Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXI, No. 39 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Oct. 1, 2010

CFAY, Yokosuka City residents revel in true Japanese tradition

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Residents from all over Yokosuka, including volunteers from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), donned traditional festival dress, shouldered their community's *mikoshi* (portable shrine), and paraded through downtown Yokosuka and onto the base Sept. 19.

Approximately 16,500 people made their way to the base to enjoy the weather, the food and the chance to engage in cultural exchange with their neighbors. As has been the tradition for a number of years, CFAY Morale Welfare and Recreation International Program Office solicited volunteers from various commands to don traditional *Happi* coats and carry a CFAY sponsored *mikoshi* in the parade.

Festivities on Yokosuka base included Japanese and American food, live music and performances by Japanese acrobats. The parade began near the Yokosuka Chuo Train Station and proceeded down Chuo Dori, commonly known as "Blue Street," before parading to an on base conclusion near the Navy Exchange Main Street USA food court.

Yeoman 3rd Class Theodore Doyen of CFAY Legal volunteered to help shoulder the burden of carrying the base *mikoshi* and was happy to have had the experience.

"The community involvement, the team organization and teamwork was a lot of fun," said Doyen. "It was really interesting, the *mikoshi* were pretty cool looking. I am going to do it again next year."

Daniel White, a military family member, attended the parade for his third and final time. This year he decided to concentrate on some of the subtleties of the parade.

"I thought it was awesome," said White. "The last two years I took pictures and didn't really focus on it, but this time I listened to everything and kind of translated what was being said."

Residents from Yokosuka base including Sailors from various sea and shore commands carry the installation's official *mikoshi* shrine during the 2010 Yokosuka *Mikoshi* Parade Sept. 19. Yokosuka City holds the parade once a year, where participants start downtown and parade onto the base.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Brock A. Taylor

The *mikoshi* is used as a vehicle for a divine spirit. They vary in their elaborateness, but all are brightly colored and resemble miniature buildings, with pillars, walls, a roof, veranda and a railing. The *mikoshi* is mounted on two long wooden rails during festivals and carried on the shoulders of residents around the areas of the temple that is dedicated to the local deity.

CFAY Commanding Officer David Owen observed the parade from a review stand set up on Blue Street with Yokosuka City Mayor Yuto Yoshida. He encourages all Sailors to get off the base and enjoy some of the local traditions and culture while stationed in Japan.

"First of all, I tell Sailors, 'if you've never taken part in it, make sure you come out and see one,'" said Owen. "And then I challenge them to come out and carry one of these *mikoshi*. Take part, get out there, carry a *mikoshi* and experience what it's like to be part of this ancient cultural tradition."

USS Lassen completes joint operations exercise Valiant Shield

By QMSN Melissa A. Sequeira,
U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) concluded its participation in the Valiant Shield 2010 (VS10) exercise Sept. 22.

Lassen took part in the large-scale, joint operations exercise for the past 10 days with the U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps as part of VS10.

The exercise is aimed at increasing the interoperability between U.S. Navy ships and Air Force and Marine Corps aircraft in a complex warfare environment.

Because U.S. forces may be called to conduct any number of operations with little notice, VS10 included training to enhance command and control, maritime interdiction, defensive counter-air, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence surveillance, reconnaissance and personnel recovery.

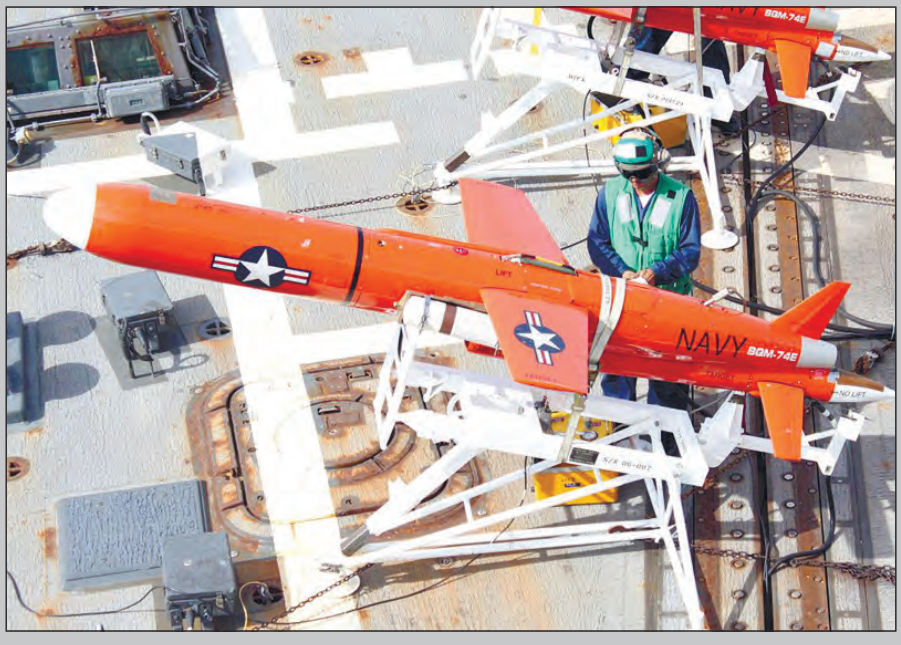
During VS10, *Lassen* conducted a missile exercise.

"The purpose of the [missile] exercise was for U.S. Marine F/A-18 squadrons to test their ability to defend themselves from air-to-air threats or surface-to-air threats," said Operations Specialist 1st Class Marico D. Myhand, an air intercept controller aboard *Lassen*.

With support from Commander Fleet Activities, Okinawa, *Lassen* launched BQM-74E drone targets from the flight deck. Once launched, a remote operator piloted the drones to provide a more realistic missile threat flight profile. The drones were then targeted, intercepted and engaged by Marine F/A-18s.

"Valiant Shield is a critical exercise that allows our military to validate our plans, improve our interoperability and incorporate lessons learned into our training and doctrine," said *Lassen* Commanding Officer Cmdr. H.B. Le. "*Lassen* was fortunate to work exclusively with the United States Air Force during this year's exercise. Our operators have gained valuable experience and information from the Air Force about what we, the Navy, can do to better to support them as they execute their missions."

It was the third exercise named Valiant Shield conducted by the United States since 2006 and was designed to enhance real-world proficiency in sustaining joint forces' ability to detect, locate, track and engage units at sea, in the air, on land and in cyberspace.



A BQM-74E drone is prepared for launch on the flight deck of *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) as part of a Sept. 21 missile exercise to provide defense training for U.S. Marine Corps F/A-18 pilots during exercise Valiant Shield 2010. *Lassen* is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 15 and is forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

U.S. Navy photo by CT1 Carl T. Jacobson

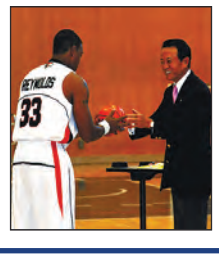
Lassen is on a fall deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility, which ranges from the International Dateline to the Indian Ocean.

INSIDE

Sailors celebrate Jewish Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur at sea

The Jewish Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, was observed by Sailors aboard *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) in the ships chapel Sept. 21.

Pg. 4



Former PM helps foster friendly relations through basketball

The Yokosuka Seahawks basketball team squared off with the Kanagawa High School All Stars for a friendly game in the Fleet Recreation Center gymnasium Sept. 18.

Pg. 8