Ikego hosts 19th annual Youth Soccer Championship

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Ikego Housing Detachment hosted the Miura Peninsula Youth Soccer Championship, the biggest youth soccer event in the area, Feb. 22.

The tournament kicked off in January with 179 teams competing in six age groups ranging from six to 12 years old. After stiff competition between the teams, the field was whittled down to 24 teams which competed at Ikego for the championship in their respective age groups.

The tournament concluded with an awards ceremony and a speech by Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Chief Staff Officer Cmdr. Emil Salansky and Ikego Officer in Charge Lt. Cmdr. Helen Murphy.

Ikego Morale, Welfare and Recreation Youth Sports Manager Tammie Kaman provided support for the event and was impressed with the professionalism of the Japanese soccer association members. "I think the [tournament] was fantastic," said Kaman. "It was very organized; the kids had a great time and received wonderful awards."

Although there were no base schools involved in the tournament, there were several CFAY Sailors and civilians whose children were playing in the tournament.

Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 1st Class Johnny Rogers of *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), whose son plays for FC Kamoi, believes the local year-round youth soccer leagues are great for kids to learn soccer fundamentals and to help facilitate a better relationship between CFAY personnel and the local community.

"I would say if you're in Japan, you have to interact with Japanese a lot so I would get as much information about sports out in town so you can involve your kids," said Rogers. "It's a good way to make friends, too."

This year the base was unable to enter a team into the tournament due to the lack of volunteers for coaching youth year-round soccer. Individuals interested in coaching youth sports should contact the Youth Sports Office at 243-2952. For more information on upcoming Ikego events, contact their community relations director at 246-8042.

A FC Kozaka mid-fielder prepares to boot the ball during a semi-final match of the Miura Peninsula Youth Soccer Tournament hosted on the Ikego Housing Detachment sports field Feb. 22. The tournament is the biggest youth soccer event in the area and features 179 teams in six age groups.

Watchdog organizations crack down on copyright infringement

By Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Americable International has begun warning customers aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) that watchdog organizations are taking action to crack down on copyright infringement, primarily through illegal downloading, of protected products such as music and major motion pictures in recent months.

Americable, which is the private contract internet provider for Sailors and families aboard CFAY, must take action against their customers if they are notified of illegal downloading of copyrighted material by watchdog groups such as SafeNet Inc. or Media Sentry.

According to Americable executives, once Americable has been notified by a watchdog group that an Americable customer has been caught downloading copyrighted material, Americable will immediately suspend that customer's internet service. The customer will be notified of the service suspension in an official letter which will give the details of the offense.

If the customer would like to re-activate their internet service after it has been suspended, the customer must go to the Americable office and sign a statement re-acknowledging Americable's policy on the protection of copyrighted material. Americable's policy has not changed and has always banned the use of its service to illegally download copyrighted material. Subsequent notices of violation of Americable policies may result in permanent service suspension and command notification.

At this time, unless provided with a valid legal subpoena, Americable will not divulge customer information to the watchdog organizations.

While downloading of non-copyrighted material from the internet has become a very useful tool in recent years, illegal downloading of copyrighted material and the watchdog groups that work to stop it have increased as well.

Warning of the recent increase in enforcement by watchdog organizations, Americable International's Japan Regional Manager James A. Smith expressed his belief as to why watchdog organizations have started targeting individuals rather than large scale operations.

"I think [watchdog organizations] are more aggressive about pursuing and protecting the rights for the movie companies and sound and recording industry," said Smith. "There are more of them that are going after people to protect [copy] rights, because they realize they are losing billions of dollars due to illegal downloading and file sharing."

According to Americable President and Chief Executive Officer Jim H. Smith, the company is taking action against accused customers to prevent future lawsuits against the company and in turn, changes in service to customers.

"My concern is that one of these motion picture companies is going to get serious and Americable will be complicit in allowing this to happen, because you're not doing enough to stop your users from doing it, it's going to affect the entire user community at that point."

Part one: Registering your vehicle on Fleet Activities Yokosuka

By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Editors note: This is part one of a three-part series.

Registering a vehicle on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) may seem like a daunting task to some, but CFAY Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) has step-by-step procedures to help make the process clear.

The first step in the entire process is to obtain a valid CFAY, U.S. Form 4, driver's license, from the CFAY Driver's Safety Office. The second step is to obtain a parking certificate.

If you live within two kilometers of the base, certificates will be processed the same as on-base residents, which will be covered later. However, if you live more than two kilometers from the base, you will be required to go to the local police station to have your certificates processed.

Regardless of whether the processing agency is the CFAY housing office or a local police station, the Parking Certificate Residence Verification Form is required to process the certificate. The form is available at the Housing Office, VRO, or the VRO page on the CFAY Web site.

Additionally, if you are applying for an off-base parking certificate, a certified copy of a lease agreement is required for the parking certificate. If you cannot obtain a certified copy of your lease agreement a certificate of consent from the owner of the rental property will be required.

Along with the other forms, a map and diagram of the off-base residence and parking space will be required, for police officers to locate and inspect the parking space, and an original, or copy, of the vehicle title.

After acquiring all the required forms, proceed to your local police station, or go to the VRO to get information and directions to the, appropriate, police station to process your paperwork. The fee for the Japanese Parking Certificate Application Form is ¥2,100.

After paying the fee and receiving your receipt, there is a three to five day waiting period, during which, a police officer will inspect the parking space to verify its authenticity.

Then, either on, or after the date listed on the receipt, return to the police station with your receipt of acceptance and ¥500 for the parking certificate sticker.

For residents who are not assigned to afloat commands, all that is needed is the Parking Certificate Residence Verification form. Residents who reside in the Navy Lodge can have their verification form endorsed by the Navy Lodge manager. If they live in bachelor officer quarters they can get their form endorsed by their billeting officer. VRO will verify and endorse the forms of those who live in chief petty officer quarters or bachelor enlisted quarters.

Those who are residing on ships will need an Afloat Command Residence Verification form signed by their commanding officer. For on-base residents there are no fees for obtaining a parking certificate.

Contractors and local hires, including Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) sponsored individuals will have to go through the same process as individuals who are in Japan on spouse or permanent residence visas. Anytime you change your residence you will be required to repeat the process and obtain a new parking certificate.

Once you receive the approved parking certificate, take your certificate and all other required registration documents to VRO where they will generate your registration documents, which you will need to take to the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in Yokohama in order to register your vehicle.

It is important that you register your vehicle within 30 days of receipt of your parking certificate because the certificates expire after 30 days. If your certificate expires, you will be required to repeat the whole process again.

When all requirements are met and the certificates and registration papers are generated, you are required to have you vehicle inspected on base and then take your vehicle to the LTO, or Mini-car Office.

If your vehicle inspection is expired, you will be required to obtain temporary plates from Yokosuka City Hall prior to going on base and to the LTO. The fee for temporary plates is ¥700 and are good for a single trip.

After obtaining your temporary plates, return to VRO to get a temporary base pass. The combination of the two will allow you to drive the vehicle to the Navy Exchange (NEX) Autoport for the inspection. Once the inspection is completed, return to VRO where the paperwork needed for the LTO, or Mini-car office will be generated.

When you take your vehicle to the LTO or Mini-car Office, it will receive the Japanese inspection. You will be required to purchase Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), and liability insurance, after which, your vehicle will be registered with the Japanese government.

To renew your Japanese inspection and JCI, one month prior to the expiration date, simply take your vehicle to the NEX Autoport, receive a base inspection, purchase new JCI, take your vehicle to the LTO, or Mini-car Office, then return to VRO to have your registration record updated.

For more information on vehicle registration, or LTO and Mini-car Office fees contact VRO at 243-5011.