FISC Yokosuka greets seasoned executive director to staff

By H. Sam Samuelson,
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Dale C. Rieck, fresh from his tenure as U.S. Marine Corps Logistics Command Operations Center deputy reported aboard U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Yokosuka as its new executive director Aug. 19 ready, he said, "to continue aggressive advocacy for our fleet customers."

Rieck, who returns to FISC Yokosuka after last serving as its executive officer in 1995, brings to FISC extensive experience in logistics management.

According to Rieck, his immediate focus will be on three key areas as he assumes the chair of the executive director for FISC Yokosuka: fleet customer support, nurturing the command's diverse workforce and exploring continuous process improvement.

"There is a wealth of expertise here and I've already seen the value of the workforce," he said. "It's tremendous. I can also see the significant growth of the command from when I last served here in 1995."

One long-time FISC employee says he is pleased Rieck has returned.

"He was very customer-focused and people-oriented," said FISC Business Office procurement lead Kenji Tokunaga. "We are fortunate to have him back. He's very down-to-earth, listens to people and will, I think, devote his efforts to education and strategic planning, much like he did when he first served here."

Indeed, Rieck was assigned to FISC when it was essentially a waterfront Navy Supply Depot (NSD) mostly serving ships in Japan. But the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines coupled with the U.S. Navy's departure from Subic Bay in 1992 rapidly expanded logistics needs in the area, and in 1993 NSD became U.S. Fleet and Industrial Center Yokosuka. Rieck was there, on tap to become the new FISC executive officer.

"I was fortunate to be present for the initial expansion and was gratified to be a part of the birth of a new enterprise," Rieck said. "Today, it's evident that there has been even greater evolution with the adoption of fleet mail centers, increased industrial support and inventory control initiatives.

(Left) FISC Executive Director Dale C. Rieck greets FISC Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Arnold and FISC Executive Officer Cmdr. Jeffery T. Rathbun Aug. 19. A seasoned logisitician and retired supply corps officer, Rieck returns to FISC Yokosuka after last serving as executive officer in 1995.
Photo by Yohsuke Onda

"I'm very excited to be a part of this new operationalized FISC. If I were to lay out some initial strategies, they would start with becoming a strong advocate for fleet customer support, a mentoring entity for junior supply officers in the fleet and a further cheerleader for this tremendous, multicultural workforce."

'Outside the Box' program re-launched, ready to protect televisions

Story and photo by Blake Vives,
CFAY Public Affairs

In a military environment where overseas travel is likely and multiple moves are normal, U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka Personal Property Office is reinitiating a popular storage program that helps ensure protection of one of your most valuable household electronics: the large screen television.

It's called the "Outside the Box" program, a cost-saving and customer convenience initiative that provides free storage for original big screen TV boxes. Sailors and eligible Department of Defense civilian employees are invited to store their original manufacturer boxes – designed by the manufacturer to provide custom fitted protection during transportation – until their next permanent change of station (PCS) move.

"The bottom line is that the original container is the best for shipping to cut down on the possibility of damage," said Personal Property Office Director Herb Elam.

If your big screen TV box does not fit in that stylish new subcompact car or if carrying it on the train might seem rude (or impossible during rush hour), the Personal Property Office will pick it up and store it, free of charge, for the duration of your assignment in Yokosuka. Call 243-7587 or 243-5426 to schedule a pickup.

The only caveat: the program is offered on a space available basis.

Originally initiated in 2007, the program addressed the extra costs associated with an increasing number of customers purchasing and moving with large, flat screen televisions.

"After they arrive in Japan, customers find it difficult to store the large boxes, especially those living off base. If they disposed of the box after purchase of their TV, the cost of building a wood crate for later shipment of a large TV was $300 in 2007," said Elam. "So we initiated this program to save money."

The program was such an initial success that all of the available warehouse space quickly filled with participating customers; the Personal Property Office was unable to store additional containers. However, most of those customers have moved to their next duty station, leaving open space for new boxes.

Now, even customers who moved into their residences sometime ago may call the Personal Property Office and have their boxes stored until PCS time.

"The benefits are definitely the convenience to the customer; plus we are realizing a cost savings reduced from $300, in some cases, down to nothing," said Personal Property Office Packing Inspector Leader Paul Bauer. "Also, there is nothing like the original container because it has custom fitting foam designed for that TV and, finally, it encourages recycling.

"At one time we were at more than 100 boxes in our warehouse and 100 boxes in storage eliminated the potential cost of $300 to build each crate to move each TV," said Bauer. "The savings were at almost $30,000 for the government." Bauer added that customers may also place smaller original cardboard boxes inside their TV box for storage and later reuse, creating an additional benefit of the program. Elam cautions, however, not to damage the custom plastic foam designed to protect the television.

FISC Yokosuka Personal Property Office Packing Inspector Leader Paul Bauer inventories the big screen TV boxes currently present in the Personal Property warehouse to prepare for the arrival of additional crates and boxes. Originally initiated in 2007, the Outside the Box program provided free storage of original big screen TV boxes for all Sailors and eligible Department of Defense civilian employees, on a space available basis. Most of the initial customers have made a PCS move, leaving space open to store new boxes.

Bauer does ask customers who are moving and have boxes stored in the Personal Property Office warehouse to call 10 days before their move to ensure the container is brought to the residence on the day of the move and to keep them informed of any move date changes. He also advises customers to notify the moving company during their pre-move inspection that there is an original container to transport the television in.

"One member forgot to notify us that his box was in storage and we were unable to realize a cost savings because the moving company had already built a crate and charged us," said Bauer. "Just call us or e-mail us and we will update your record and arrange for the delivery of your box on the day of pack out."

Bauer noted that if a new crate is built to transport personal property in a household goods shipment, the crate remains the customer's responsibility to keep the container for reuse or to return it to the destination personal property office if it is no longer needed for additional moves.

Also, crates built to ship items separately from a household goods shipment, such as motorcycle crates, are the exception to this rule and remain the property of the U.S. government.

Chief Storekeeper (AW/SW) Marco Martinez is storing his big screen TV boxes in the Personal Property warehouse and says he is satisfied with this free service.

"I was very excited when I found out Personal Property would save my TV boxes. I think this is an outstanding program," said Martinez. "It allows you to keep your TV boxes in storage thereby saving space in your personal house storage area. In the long run, it will save the Navy money.

"When I leave, my TVs will be placed back in their original boxes, they will be secured and safe, and the Navy will not have to spend money making a crate for them," said Martinez. "Everyone benefits with this program."

Grandfather clock crates, cello crates and crates for large paintings are a few examples of large custom packaging, in addition to big screen TV boxes, that the Personal Property Office will store free of charge.