Motorcycle Rodeo helps riders improve skills while having fun

By MC3 Andrew Smith,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

More than 50 service members and civilians from installations across Japan's Kanagawa prefecture gathered at U.S. Army Garrison, Japan Yokohama North Dock April 10, to practice motorcycle safety at the 2010 Motorcycle Rodeo.

The rodeo included a variety of events including a slow speed race, relays and an obstacle course. The events were intended to provide a fun and safe learning environment while teaching riders how to maintain control on the road and improve their riding skills.

"We have riders from all military installations in the area practicing their skills," said Cape Fox Professional Services (CFPS) Asia Lead Instructor Randall Mills, who was one of the event organizers. "We also answer safety questions. A lot of riders new to the area aren't familiar with the required safety gear, like vests we have to wear by law in Japan."

Some Sailors find the rodeo a good opportunity to hone their riding skills and learn more about the culture of driving in Japan.

"It's always a good opportunity to come out and practice skills in a controlled environment," said Chief Warrant Officer Jody Sawyer, a participant from Naval Munitions command. "Once you learn your capabilities you are more likely to be safer on the road."

According to CFPS Motorcycle Instructor Charter Delzatto, every rider rode within their limitations and skill level, resulting in a safe event with zero mishaps, injuries, incidents or close calls.

Cyclists ride their motorcycles through an obstacle course during the Cape Fox Professional Services Motorcycle Rodeo at U.S. Army Garrison, Japan, Yokohama North Dock April 10.

Photo by Tony Hill

"The riders get to improve themselves, exchange stories and have fun," said Mills. "It's all about honing skills to become a safer rider."

The free event included a cookout, giveaways such as T-shirts, bandannas and backpacks and safety takeaways.

CFPS provides professionally trained and qualified instructors to Navy and Marine Corps installations worldwide, who combine classroom instruction with hands-on instruction for safe operation of privately owned and recreational vehicles. The curriculum includes comprehensive training in basic, advanced and sport bike motorcycle safety, basic and advanced off-road vehicle safety and traffic safety.

More than 120 CFPS trainers have been deployed to Navy and Marine Corps installations worldwide, including major hubs in California, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia, as well as at various overseas locations in Spain, Italy, Bahrain, Japan, Singapore, Greece and Korea. More than 67,000 Sailors and Marines have been successfully trained since the programs start in September 2008.

Contact CFPS U.S. Navy Recreation and Off Duty Safety Instructor Douglas Knight by e-mail to d.knight@capefoxit.com or call 243-2370 for more information about upcoming motorcycle rodeos or safety courses.

Community members attend Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony

Story and photo by
MC3 Andrew Smith, NPASE Japan

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day or Yom Hashoah, members of the Jewish community, including Sailors from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) gathered at the Adm. Arleigh Burke Commissioned Officers' Mess April 14, to remember those who perished in the Holocaust and those who helped Jews escape persecution in that tumultuous time of history.

Mark Zeid, a retired Marine and guest speaker at the event, highlighted the contributions of ordinary people who aided European Jews escaping from Axis controlled territory, potentially putting themselves at risk of harm and imprisonment by Nazi forces.

"The Holocaust failed; it was not able to eradicate all the Jews in Europe, because so many people did something," Zeid said. "Most of these heroes were ordinary people who never planned on doing anything heroic. This is why we remember the Holocaust. Millions did nothing and allowed the killings to happen, but many others took action."

The Holocaust began in 1933 when Axis forces invaded Poland and ended in 1945 when Axis forces were defeated in Europe. In that 12 year period, an estimated 12 million people were exterminated, though nearly half were Jews, many were Gypsies, communists and opponents of the socialist movement.

Mark Zeid, a retired Marine, talks about the history of ordinary people who helped save Jews during the Holocaust at a special lunch recognition of Yom Hashoah - the Holocaust day of Remembrance April 14.

"The Holocaust is still very relevant today because people still practice hatred, but I hope attendees of today's events learn that people shouldn't be afraid to get involved even if it's hard to do," said Zeid. "We will all face injustice, hatred, bigotry and discrimination. It's not a case of if - it's a certainty."

The event was attended by numerous Sailors and civilians from the base community, showcasing the diversity of the United States, as well as its armed forces.

"Sailors and Marines come from many diverse backgrounds," said CFAY Command Master Chief Greg Vidaurri. "It's important that we pause from time to time to remember those differences in culture and heritage and reflect on how those differences make us who we are. Today's event was another fine example of the Navy's diversity."

Remembrance Day became a national holiday in Israel in 1951 to honor the nearly six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, the U.S. Congress declared Remembrance Day a national holiday in 1980.

Hazardous material, hazardous waste differences

By CFAY PWD Environmental Division

Hazardous material (HM), is any material that is capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety and, or the environment if improperly handled, stored, issued or transported. HM is labeled as such because the item is as follows:

- A health or physical hazard
- Regulated by Japan
- Contains asbestos, mercury or polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)
- Has a flash point below 200 F
- A flammable solid or oxidizer
- Produces dust, gases, fumes, vapors, mists or smokes during normal operations, accidents, leaks or spills
- Has special characteristics that could cause harm to personnel if used or stored improperly.

These items should be used until they are exhausted or can be reused by others.

Hazardous waste (HW) is a discarded hazardous material that may be solid, semi-solid, liquid, or contains gas and exhibits any characteristics of the following:

- Ignitability with a flash point below 140 F
- Shows signs of corrosivity
- Is reactive
- Is toxic
- Contains asbestos and, or a PCB

Once you have determined that a discarded item is HW, it must be properly disposed of through PWD Environmental Division at building 1822. Improper disposal of HW, including but not limited to, asbestos and PCB are strictly prohibited.

Call the Public Works Department (PWD) Environmental Division at 243-6450 or 243-3840/2732 for more information or guidance on HM and HW.