CFAY Safety, NAVFAC, MWR team up, provide safety information

Story and photo by Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Safety Department, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East (NAVFAC FE) came together to hold the Annual Safety, Environmental and Health Fair in the CFAY Commissary red brick area May 27.

"The reason that we're here is to talk a little about safety, health and our environment," said CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed, during his opening remarks. "Some of the things we take very seriously are safety, health and the environment."

The annual event is held before the beginning of summer to help remind people of potential seasonal hazards, and how to stay safe from them.

"This is basically to bring information to people for summer safety," said CFAY Safety Department Director Kordeen Kor, who was one of the event coordinators. "Each year, during the period from Memorial Day to Labor Day, we refer to as the critical days of summer. That period of time is when we have the highest incident rates throughout the military community for on and off duty mishaps. So, what we are trying to do is coordinate this event to kick of a campaign to increase our safety awareness."

YMS students line up to see the various displays offered at the annual CFAY Safety, Environmental and Health Fair in the Commissary red brick area May 27.

During the event there were tents and kiosks set up with various displays and information pamphlets.

Some of the participants included the Cape Fox Professional Services Motorcycle Safety Foundation, which provided motorcycle safety information and a motorcycle training simulator; CFAY Red Cross staff members, who gave quick health checks, Ship Repair Facility Yokosuka, which displayed types of personal protective equipment that are used on the job, yet can be used at home as well; Japanese police officers, who provided local traffic safety information, an air-bag crash simulator and a driving simulator that simulates real life driving situations in Japan.

Additionally, CFAY chaplains were on hand to talk about counseling programs, and Navy Federal and Community Bank provided information about financial services.

In attendance at the event were classes of Yokosuka Middle School students as well as family members and various CFAY personnel.

"I think it's a great thing for everyone to come out to," said Kor. "There is always something we can learn about our local community, about the services that are available here; it also just puts in the back of your mind those little safety issues that later on you might think about when you are preparing for a trip. It's a reminder that there are hazards out there and these are the things that might help you go home safely."

Navy Surgeon General visits U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, discusses the strength of U.S., Japanese relations

By Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

The senior-most medical corps officer in the United States Navy visited Naval Hospital Yokosuka June 4 during his tour of Navy medical facilities in the western Pacific.

Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson, Jr. met with hospital leadership, toured the facilities and spoke with the Navy medical team about the strength of the U.S. bilateral relationship with Japan during an all hands call held in the Adm. Arleigh A. Burke Commissioned Officers Mess.

"Our relationship with Japan is based on shared values and interests that rest on the mutual confidence embodied in the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security which was signed fifty years ago," said Robinson.

During a media availability with Japanese reporters at the hospital, Robinson said that the challenges facing the U.S. and Japan are not isolated to matters of security but also include matters of health and medicine.

"I believe that medicine is a common language that bridges barriers," said Robinson. "Our two nations have come together to learn from one another and find new ways to better care for our citizens. Patient's health transcends national borders as each of us provides care for the others' citizens. Our doctors train together, learn together and practice medicine together."

Robinson highlighted that the hospital was enjoying greater cooperation in sharing of information and technology with their Japanese counterparts, as well as, conducting equipment exchanges and operational coordination.

"These valuable exchanges have bolstered the joint and bilateral interoperability between the U.S. and Japanese medical communities," said Robinson.

According to Naval Hospital Yokosuka commanding officer, Capt. Kevin Moore, the presence of U.S. military installations and requisite hospitals has benefitted Japanese citizens through employment opportunities and exchanges such as one-year rotating internship program for Japanese physicians that have been conducted since 1952.

Moore stated that the hospital recently hosted a representative of the Japan National Institute of Public Health here in this hospital recently where he taught a new program called TeamSTEPPS which was designed to improve teamwork and communication between U.S. Navy and Japanese physicians to better serve their patients.

"This program is on the cutting edge of Japanese and American medicine and has helped to bring our doctors closer together," said Moore.

Robinson's tour of Navy medical facilities in the Western Pacific included stops in Okinawa and a visit to USNS Mercy in Quy Nohn, Vietnam where the Navy hospital ship was participating in Pacific Partnership 2010. During the Mercy's visit to Binh Dinh province May 31 to June 12, the Pacific Partnership team will conduct numerous medical, dental engineering, and veterinary civic action programs.

"Pacific Partnership's visit to Vietnam is a testament to the strong bilateral relations between the U.S. and Vietnam, demonstrating our continued commitment to work together to address mutual issues and concerns," said Robinson. "We look forward to exploring further opportunities to collaborate in the future in areas of public health research, medical education and other areas."

Pacific Partnership 2010 participants include volunteers from the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) East Meets West Foundation, Latter-day Saint Charities, Peace Winds America, Project Hope, Vets Without Borders, World Vets, and University of California San Diego Pre-Dental Society. In addition, Japanese NGO composition consists of Operation Civic Force, HUMA, and UNIES. Medical and engineering professionals from Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom, and the U.S. military are participating. Medical personnel from Vietnam will work with the ship to provide medical care in partnership with their American and international counterparts.