Boy Scouts from Ikego Troop 13 led by Tenderfoot Scouts Robert Gemperline and Nick Pickering, climb Mount Minamiyama, located approximately 30 miles north of Mount Fuji, Feb. 13. To help navigate on this seven-mile hike and climb, the scouts used GPS receivers, maps and a compass.

Photo by Clement Mosseri

CFAY FFSC Financial Counselor Michael Spiltener calls on a School Age Care afterschool program student during a Military Saves week activity Feb. 25. Staff from FFSC gave the children a quick kids-orientated lesson on the importance of saving money before passing out piggy banks that the kids were allowed to decorate and take home.

Photo by Ben Avey

Children from Ikego Child Development Center and visiting Japanese Nursery School students watch as participants perform a traditional Japanese *Setsubun* ceremony at Futaba Nursery School Feb. 3. *Mame-Maki* or bean-throwing is performed during the ceremony by throwing soy beans at someone dressed as a demon and chanting "*Oni wa soto, Fuku wa uchi*," which means "fortune in and evil out." The beans are thought to be symbolically purifying by driving away evil spirits that bring misfortune.

U.S. Navy photo by DC1 Brian Godsey

Sailors assigned to the visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team on the guided-missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82), approach the ship after completing a VBSS exercise. The VBSS team trains on various weapons and boarding procedures to enhance their proficiency skills when boarding and searching vessels.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Devon Dow

Konnichiwa

CFAY Port Operations Chief Engineer EN1 Warren Florence connects an electricity shore power cable to *USS Opelika* (YTB 798).

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

Where is your home town? Chicago, Ill.

How long have you been in Japan? Two and a half years.

What is your favorite food? Coco's chicken curry.

What is your life goal? To start my own business and give back to the community.