Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXI, No. 3 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Jan. 22, 2010

Yokosuka remembers, celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

MA2 Ashleigh Dickey reads Dr. King's famous "*I Have a Dream*" speech during a ceremony held at the CFAY Chapel of Hope Jan. 15. Members of the base community gathered to celebrate the life and work of King, a Baptist minister and one of the most influential civil rights activists in American history.

Story and photo by MC2 Gabriel S. Weber, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) community took time to remember the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a ceremony at the CFAY Chapel of Hope, Jan. 15.

Born Jan. 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Ga., King was a Baptist minister and one of the most influential civil rights activists in American history. He was assassinated April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

During the ceremony, participants recited King's famous "*I Have a Dream*" speech and reflected on its meaning and implications today, nearly 47 years after King's original address on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"It is not just his memory and legacy that we celebrate, as if he was a single historical figure acting in the past," said Chaplain Bruce Vaughan. "Rather, we celebrate the fact that his vision, the impact of Dr. King's life and dream, is alive and active even to this very day."

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Ashleigh Dickey, a native of Racine, Wis., said King's work for civil rights helped to bring about acceptance for diversity in America and, in turn, the U.S. military.

"Diversity in the military is some of the greatest I've seen," Dickey said. "Every rate has a lot of different kinds of people in it. The military now has a lot of leaders of different races, and we need that diversity; that's a lot of different experience that we could be missing out on if we discriminated against those people because of cultural differences."

"I think it has definitely had a major impact on the military," added Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Steven Ridgley from Baton Rouge, La., one of the participants in the ceremony. "I think being able to work along other people from different countries, different cultures and different skin colors provides a lot of gratification for a lot of people. I'm excited about it."

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established as a federal holiday Nov. 2, 1983 and first observed Jan. 20, 1986. In 1992, the official observation of the holiday was moved to the third Monday of January to be closer to King's birthday.

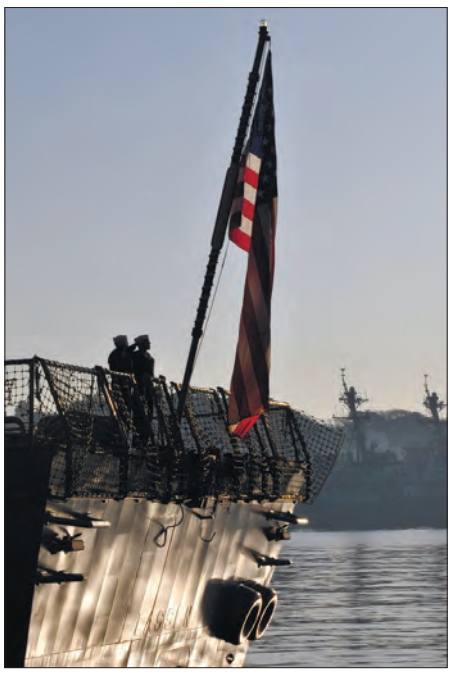
Ridgley said the holiday provides an important opportunity to remember what King fought for and how people's lives are affected by it today.

"I think it's important, first and foremost, because it's something significant within all of our history and it has changed the culture of each race," said Ridgley. "Today is good to remind ourselves about what the struggle was like and how hard it was and the changes it has afforded each and every one of us today and how we all enjoy it and should ensure that it continues."

Navy celebrates 50th anniversary of U.S.-Japan security treaty

Story and photo by MC3 Charles Oki, NPASE Japan

Sailors from the U.S. Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) celebrated the anniversary of their alliance Jan. 19 during a ceremony at the JMSDF Yokosuka District headquarters, 50 years to the day after the signing of the treaty that binds them together.



The morning colors detail aboard *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) salute the national ensign during a ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the U.S. and Japan Jan. 19.

The event included a joint observance of morning colors aboard the guided-missile destroyer *JDS Oonami* (DD 111) and the guided-missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82), at the JMSDF base.

Sailors from both ships stood in formation on the pier as the national ensigns of both countries were raised aboard the ships. The U.S. 7th Fleet Band played the Japanese national anthem, while the JMSDF band played the U.S. national anthem.

Commander U.S. 7th Fleet Vice Adm. John Bird and Vice Adm. Masahiko Sugimoto, commander in Chief, Self Defense Fleet, presided over the ceremony and delivered remarks focused on the mutual respect, interoperability and partnership the treaty brought to both countries and specifically, the navies of both nations.

"We recognize that the alliance between the United States and Japan based on this treaty has contributed to the independence and development of Japan," said Sugimoto. "On this memorable day, we gather both U.S. Navy and JMSDF commanders and Sailors, and reaffirm the significance of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan and pledge towards stronger ties in the future.

Signed on Jan. 19, 1960, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan has served as the basis for the strong Navy-to-Navy relationship between the two countries.

Commander U.S. 7th Fleet Vice Adm. John Bird, speaks to U.S. Navy and JMSDF Sailors during a ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the U.S. and Japan at the JMSDF Headquarters in Yokosuka, Japan Jan. 19.

Bird noted that U.S. Navy and JMSDF Sailors work together literally every day.

"Whether training, participating in an exercise, sharing information, coordinating operations or planning for contingencies, this is an alliance built on more than words; it is built on actions that we take each and every day," he said.

"Though our uniforms and traditions may vary slightly, our values are identical; love of country, respect for the sea and devotion to service," Bird said. "It is this, which binds us together, and which has made our Navy-to-Navy relationship the strongest component of our overall alliance."

INSIDE

SPAWAR instructors bring expertise to Sailors

A team of reservists from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) brought their expertise to Sailors during a week-long training course.

Pg. 4

Education Fair informs Sailors of higher learning opportunities

The Yokosuka Navy College Office held their first Education Fair of the year at the James D. Kelly Fleet Recreation Center on board CFAY Jan. 13.

Pg. 8