司令官の相談室

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

CMDCM Wayne E. Smith, Command Master Chief

New CFAY Web site URL – Effective immediately, the new CFAY Web site URL is *www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka*.

Blood Drive – U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka, in coordination with the U.S. Pacific Command Armed Services Blood Bank Center Okinawa, will hold a blood drive at *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) March 30, USNH Yokosuka March 31 and the Fleet Recreation Center April 1. The time for all three days is 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Active duty personnel, spouses and children that hold a Department of Defense identification card and are at least 17 years old may participate. For more information, call 243-8567.

Free General Education Diploma (GED) Class Offered – A free GED class is being offered at the Community Center, 3rd floor lecture hall, Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This class offers a unique opportunity for anyone interested in obtaining their GED. Students can improve their academic skills in a small group setting. E-mail to FREE_GED@hotmail.com for more information.

Transportation Web Survey – Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) needs your assistance in meeting the needs of the community with providing the safest and best quality transportation services. Whether you drive, walk, ride a bicycle or motorcycle, use the train or the installation bus, now is your chance to let us know how we can improve an area of your quality of life. Please take the time to complete a short but informative online survey that covers the different transportation modes available. The survey will also give community members living in Negishi and Ikego an opportunity to provide input on how they perceive transportation services. Data collected from this survey will be used in conjunction with a base-wide traffic study that was conducted several weeks ago to determine the best possible solutions for many of our roadway and transit areas of concern aboard CFAY. This survey will run from April 1-30 and can be accessed at the following Web site: http://www.gfnet.com/Survey/TakeSurvey.asp?SurveyID=43K6m403852KG

U.S. Embassy Tokyo Security Notice – It has been recently reported that some clubs and areas in Roppongi are becoming increasingly dangerous. There have been several recent reports of U.S. citizens being drugged via their bar drinks. Subsequent to being drugged, criminals will charge extensive amounts to the victim's credit card(s), unbeknownst to the victim, or will steal the card(s). Victims who have been drugged tend not to come out of it for several hours, sometimes still in the bar and sometimes on the street. The following is a list of clubs that have been the scene of these recent crimes: Crystal, Bar Colors, Sheesha, Castel's, White Horse, Ultimate, Exotic City, Climax, Seventh Heaven, Marbles and Club 99. We strongly encourage everyone to stay away from these clubs. Further, there have been multiple occurrences of this type of crime in the last few weeks. Crimes of this nature seem to be on the rise in Roppongi. Crime in Roppongi is not limited to these clubs alone and we urge everyone to remain extra vigilant when enjoying the night life that Roppongi offers. Be advised that establishments in the area of Roppongi Intersection (Roppongi Street and Gaienhigashi) have had the highest level of incidents.

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.

Correction: The naturalization story photo caption that appeared on page one of the March 20 Seahawk should have read "(Right) Martin Ulsano receives his certificate of citizenship from U.S. Embassy Tokyo Chargé d'Affaires ad interim James P. Zumwalt during a naturalization ceremony held aboard CFAY at the Chapel of Hope Feb. 27. Ulsano became the first military dependent to become naturalized abroad."

Deckplate leadership: reality versus myth

By FLTCM(SW/AW) Tom Howard, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Hey shipmates, I want to talk today about reality versus myth when it comes to deckplate leadership.

Our recollections of the way things were done will often determine how things are done in the future. These recollections or stories can have either a positive or negative effect on what we do and who we are. If they're serving our needs well, there's no need to change them. However, when the story is a myth and has become so much a part of our unconscious being that it drives our behavior, then it's time to break the myth and bring the story back to its true reality.

Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief FLTCM(SW/AW) Tom Howard
U.S. Navy file photo

I'm talking about "chiefs on deck!"

First let me state the myth: "Back in the day, if I ever saw my chief out of the goat locker, it meant I or one of my shipmates was going to get his or her butt chewed."

Now the reality: "My chiefs were always in the spaces." They were constantly checking the cleanliness and preservation of the equipment and ensuring the spaces they were responsible for were properly maintained. They were routinely seen with the division officer (DIVO) or the leading petty officer (LPO), wheelbook in hand; pointing at things and writing stuff down, presumably adding to the laundry list of things that needed to be done.

They were "mentoring" before any of us knew what the word meant and certainly before it became part of our Navy terminology. They were helping develop the young junior officer into a good officer who could become a great DIVO with the tools to be a successful department head and beyond. To the LPO who had seen this going on for years as he came up through the ranks, he was finding out exactly what the chief was writing down in his wheelbook. They were finding out how things were prioritized based on the operational schedule and maintenance requirements.

The good LPO only needed to do this a few times with the chief before he realized that if he did these things himself, he would be doing the things "the chief did" and subconsciously preparing himself to put on anchors. The great LPO never waited for the chief to ask how things were going or what the status was on a specific work project, he provided the chief routine updates. The chief in turn provided updates to the DIVO so he too could provide the same to the department head. It's a well-maintained capstan of information going round and round.

The thought that if the chief is always on deck it was considered micromanaging the LPO, it never crossed anyone's mind because the chief was always on deck. If my job was to work with one or two other seamen to repaint a bulkhead, I knew either the chief or my supervisor was going to be inspecting the progress at every juncture. When we finished needle-gunning, someone was going to inspect to see if the job was ready to sand. When we finished sanding, someone was going to inspect to see if we were ready to prep. Once that was done, we were ready to prime. When the chief or LPO was sure that all these steps were completed satisfactorily, like had been done for years before, we painted it and then, that too, was inspected for holidays. Were we micromanaged? Nope! We were being taught the proper ways to do our jobs. In reality, we were being mentored on what was needed to do to be ready to put on a chevron of a petty officer.

As it pertains to our myths, I've heard it stated this way: the more we repeat them to ourselves, the more powerful they become; the more powerful they become, the more they determine our behavior; the more we behave as if they are true, the more they will become self-sustaining prophecies.

So to all our chiefs, flush the myth down the toilet and get back on deck. Your Sailors need you and our Navy expects it. If you're in the goat locker, I expect it's for a cup of coffee, chow or you're telling one of your fellow chiefs that his spaces look like they haven't seen a broom since Moby Dick was a minnow!

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka
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