off certain types of infections."

Hospital leadership understands that education begins not only with the mother but also with hospital staff members that interact directly with new mothers and their babies.

"On Monday we held a six hour staff education course on breastfeeding," said Mills. "The class covered proper breastfeeding techniques and also how to demonstrate those techniques to expectant or new mothers," she said.

Hospital Corpsman Cody Blakely, who attended the class, said "We went over how to properly use a breast pump and how to position the baby. This information is important because we need to know the correct techniques to pass on to our patients, he concluded.

Mills stressed that the breast-feeding education USNH Yokosuka offers is not just for staff members and mothers.

"We had men who don't have children come up to our tables and get information for both themselves and their wives because they are planning on having kids," said Mills.

Mills understands that some women make the decision not to breast-feed because they don't feel properly trained.

"Don't go into breast-feeding thinking it is going to come naturally," she said. "It does take a lot of work. Don't get frustrated."

With continually evolving education and support programs USNH Yokosuka is here to ease the challenges breast-feeding mothers may have.

For more information on breast-feeding and other medical concerns, visit USNH Yokosuka's Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/usnhyokosuka.

Lt. j.g. Natalie Mills, OB/GYN Clinic Division officer, talks about the ongoing training hospital staff receive in order to better serve breastfeeding mothers. Beginning in 1992, hospitals around the world have used the first week of August to promote the benefits of breast-feeding.

Photo courtesy of USNH Yokosuka Public Affairs