Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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# Tsunami relief photo exhibit reflects deep U.S., Japan relations

**Story and photo by Greg Mitchell, CFAY Public Affairs**

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) hosted the opening of a photo exhibition Sept. 7 at the Japan - U.S. Cultural Exchange Center titled 'The Great Eastern Japan Earthquake through the eyes of the U.S. Navy, focusing on the relief efforts of the U.S. Navy to support Japanese citizens in that time of crisis.

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Captain David A. Owen provided opening remarks in front of the Japanese media.

"I hope this photo exhibition will encourage people to live strong and provide an opportunity to think what's important," said Owen. "I also hope that this photo exhibition will help Japanese and Americans deepen the communication, mutual understanding and good friendship."

The 2011 earthquake off the Pacific coast of Tōhoku, generally known as the Great East Japan Earthquake, was a magnitude 9.0 (Mw) undersea mega-thrust earthquake off the coast of Japan that occurred at 2:46 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2011, with the epicenter approximately 70 kilometers (43 mi) east of the Oshika Peninsula of Tōhoku and the hypocenter at an underwater depth of approximately 20 miles. It was the most powerful known earthquake ever to have hit Japan, and one of the five most powerful earthquakes in the world since modern record-keeping began in 1900.

**(Left) CFAY Security Officer Lt. Deric Robinson and Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Captain David A. Owen observes assorted photographic imagery at the grand opening of a photo exhibition at the Japan - U.S. Cultural Exchange Center in Club Alliance Sept. 7.**

The earthquake triggered powerful tsunami waves that reached heights of up to 133 feet in Miyako in Tōhoku's Iwate Prefecture, and which, in the Sendai area, travelled up to six miles inland. The earthquake moved Honshu eight feet east and shifted the Earth on its axis by estimates of between four and ten inches.

A year and a half later, recovery efforts continue with the official death toll standing at 15,854 and another 3,155 missing. Evacuated numbers stand at 343,935 and more than 6,000 injured.

The Navy's response to the March 11 disasters was part of a broader U.S. government effort to support Japan's request for humanitarian assistance. That effort included coordination by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. agency for International Development, in constant consultation with Japanese authorities and the United States Pacific Fleet.

The culture center's exhibition consisted of 49 assorted images that centered around the March 11 tsunami relief efforts, focusing on the scope of coverage provided by United States military forces.

"During the operation of humanitarian support, the US Navy mobilized 22 ships,

*See **EXHIBIT** page 12*

# Ikego celebrates Labor Day with food, fun, dance

**Story and photo by Emma Damsky, Seahawk contributor**

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Morale Welfare and Recreation Department (MWR) held a Labor Day celebration Sept. 3 to enjoy the last days of summer season at Ikego Housing Detachment.

On the pool deck, many families savored the last day that the pool was open for the year and enjoyed free food, prize drawings, and balloons for kids. Prizes included pool passes and massage certificates for Purdy Gym and Ikego cabin stays.

Stage entertainment was provided by Admiral's Band and performances by Mika's Belly Dance Company from Yokohama.

Ikego MWR manager Tommie Daniels introduced the dance company as award-winning explaining that for two years in a row Mika-san herself won first place at the International Belly Dancing Competition in Tokyo. The colorful dancers performed five separate dances and then mingled with the crowd and successfully encouraged some audience participation.

At steak cookout stations, attendees could choose to grill their own steak or order it to their specification. Grilled hot dogs and burgers were also on sale.

"Everything's going great. MWR can do a lot of fun things on the fly." said Jeff Polangin, management analyst at MWR's Food and Beverage Office. "We brought a lot of items that we normally sell in Club Takemiya outside. It would normally be more expensive for the dogs and burgers inside so that's a good deal; giving back to the community."

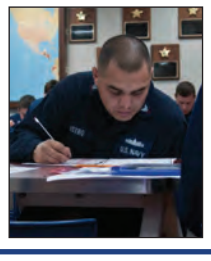
Toru Shibaguchi, MWR lead lifeguard who works at all three of Yokosuka's housing area pools said that it was a busy season. He commented on the kids swim lessons saying,"I'm teaching them (swimming) but sometimes they are teaching me and we have lots of good experiences together."

For Niles C. Kinnick High School student Alicia Martinez, it was her first summer as a lifeguard. Looking back on the season, she said,"There was no trouble really and I'm grateful for that. The most fun thing was watching Camp Adventure," referring to the program where U.S. college kids come to bases in Japan to get involved with youth camp and aquatics including teaching swimming lessons.

**Yuka Asada, Yoko Suzuki and Yuko Ota of Mika's Belly Dance Company perform on stage at Ikego's Labor Day celebrations. MWR hosted a pool party, stage entertainment and a steak cook out Sept. 3.**

Summing up the Labor Day celebration, military spouse and Ikego resident Nikki Fleming said "It's just nice to have a get together and have it on our base, that's a good thing".

## INSIDE



### *Mustin* Sailors take E-6 advancement exam at sea

Approximately 30 Sailors assigned to guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) took part in the petty officer first class Navy-wide advancement exam on the ship's mess decks Sept. 6.

**Page 8**

### Suicide Prevention Month highlights navigating stress

Week two of September's National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month highlights the importance of Navigating Stress.

**Page 9**