Capt. David A. Owen, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka

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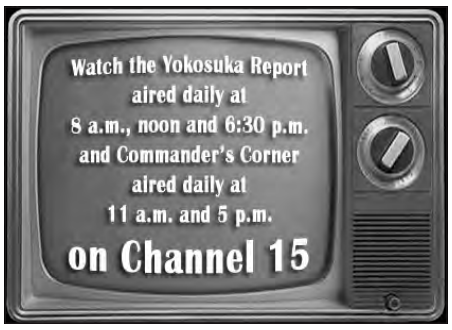
Action Line correspondence may be edited for length and readability. Your questions, suggestions and "Bravo Zulu" comments are appreciated. Address concerns with your chain of command or directly with the parties involved, at the lowest level possible. If you don't get results, send an e-mail to cfay.pao.watch@fe.navy.mil. We welcome your feedback, especially if it is of a general nature and can help others. To contact the Seahawk, call 243-5607/3003 or send an e-mail to: Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil.



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Heads Up Yokosuka!

Community announcements/Action line

Benny Decker Theater Closure – Due to mechanical difficulties beyond our control, The Benny Decker Theater is closed until further notice. All movies will be shown at the Fleet Theater. Contact the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Entertainment Office at 243-5215 for more information.

Gridley Tunnel Closure – Gridley Tunnel will be closed to all traffic Oct. 4 - 24 to replace the lighting system. Please use alternate routes during this time period. Contact Public Works Department Production Officer Lt. Cmdr. Lakeeva Gunderson at 243-9119 for more information.

Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Gala Celebration – The Far East Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the scouting movement Oct. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Empire Room of the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo.The keynote speaker for the event is Jim Terry, who is the BSA Assistant Chief Scout Executive and Chief Financial Officer. His biography is available at: http://www.scouting.org/Media/MediaKit/Bios/CFO.aspx. Contact Capt. Mike Brenyo at 243-3504/5484, 090-9789-3088, or e-mail to michael.brenyo@med.navy.mil for further information, or to receive post event pictures and synopsis.

American Red Cross (ARC) Courses and Training – ARC offers the following courses and training:

• Oct. 9 and 23: Infant, Adult and Child CPR/AED and First Aid, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Yokosuka Red Cross needs volunteers. Whether you want to serve in a leadership capacity or offer a helping hand, the Yokosuka Red Cross is the place for you. Call Yokosuka Red Cross at 243-7490, or e-mail to Yokosuka@usa.redcross.org for more information.

ARC Dental Assistant Training Program – The Yokosuka American Red Cross is accepting applications for the Dental Assistant Training Program. Interested individuals can apply through Oct. 7 for this highly competitive learning experience conducted by the Yokosuka Dental Clinic. Applicants must be 18 years or older and a Department of Defense ID card holder and have at least 6 months remaining at Yokosuka. For more information, stop by the Red Cross Office in building 3365, room 305, or call 243-7490/(046) 816-7490.

Halloween Trick or Treating – Halloween trick or treating will be conducted here on base and at the Ikego and Negishi Housing Detachments Oct. 31 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Families and guests are reminded to be respectful to those homes not participating in Halloween activities. Master Labor Contract (MLC), Indirect Hiring Agreement (IHA) and Hourly Payment Temporary (HPT) employees are authorized up to six guests. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) sponsored personnel are authorized up to 10 guests. To bring a guest on board, a request form obtained from the Industrial Security Office (ISO) must be filled out and submitted to the ISO no later than Oct. 27. When entering the base with your guests, please show your gate pass, the request form and your guests' ID such as passport, Japanese driver's license or resident card with picture to the main gate guard. Children under 12 years of age are not required to show their ID. The gate guard will issue a Halloween sticker to each guest. Contact ISO at 243-5330/5125 or CSC Rufino Valdez at 243-5741 for more information.

Military Family Housing (MFH) Resident Satisfaction Survey – All MFH residents will receive a resident satisfaction survey by mid October. The survey will be hand delivered to your residence. Each survey will include a Web link located at the top giving you the option of completing the survey online or by mail. Participation from all MFH residents is critical. Residents' cooperation and candid responses allows the MFH Office to continue to improve services to all residents. The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete. The survey ends Nov. 12. Contact CFAY Housing Customer Relations Specialist Pauline O'Reilly at 243-9067 for more information.

Heroes 2011 Submissions Now Being Accepted – Stars and Stripes is calling for nominations for its 2011 Heroes edition, a special supplement honoring U.S. service members who have made outstanding contributions to their country. Past editions of Heroes have exceeded one million copies in circulation and have been distributed in the Washington Post, as well as both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. The foreword is traditionally penned by the president. There are two ways that service members can be accepted for a profile in the Heroes edition. One type of profile tells the story of a service member who exhibited uncommon bravery in the face of adversity. The service member will have the opportunity to tell their story, as well as recognize other service members in their unit who helped them achieve their distinction. To qualify, a service member must have been awarded, at minimum, a bronze star with a valor device. The second type of profile does not require a specific award, but requires an extraordinary achievement or sacrifice. One example of this type of profile from the 2010 edition was Petty Officer 1st Class and Navy SEAL David Goggins, who raised more than $250,000 for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation by competing in ultra-endurance events. To nominate a service member, send an e-mail to Stars and Stripes Yokosuka bureau reporter Erik Slavin at: slavine@pstripes.osd.mil. Please include the service member's name and rank, as well as a description of the service member's accomplishments. The nominations will be taken worldwide and are competitive, but all nominations meeting the criteria will be considered.

DoD launches Absentee Voting Week

By Karen Parrish, American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense announced Sept. 27 Absentee Voting Week, which lasts from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, to help service members and civilians serving outside their home states make their votes count.

With all U.S. House of Representatives and some U.S. Senate seats at stake during the mid-term elections Nov. 2, the department's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) has launched a new set of tools to connect voters with their state election processes.

Bob Carey, FVAP director, said the program's online electronic voting support program and federal write-in absentee ballot are designed to ensure voters get the appropriate ballot and can submit it before deadline.

The FVAP voting support program offers precinct-specific online ballots and submission instructions for the 19 states so far participating: Virginia, Utah, Montana, New Jersey, Nevada, Kansas, Mississippi, Washington, New Mexico, Indiana, Nebraska, Missouri, New York, Delaware, West Virginia, Idaho, Arkansas, Colorado and Tennessee.

Through the online program, located at www.FVAP.gov, "We can actually give you a direct link to your state's ballot delivery system," Carey said. "Or if your state doesn't happen to have that, then we have an online ballot that has all your federal candidates. You can select online and print out the ballot online. It will give you a pre-addressed envelope and complete instructions about how to get the ballot back home."

For troops deployed to remote locations where computers and printers aren't generally available, units may need to make special arrangements, Carey said.

"What we're urging all the units to do during Absentee Voting Week [is] to maybe set up one day where they have a computer available that has a printer available so anyone can come on in and at least get their ballot printed out if it's being delivered by e-mail or online delivery," said Carey.

Carey said FVAP also is using social networking tools to reach potential voters.

"FVAP is on Facebook, and we have a tool, an invitation for people to send to all their friends to say, 'Hey, here's how you can get your ballot now.' And if they go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program Facebook page, they can find out all that as well," said Carey.

The program's goal is to make the FVAP website the only tool that Defense Department absentee voters need, he said.

"We're trying to make the FVAP website the single portal to be able to go to any state, any system, and it will be seamless and intuitive for the voter," Carey said. "The experience of a California voter may be very different than the experience a New York voter has, because of the technology used. But hopefully, the experience in terms of the ease of voting is the same."