USNH Yokosuka celebrates 112th hospital corpsman birthday

Story and photo by MC1 (SW/AW) N. Ross Taylor, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Sailors from U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka celebrated the Navy Hospital Corps birthday June 17.

The ceremony included a special morning colors cake-cutting to commemorate 112 years of service in healing sick and injured service members around the world.

The Seventh Fleet Band played the national anthems of the U.S. and Japan to kick off the event.

The ceremony also included speeches delivered by corpsmen assigned to the hospital, as well as a brief history of the Hospital Corps read by Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Jason McDonald, a Leavenworth, Kan. native and Navy Medicine West's Sailor of the year.

"Today's ceremony symbolizes duty and sacrifice," said McDonald. "It is important to honor all the past, present and future corpsmen."

McDonald also said being stationed in Japan and being able to take care of forward-deployed service members and their families is especially gratifying.

The hospital corpsman rating ranks as the largest and most highly decorated in the Navy with 22 Medal of Honor recipients.

Cpl. David Entler, a Pikton, Ohio native assigned to Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team Pacific, attended the ceremony to deliver a special birthday message from Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps.

"Since 1898, wherever Marines have been called to serve, hospital corpsmen have proudly stood by their side. From hospitals and clinics at home to distant battlefields, Navy corpsmen have served our great nation with the utmost courage and professionalism. When the call "corpsman up" has gone out, you have always been there. Corpsmen have served with Marines in every clime [climate] and place and Marines know that we can always count on you. We take great pride in serving side by side with you wherever our nation calls us," Entler read on behalf of Conway.

Hospital corpsmen assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka recite the corpsman pledge during the 112th birthday celebration of the Navy Hospital Corps June 17.

Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Robert Mack, a Kannapolis, N.C., native said he hopes the ceremony will remind all corpsmen of their legacy and customs.

"It is an honor and privilege to be a hospital corpsman. Today's ceremony is a reminder of our tradition and heritage in the Navy and I hope all the Sailors here today will embrace that and ensure we pass it on to the next generation of Navy corpsmen," Mack said.

A little knowledge goes a long way towards personal safety

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Summertime is upon us, and along with warmer weather, longer days and a lot more rain, there are also a lot more opportunities for residents and their families to get hurt. Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Safety Office is fully aware of this and has embarked on a campaign to help keep residents aware of some of the steps they can take to make this summer a safe and enjoyable one.

Working in conjunction with the CFAY Public Affairs Office, CFAY Safety Director Kordeen Kor is issuing slides every week instructing individuals in areas to increase safety awareness.

The slides air on Channel 15 and are also available on the CFAY website.

Kor also encourages individuals to go to the National Safety Council website, www.nsc.org, where families can find relevant and useful information that will help keep them safe through the summer season.

"The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is the highest incident time for the Department of Defense," said Kor. "It's fitting because that's when everyone is going to get out and spend more time outside doing things that expose them to hazards as opposed to the other eight months of the year when we're in school and everything else."

The summer is full of outdoor hazards that most of us feel confident preparing for such as sun burns, insect bites and twisted ankles.

However, it's the everyday stuff that we might just not think about that can get us into real trouble. For example, working too hard or too late can lead to heavy fatigue which can be just as dangerous as being under the influence of drugs or alcohol when driving.

The best step individuals can take to keep them and their families safe is to completely understand what they're getting into and what their own limits are when taking on new challenges, whether on the playing field or on an excursion.

"People are not necessarily physically fit or in the shape they need to be in. A good example of that is people who plan on climbing Mount Fuji this summer," said Kor. "MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) is very good about their tours because they require you to go through the training to make sure they have an understanding of what to expect and to prepare them for that; whereas, people that just decide to go off on their own could be putting themselves at risk."

CFAY residents are fortunate enough to have a wonderful resource in the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). The FFSC is a great place to go for anyone who is planning on taking a trip locally.

According to Kor, the information provided at the center can mean the difference between a nice, carefree vacation and a trip full of trouble.

"Go over to the Fleet and Family Support Center and they give you all the maps and all of the English language information about how to get to various areas and information about the areas as far as what you need for clothing and what you need to be prepared for," said Kor.

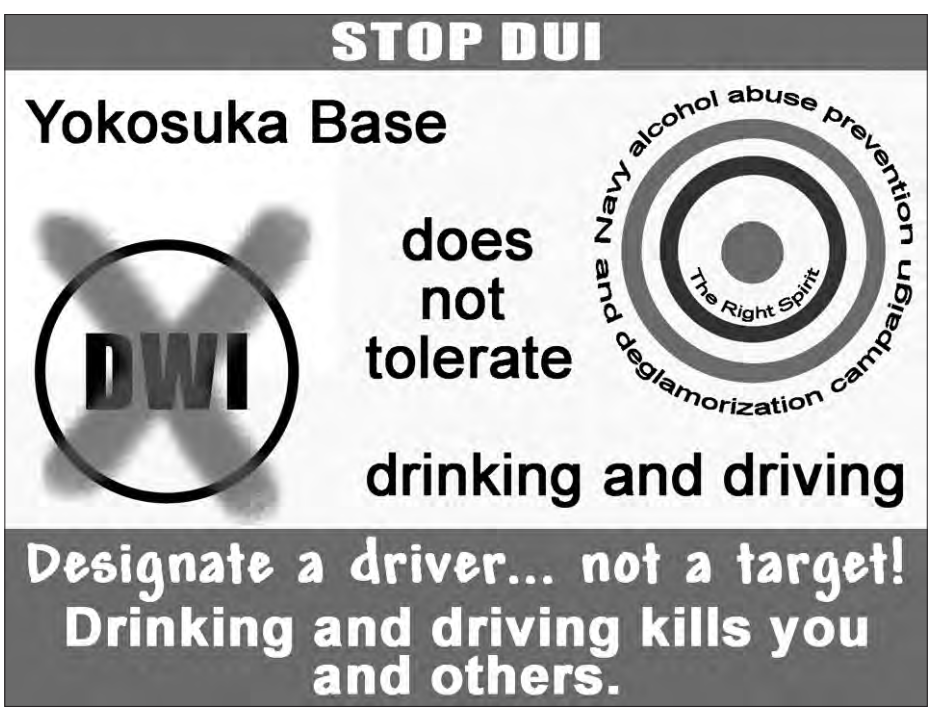
Worrying about your family while on vacation is important, but taking care of family while at home, where you spend most of your time, is even more important.

Preventable injuries and deaths are consistently on the rise in homes and communities across the United States. The National Safety Council reminds individuals to take a few steps to ensure you're family is ready for any emergency:

- Get trained in first aid and CPR.
- Fall proof your home.
- Conduct emergency evacuation drills.
- Identify safety hazards around your house, such as electrical cords that someone could trip over or throw rugs that slip.

Additionally, in order to avoid kitchen fires, residents should keep things that can burn, such as dish towels, paper or plastic bags and curtains at least three feet away from the range top and also be sure to roll up sleeves and use oven mitts to prevent loose-fitting clothes from touching a hot burner and catching fire.

When cooking outside it is also necessary to place grills at least three feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes and to never leave your grill unattended.



Cut and save

Emergency Information

Commander Fleet Activites Yokosuka (CFAY) and Negishi and Ikego Housing Detachment residents are advised to stay tuned to the following mediums for emergency information:

- CFAY Web Site: http://www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka
- CFAY Facebook page: http://www.Facebook.com/cfayokosuka
- CFAY Twitter page: http://twitter.com/cfay_yokosuka
- CFAY base Channel 15
- Eagle 810 AM Radio station
- A recorded weather message can be obtained by calling 243-5155.

The information provided will include but is not limited to notification of actions to take for severe weather and the unexpected or early dismissal of schools.

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