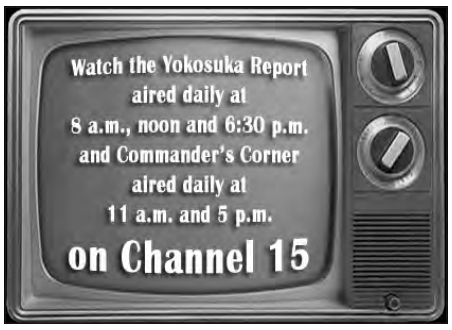
Capt. Daniel L. Weed, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

CMDCM Gregory Vidaurri, Command Master Chief

Action Line correspondence may be edited for length and readability. Your questions, suggestions and "Bravo Zulu" comments are appreciated. Address concerns with your chain of command or directly with the parties involved, at the lowest level possible. If you don't get results, send an e-mail to cfay.pao.watch@fe.navy.mil. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk, call 243-5607/3003 or send an e-mail to: Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil.



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Community announcements/Action line

Manufacturer Recall of Over-the-Counter Medications – In consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), McNeil Consumer Healthcare is voluntarily recalling certain lots of over-the-counter (OTC) products, according to the FDA Web site. The company is initiating this recall following an investigation of consumer reports of an unusual moldy, musty, or mildew-like odor that, in a small number of cases, was associated with temporary and non-serious gastrointestinal events. These include nausea, stomach pain, vomiting or diarrhea. This precautionary action is voluntary and has been taken in consultation with the FDA. A full list of the recalled items can be found at: http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Safety/Recalls/UCM197813.pdf. The affected product lot numbers for the recalled products can be found on the side of the bottle label. Consumers who purchased product from the lots included in this recall or received them from a military pharmacy should stop using the product. For information on how to return or dispose of the product, consumers should log on to the Internet at www.mcneilproductrecall.com or call their nearest military pharmacy. Consumers who have medical concerns or questions should contact their health care provider.

Traffic Advisory – Clement Boulevard will be reduced to one lane between McCormick Street and Kauffman Street from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 1 to April 1. Traffic controllers will direct traffic during this repair period. Clement Boulevard will be open to two-lane traffic after 6 p.m. each day. Leahy Street will be completely closed to vehicle traffic between McCormick Street and Green Bay Drive from March 15 to April 5.

Rickert Drive Tunnel Repairs – The tunnels on Rickert Drive will be under repair Jan. 11 to Aug. 9. Usage will be reduced to single lane, two-way traffic during the day with total tunnel road closure in the evenings from Feb. 26 to May 17 and July 13 to 31. Alternate routing of traffic during the evening will be provided. Stock Yard area parking will be secured. Temporary fleet parking will be provided by Gridley Tunnel exit. Call Public Works Department Lt. Andrew Cline at 243-5062 for more information.

UMUC Asia Book Award, Scholarship Programs – UMUC Asia offers the following book award and scholarship programs for military services members and their family members:

• Orkand Family Military Book Award. Active duty enlisted service members attending UMUC Asia can apply to receive a $100 award to help pay for textbooks. Eligibility requirements are: active duty enlisted service members of the armed forces; undergraduate students maintaining a minimum 2.5 grade point average (GPA) at UMUC; graduate students maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA at UMUC; enrolled in a minimum of six or more credit hours for the session; admitted as UMUC Asia campus student; and be a degree-seeking UMUC student.

• Orkand Family Military Scholarship fund. Eligible spouses of active duty service members can enroll in the scholarship to receive $1,000 per semester towards the cost of tuition. Eligibility requirements are: must be the spouse of an enlisted active duty member of the armed forces; undergraduate students maintaining a minimum 2.5 GPA at UMUC; graduate students maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA at UMUC; enrolled in a minimum of six or more credit hours for the semester; and demonstrate financial need.

Contact your local field representative or the UMUC Asia Associate Director of Financial Aid Lisa Marrin at 225-3680 for more information.

Yokosuka Officer Spouse Club Charities Season – The Yokosuka Officer Spouse Club charities season has begun. Applications are now available for charitable contributions to local groups and organizations at Takusan Treasures Gift Shop, the Officer's Club, or by e-mailing to yosccharities2010@yahoo.com. The deadline to submit applications is Feb. 10. Call Tamara Calandra at 241-3907, or e-mail to tamaracalandra@yahoo.com for more information.

Home-to-Work Bus Priority Seating Policy Reminder – In accordance with Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Instruction COMFLEACTINST 11240.3F, priority seating on the Ikego and Negishi Home-to-Work buses is given to active duty military and Department of Defense civilian employees. Family member children may only board the bus at the last stop by U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka only after all adults have boarded the bus.

MWR Facilities Closure – Most Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities will be closed at 6 p.m., Feb. 22 in support of an MWR employee function. The Fleet Theater, Fleet Gym and the Single Sailor Liberty Center will remain open. Call 243-1215 for more information.

None for the Road – We often don't think about the potential consequences until it is too late to change the situation. The Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Designated Driver Program provides free sodas, a free T-shirt and a $5 gift card to participants of the program. If you are going to drink, have a plan, do it responsibly, and DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE not even ONE! Contact CFAY Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor MAC(SW) Michael Marino at 243-9901 or by e-mail to Michael.Marino@fe.navy.mil for more information.

USO Yokosuka Calendar of Events for Feb. 12-19 – The following is the USO Yokosuka calendar of events for Feb. 12-19:

• Feb. 13: Movie night with free pizza and popcorn starting at 5:30 p.m.
• Feb. 17: Game night starting at 5 p.m.
• Feb. 19: TGIF night featuring a free food buffet for single and unaccompanied active duty Sailors starting at 5:30 p.m.

USO Yokosuka hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 2 to 10 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Contact the USO Japan Director of Programs and Marketing Vernichel Tharps at 241-3030/4894, or by e-mail to vtharps@uso.org for more information.

Q: Why are sobriety checks conducted during working hours throughout the week at Carny Gate and Womble Gate? This is very inconvenient and embarrassing for traffic flow when people are getting off from work.

A: Thank you for your question. Various types of administrative checks are conducted randomly throughout the base both day and night. It is designed as a deterrence for the safety and welfare of our community.

Q: Would it be possible to move the crosswalk on Nimitz Boulevard to the right of the Gridley tunnel exit? Vehicles exiting Gridley tunnel trying to turn right have to negotiate two crosswalks, left side traffic and right side traffic. As a result, traffic gets backed up exiting the tunnel. The crosswalk in question could be moved closer to building 3029 without any negative effects on pedestrian traffic.

A: Thank you for your suggestion. The area of concern has been reviewed by CFAY Safety Office, and they have found that if the crosswalk in question is moved closer to building 3029, it would be placed closer to the exit of the curve on Nimitz Boulevard causing a less straight line of sight for traffic coming from the direction of the Navy Exchange marquee, which vehicles tend to be moving at a more accelerated speed after coming from a three-way stop. Additionally, if the crosswalk were moved closer to building 3029, it would place it closer to the lane change point going from Nimitz Boulevard to Clement Boulevard, which creates a greater hazard for pedestrians from drivers needing to merge lanes. We appreciate your suggestion as we are continuously looking for ways to improve our traffic flow for both pedestrians and drivers, and we are looking at ways to modify existing road designs.

Q: The on base dry cleaners require the last four digits of my Social Security number (SSN) when I drop off laundry. They write it on the ticket before attaching it to the laundry bag. I inquired as to why they need to do this and they said it was in case I lost my receipt so they could identify me as the owner of the laundry items. The ticket for the laundry also contains my last name and phone number. In the event I lose my receipt they have my name on file and if I fail to pick up my laundry they can also call me. Our SSN and any portions of it are considered to be sensitive information. We consistently overuse them as forms of identification, but putting them on laundry receipts is, in my opinion, dangerously foolish.

A: Our cleaners request the last four digits of your SSN so that if you lose your claim ticket, the last four of the SSN can be used to make a positive identification of the rightful owner. Due to the fact that we serve thousands of customers, many of which have common names, we have found that this is the best way to ensure that your laundry is not given to another person sharing the same name.