"*Tane*"

By Chaplain William Stewart

As April is Month of the Military Child, I have spent a fair amount of time reflecting on many aspects about our children. First and foremost, I believe it is most important to realize the incredible sacrifices that our children make as being part of the military environment.

They should be praised for those sacrifices, and there are many, especially since they do not always have a great deal of input in their circumstances. They are truly our future and we need to let them know that we are extremely proud of them. We should also realize as adults that we have an incredible responsibility to ensure they have every opportunity to grow in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment.

Growing up on a small farm, I learned about responsibility early on. That if we were going to eat, we had to take care of the animals and we had to take care of the gardens. Although I am far from being fluent in Japanese, I continue to trudge along in my attempt to learn as many words as I can in *Nihongo* (Japanese language). One word that sticks in my mind is "*tane*," which is pronounced *ta-neh*. Directly translated, it simply means, a seed.

You may have noticed that Japanese people are excellent farmers, but no matter how anyone does it, each person starts out the very same way, with *tane*. We have to take each seed and prepare an environment in which it is safe, well fed and watered, and nurtured if we expect it to grow into its full potential. Our children are literally our seeds, our *tane*, and it is no different for them.

But, whose responsibility is it? This question leads me to another one of the greatest things I like about the culture of our host nation. In English, we usually refer to people we don't know as he, she, him, her, or more politely, that gentleman or lady. In Japanese, people are referred to more by their position in the society or community, and everybody holds a position. It is very common to hear people referred to as *oba-san* or *oji-san* (aunt or uncle), *obaa-san* or *ojii-san* (grandmother or grandfather), *onee-san* or *onii-san* (older sister or older brother), even when their personal identity is unknown.

The reason I find this so interesting and important, is that it demonstrates an attitude of community and solidarity when it comes to respect for one another and the responsibility we all have to one another. That we are not just individuals, but part of something much larger than ourselves; we are indeed part of a community that must take care of each other, including all of our children, the seeds of our future!

While we all know that parents are ultimately responsible for their children, I believe it is so important for us to realize that children are not the sole responsibility of the parents; that each of us in the community have a role to play. This is no more evident than in how children learn. Certainly the parents play a huge role, but so do teachers at school, ministers and parishioners at church, leaders in the military, and others. But let us not forget the daily interactions they have with each and every one of us in the community who play the role as aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers and big brothers and sisters.

Some of the greatest education our children will ever receive is their observation of how you and I simply live out our lives and demonstrate how we are to respect one another, care for one another and love one another.

If we want our children to grow up to be everything they can be, it will be up to each and every one of us to play our part for a healthy community.

I leave you with one of my favorite verses in the Bible found in Proverbs 22:6 which says, "*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*"

May God bless each and every one of you as we celebrate our children not only this month, but every month and day throughout the year.

Let's get rid of it, properly

By CFAY PWD Environmental Division

Have you ever wondered what to do with that old worn out mattress you don't need anymore, or the broken chair that has been in the spare bedroom for months? Are you getting ready to transfer and have a lot of bulky items or household products that you just don't know what to do with? Finding the proper avenue for solid waste disposal can be quite challenging for anyone living on base or off base. Fortunately, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) has various methods of ensuring the material you no longer need ends up in the right place.

For those living on base, solid waste disposal is easy. There are regular pick-up schedules for normal household trash and recyclable items during the week based on where you live. The Navy Family Housing Office has established a Solid Waste Semi-Source Segregation Program for single family homes and multiplexes. Towers are excluded. This will encourage you to properly segregate combustible solid waste from non-combustible solid waste.

Combustible items include: paper, wood, food, textile, leather and plastic bags or wrappers which should be placed in grey containers. Non-combustible items such as cans, plastic and glass bottles, metal and rubber items, and other plastic items should be placed in blue containers.

If you live on base and have bulky items that need to be disposed of, you can call: 243-6558 in Yokosuka, 246-8302 in Ikego and 242-4242 in Negishi. Bulky items include furniture, appliances, large electronics such as a TV, stereo or computers, and other items that are not considered as regular household products.

As part of your lease signing appointment at housing, a counselor will discuss in detail the rules and your responsibilities associated with proper disposal of trash and recyclable items when you live off base. You will also be provided with detailed, English handouts that are published by your local prefecture.

Finally, the CFAY Housing Welcome Center Web site at https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/Relocation/YokosukaHousingWelcomeCenter/index.htm, also provides detailed information on trash segregation. This involves segregating your solid waste into burnable, non-burnable, and what is considered recyclable items and placing them into proper plastic bags. The bags should be disposed of at your specific residential location on the designated day for that type of waste. Each prefecture is a little different, so make sure you know the rules for your residential location.

If you have bulky items as previously described, you can place them in the green dumpster located in the CFAY Housing Self-Help Warehouse in building 4311. The dumpster is available for all off base residents and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can also contact your local city hall who will instruct you where and when to place the item for pick up, along with any associated cost for the pick up and disposal.

Recycling is everybody's responsibility. It reduces waste, prevents pollution and conserves natural resources. Everyone should strive to recycle and reuse materials as much as possible. CFAY has a robust Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) and recycles a variety of different waste streams.

The QRP accepts mixed metal items that contain up to 30 percent non-metallic materials. This would include metal desks, tables, furniture, bicycles, electronic scraps (radios, personal computers, et cetera), white goods (kitchen toasters, electronic ovens or ranges, microwave ovens made for American use, et cetera), steel and aluminum cans and other scrap metal. The QRP also accepts made for American use washers and dryers (some restrictions apply), hard plastics, PET bottles, paper, clean textiles, wood pallets, clean rubber and tires (rims removed) and other recyclable items.

While the QRP can accept privately owned personal property, they only have limited collections services on base, and can not provide any collection services for off base residents. All residents can turn in recyclable items to the QRP center located next to the Navy Exchange Depot in building 1810. The center is open 8 a.m. to noon and 12:45 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 243-3817/5806 or e-mail to norio.yanagawa.ja@navfacfe.navy.mil or luis.mcleod@navfacfe.navy.mil to inquire about collection services, directions or types of materials that can be accepted.

Items considered household hazardous waste (HHW) are often items that need to be handled carefully as well. HHW items consist of household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients and include items such as paints, cleansers, oils, lead-acid batteries, pesticides, solvents, automotive products, garden products, et cetera, that contains hazardous ingredients. Car batteries, tires, automotive parts and oil may be turned into the Auto Hobby Shop. Other HHW may be turned in to the Self-Help Warehouse on Yokosuka Base if you live on or near Yokosuka. For Ikego Housing Detachment, you can turn in non-flammable HHW at the Ikego Housing Office; however, flammable items must be turned in at the Yokosuka Self-Help. For Negishi Housing Detachment, HHW can be turned into the Hazardous Material Center located between buildings 23009 and 23010.

In addition, CFAY is promoting a "zero" yen program. This program allows you to obtain, at no cost, partially used household products dropped off by other housing residents. The program took its name from the famous 100 yen shops throughout Japan, except these items are free! Please call the Environmental Division at 243-3840, the Family Housing Office at 243-9067 or the Auto Hobby Shop at 243-5456) for information on how to access these items.

Whatever your solid waste disposal method, it is never permitted to dump it next to or in general waste bins on the base. Improper disposal of solid waste materials is in violation of CFAY. Visit the CFAY Environmental Web site at https://portal.navfac.navy.mil/portal/page/portal/navfac/navfac_ww_pp/navfac_navfacfe_pp/environmental_installation for more information.