Historical journey: *Kanrin-Maru* achievements commemorated

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

The city of Yokosuka held a memorial ceremony in the Sumitomo Juko Uraga Factory April 24, to commemorate the great achievements of the *Kanrin-Maru*, the first official Japanese ship to visit the United States.

The ceremony started with the presentation of the national anthems of Japan, the United States and the Netherlands. Yokosuka City Mayor Yuuto Yoshida along with Timothy Hefner, representative of the U.S. ambassador to Japan, and Gertie Mulder, representing the Netherlands ambassador to Japan, took part in the ceremony.

Shinichi Hosono, representing the Japanese Foreign Ministry, was a speaker at the event and spoke about how the *Kanrin-Maru* served as the beginning of a friendship between Japan and the United States that continues to grow and prosper.

"Since the *Kanrin-Maru*, the first symbol of the Japan-U.S. relationship, left Uraga, Japan, the two countries have overcome many hardships by making continuous efforts [to better understand each other]," said Hosono. "Today, Japan and the United States are allies that share universal values and strategic benefits. The Japan-U.S. alliance gives peace and stability to the Far East, functioning as the basic framework for Asian and Pacific prosperity and development. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and I would like to deepen the U.S. Japan Alliance for the 21st century."

Timothy Hefner, the U.S. Ambassador to Japan representative, addresses the crowd during the *Kanrin-Maru* ceremony held at the Sumitomo Juko Uraga Factory in Yokosuka city April 24. The ceremony commemorates the great achievements of the *Kanrin-Maru*, the first official Japanese ship to visit the United States.

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

The *Kanrin-Maru* was Japan's first sail and screw-driven steam corvette. The ship was ordered by the Tokugawa government in 1853. It was built in the Netherlands and was delivered in 1857.

After receiving the ship from its Dutch builders, Japan dispatched the *Kanrin-Maru* from Tokyo Bay on Feb. 10, 1860. The ship arrived at the Vallejo Street Wharf in San Francisco a month later. The historic visit was the first time Japanese nationals officially set foot on U.S. soil and was the first time Japanese sailors were able to sail out of local waters without being exiled. Until that time, the 200 year-old Closed Country Edict, a Tokugawa Shogunate policy, had forbade any Japanese ships to sail to foreign countries and had restricted trade to China and with the Dutch East Indies Company.

However, after Commodore Matthew C. Perry's arrival to Japan in 1853, the isolation of Japan was ending with the negotiation of the Treaty of Peace and Amity. The *Kanrin-Maru* played a significant role in the initiation of relations between the two countries as its official purpose was to transport delegates of the Japanese government to present President James Buchanan with the ratified Treaty of Commerce in May, 1860.

Based on the experience they had during the voyage and the knowledge they acquired in the United States, the delegates and *Kanrin-Maru* crew members contributed to the modernization of Japan which occurred from the last days of the Tokugawa government to throughout the Meiji era. The *Kanrin-Maru* Festival is held annually to express appreciation for the forerunners of Japanese modernization.

"The *Kanrin-Maru* has gathered us here today; it is almost as if this beautiful ship is still sailing the oceans, connecting people and cultures," said Mulder. "It took people such as Katsu Kaishu and Fukuzawa Yukichi to the U.S. and brought them back safely, full of unforgettable impressions and new ideas. The findings of these men gave great influence to Japanese politicians and intellectuals who played key roles in the turbulent age of the Meiji Restoration. Their spirit and findings still inspire many."

TRICARE moves with you during Permanent Change of Station

By Lora Sanders-VanNoy, TRICARE Pacific Representative

Permanent Change of Station (PCS) season is now in full swing and will continue over the next few months. Whether TRICARE beneficiaries are enrolled in Standard or Prime, be assured that healthcare coverage will move with them with minimal effort.

Before leaving Japan, all beneficiaries should stop by the TRICARE Service Center (TSC) for more information. The TSC representative can answer questions on enrollment or program benefits. Prime members will also complete a PCS form, which lets TRICARE know the beneficiary is leaving the Pacific Region. Also available is a travel card containing valuable phone numbers if care is needed during a member's transition back to the United States.

TRICARE Prime is designed to be easy and convenient, but there are a few things beneficiaries must keep in mind to avoid unnecessary costs, ensure access to quality care and prevent a break in Prime coverage.

Upon arrival at your new duty station, it is important to update the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) record upon arrival at the new duty station. If Prime enrollment is available, Prime beneficiaries should transfer their enrollment as soon as possible by simply completing the proper paperwork at the new TSC. Prime beneficiaries have 60 days from when they leave the Pacific to transfer their enrollment to enjoy uninterrupted TRICARE Prime coverage. If beneficiaries do not transfer their enrollment within the 60 days they will revert to TRICARE Standard for their health care coverage.

Standard beneficiaries may want to consider enrolling in Prime at their new duty station if it is available. The TSC at the member's new duty station can provide information about locally available TRICARE programs, helping beneficiaries to make an informed decision on their family's health care coverage.

Members that choose Standard enrollment can see any TRICARE authorized provider, but must meet associated deductibles and cost shares. Currently, the annual deductible is $50 per individual and $100 per family for E-1 through E-4; $150 per individual and $300 per family for E-5 through O-10 sponsors. In addition there is a cost-share for outpatient care received outside of the military treatment facility (MTF). For active duty family members, this amount is 20 percent of the TRICARE Maximum Allowable Charge (TMAC).

Receiving health care while in transit, Prime beneficiaries are encouraged to wait until they transfer their enrollment to their new region for any routine appointments. This is to avoid exercising the Point-of-Service option, which results in out-of-pocket costs, deductibles and cost shares for the beneficiary. All beneficiaries needing urgent care during transit can visit the nearest MTF for available appointments. When care is not available at a MTF they should call the responsible regional TSC to obtain a listing of available civilian network providers. This number can be found on the Travel Card. In case of an emergency, all beneficiaries should go immediately to the nearest MTF or civilian equivalent.

If civilian care is obtained during the PCS move, a claim for payment or reimbursement must be submitted to the appropriate claims processor. All network providers will file the claim for the beneficiary. However, beneficiaries may be expected to pay at the time of service and then file a claim if seen by a non-network provider. In either event, claims for Continental United States (CONUS) active duty care and family members enrolled in TRICARE Pacific Prime are managed by two separate addresses. Claims for active duty members are mailed to WPS-AD Overseas, P.O. Box 7698, Madison WI 53707-7968; and claims for family members are mailed to WPS-Foreign Claims, P.O. Box 7985, Madison, WI 53707-7985.

Families also need to plan for dental care when transitioning back to the United States. TRICARE recommends enrolling the family in the United Concordia TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) at least 30 days prior to leaving Japan. Premiums range from $11.58 for the single plan (one family member) to $28.95 for the family premium (more than one family member). Visit the Web site http://www.tricaredentalprogram.com for enrollment information or call 243-5509.

For more information, visit the TRICARE Service Center located on the first floor of U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka or call 243-9528.