Had one too many? Taxi voucher can get you home safely

Story and photo by Jeffrey C. Doepp, CFAY Public Affairs

The Taxi Voucher Program on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) has restarted and will run from now through Jan. 15.

The Taxi Voucher Program is essentially a free ride home program sponsored by Navy Exchange (NEX) New Car Sales and administered through the CFAY Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Food and Beverage Department.

"If you have been drinking at any of the MWR Food and Beverage establishments such as Chili's restaurant, Yokosuka Bowling Center, Officer's Club, Club Alliance or the CPO Club, you can contact the bartender, server or manager at the club and receive a taxi voucher valid for a free ride to your ship, barracks, house or the Navy lodge on Yokosuka base," said CFAY Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor Chief Electronics Technician (SS) James Rose. "If you live off base, the voucher will allow you a free ride to Shiori, Yokosuka-Chuo or JR Yokosuka train station."

(Left) Irene M. Bak, administrative assistant for the Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Officers' Club exchanges a taxi voucher for a set of car keys with a club patron. The Taxi Voucher Program, which runs from now through the holiday season until Jan. 15, is sponsored by NEX New Car Sales and administered through the CFAY MWR Food and Beverage Department.

According to Rose, the program, which has been in existence for several years now, operates during the 101 Critical Days of Summer and during the Thanksgiving through New Year holiday season.

"Approximately 200 vouchers were issued out during this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer," said Rose. "There is no cost to those who use the program and its main purpose is to deter Sailors, family members and civilians from driving while under the influence of alcohol."

According to Rose, this program is a very important part of the DUI/DWI prevention program onboard CFAY by offering personnel who have been drinking an alternate method of getting home.

"For those people whose plan to get home after drinking fails for whatever reason can still have a way to get home without driving under the influence of alcohol by using a voucher," he said. "This reduces the number of alcohol related incidents and drunk driving incidents on base and in the local community."

For those who might worry of possible negative consequences if word got back to their command that they had a need to use a taxi voucher, the program is anonymous.

"This program is not funded, operated or regulated by the U.S. Navy," Rose added. "MWR operates this program and only tracks the number of vouchers used in order to determine the effectiveness of the program."

Since responsible use is a key part of the Navy's policy regarding the use of the drug alcohol, there is no substitute for your own personal responsibility to have a plan when you drink.

"Have a plan to get home safely. If for some reason your plan falls apart, you have this great program as a backup," said CFAY Chief Staff Officer Capt. Donna Kaspar. "It simply is not an option to drive after consuming alcohol. Everyone - military, civilian employees, family members - everyone needs to understand that."

NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center supports POTUS, SecState

By H. Sam Samuelson,
NAVSUP GLS Corporate Communications

Naval Supply System Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Yokosuka lent support to President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as they traversed the Asia-Pacific region reinforcing diplomatic and economic relationships Nov.16 – 20.

"Our sites in Singapore, Indonesia and the Republic of the Philippines are a networked military logistics backbone for these visits," said NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Operations Officer Cmdr. Jose Sanchez. "From area transportation, to lodging, and direct fleet support to ships with Joint Task Force (JTF) POTUS (president of the United States) Support, we are ensuring the president and the secretary of state receive everything and anything they need to accomplish their missions."

Obama is headed to Indonesia for a security summit with Asian nations; while, Secretary Clinton visited the Philippines to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the U.S.- Republic of the Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty.

Obama's visit to Indonesia requires logistics planning.

Preparations for the executive level visit began when a logistics Line of Communication (LOC) system was established to ensure the supply and delivery of immediate or emergent material support for JTF POTUS platforms USS Essex (LHD 2) and USS Stethem (DDG 63) when and as often as needed.

"One true measure of the LOC is how quickly it allows our different sites and dets to connect, communicate and respond," Sanchez said. "It's providing the right support at the right time, every time."

Sanchez said NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka, Site Jakarta partnership with the Embassy of the United States Jakarta, remains a critical link for the POTUS visit.

"We're juggling resources from multiple agencies to provide direct logistics support for this visit," said NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Site Jakarta's Logistics Specialist 1st Class Mark Bettencourt, FLC Yokosuka's go-to logistics point of contact in Indonesia.

Meanwhile NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Site, Manila arranged logistics support for the USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) the selected platform for the U.S – R.P. Mutual Defense Treaty 60th anniversary commemoration at which Clinton attended to represent the United States.

"Even before the secretary's visit, we rushed parts, equipment and mail to the Fitzgerald while arranging to get the ship pier side," said NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Site Director Jun Garcia. "And one day before the ceremony, we delivered four pallets of administrative supplies.

"We take a lot of pride in providing logistics services to the fleet," Garcia said, "especially when one of those fleet platforms serves as the center stage for an important event as the mutual defense commemoration and a visit by the secretary of state."