Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Vehicle Support Complex parks drivers' needs under one roof

By Ron Inman, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East

The opening of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's (CFAY) new Vehicle Support Complex June 17 is good news for drivers; it makes the process of completing the requirements to drive in Japan much easier by consolidating driver's license issuance, car insurance, vehicle registration, traffic safety and Navy Exchange Car Rental functions in one location.

"This is the culmination of years worth of effort and I have to give credit where credit is due, Cmdr. Tim DeWitt, our excellent public works officer, had the vision to make this happen, said CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed during the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. "This is all part of our never-ending effort to consolidate and make everything work correctly here on the base, not just for today or tomorrow, but for the future. This will help everything run just that much smoother for our families and that's what it is all about."

The opening of the facility was made possible by the completion of an extensive $1.5 million, two-year renovation of Bldg. J-196 by four Seabee detachments which deployed to CFAY during that period.

The project was started by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE (NMCB-5) in January 2008; then NMCB-133 and NMCB-40 took over and continued the renovation during their deployments.

NMCB-1, which deployed to Yokosuka from August 2009 to May 2010, completed the facility prior to their departure.

"We basically took an old building and made it new again," said NMCB-1 Detail Yokosuka Officer in Charge, ENS Alton Lord.

According to Lord, the project involved the complete renovation of J-19, which included new electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, restroom fixtures, flooring and drywall.

"A lot of the work came just in the demolition, which involved basically gutting the entire interior, and in some areas removing walls and reconstructing in new locations in order to change the layout to meet the new occupant's needs," Lord explained.

Cape Fox Services Traffic Safety Instructor Charter Delzatto consults a Sailor in the new CFAY Vehicle Support Complex June 22.
Photo by Tony Hill

"The Seabees did an outstanding job in completing this important project under a tight timeline," said CFAY Public Works Department (PWD) Deputy Public Works Officer, Eric Rankin. "Their great work will be enjoyed by occupants and customers of the Vehicle Support Complex for many years to come."

Mustin Sailors clean up historical park in Kure

Story and photo by
MC1 (SW/AW) Brock A. Taylor,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

More than 50 Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) cleaned up Nagasako Park during their visit to Kure City in Hiroshima Prefecture June 13.

The Nagasako Park manager, a retired Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Commander Takeo Hiraoka, shared with the Sailors the history of the park in Japanese, while Mustin's Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Rachel Costello translated the speech to the Sailors.

"Kure City and the retired military community, and the families of the deceased are very grateful that we are here to take the time, especially in the rain, to clean up," said Costello.

The park was created as the Kure Imperial Navy cemetery in 1890. Ninety monuments commemorate ships lost and the 13,000 naval personnel who died during various battles dating from the Japan-Russo War to World War II. One of the monuments is dedicated to the officers and crew of the famous Imperial Japanese Navy battleship Yamato, which sunk off the coast of Okinawa in 1945 with more than 2,000 personnel aboard. The cemetery oversight was transferred to Kure City in 1970, and is now managed as a historical peace park. Today, 175 graves still remain, including the final resting place of an English Sailor who drowned in Mie Jima during his port visit to Japan in the late 1800s.

Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Alfred Sidebottom, Mustin's community service project manager, said the clean up project was productive and educational for the crew.

"Being a forward-deployed ship out of Yokosuka, Japan, it means a lot for us to come out and give a little bit back to Kure," said Sidebottom.

Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) remove weeds and clean surrounding memorials monuments at Nagasako Park in Kure June 13. The park, a former Navy cemetery, serves as a memorial to fallen Sailors, including the war dead of the World War II battleship Yamato.

Following the introduction, the volunteers were asked to pick a memorial, learn about it, and clean the surrounding area. The Sailors pulled weeds at the entrance, swept surrounding grave sites and, although most of memorials were labeled in Japanese kanji.

Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Marlynn Sands said Sailors should always take a little time during port visits to learn something about the history of the area.

"If I didn't volunteer to help than I would have never known this place existed," said Sands. "I think it's important in our job, especially since we travel all over the world, to take the time to learn about the places we visit," she said.

Hiraoka also addressed the volunteers after a group photo was taken at the ceremonial field on the foothill of the expansive park.

"On behalf of the shipmates and families of the fallen, thank you for taking the time to visit the park," said Hiraoka. "Your presence today signifies the friendship and cooperation that has been nurtured since our guns fell silent in 1945. I believe the U.S-Japan Mutual Cooperation and Security Alliance will continue eternally."

The *Mustin* visit to Kure is part of a series of U.S.-Japan joint port visits and included a joint USN-JMSDF Midshipmen Cruise with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force destroyer, JDS Hiei (DDH 142), home ported in Kure. These events were also designed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the treaty of mutual cooperation and security between the two nations.

INSIDE

FFSC trainer's intriguing off-duty passion

Soft-spoken, reserved work and family life consultant spends her workdays helping people move forward, and her weekends trying to stop them.

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USNH Yokosuka celebrates corpsman 112th birthday

Sailors from U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan, gathered together to celebrate the Navy Hospital Corps birthday June 17.

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