FFSC Yokosuka modeling fair offers shot at being next top model

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Hundreds of residents, portfolios in hand, crowded the second floor of the Community Readiness Center looking for a chance to become the next top model at the modeling fair organized by the Fleet and Family Services Center (FFSC) Work and Family Life Office Oct. 9.

"We have a modeling fair twice a year," said FFSC Work and Family Life Specialist Bob Long, who organized the event. "This is a venue for people to get some extra work. If people are interested, if they're looking for an adventure, this is out of the ordinary."

Fair participants made their way through a maze of photographers, flashes and people to talk to, of the many agencies in attendance. According to Long, this fair is unique in that it is free and that the "look" they are looking for is expansive enough to afford many of the participants with a realistic opportunity to be a model.

"You can be all shapes and sizes," said Long. "They'll be using you for regular photographs, advertising and billboards. You might even see them on the train."

For Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Myesha Henke, the fair was a way for her to get back into something she had done as a child with her mother, who was also a model.

"I heard the opportunities here are immense; I think it a great opportunity for everybody to come out and try to get their face out there." said Henke. "There's a ton of agencies here in Japan that are trying to find faces for their agencies and I'm here trying to be one of those new faces."

According to Information Systems Technician 1st Class Matthew Winke, whose children have been modeling for the past three years in Japan, the people you get to work with as a model helps create a great experience for everyone involved.

"A couple of extra bucks in your pocket is great and it is a fun experience," said Wicke. "The people, the modeling agencies and the photographers that come to the base and participate in the program are great. They're friendly and they just create a great experience for the whole photo shoot and everything."

Other big advantages of the fair are that it is free for everyone who attends and that participants know they are being introduced to reputable companies that have a good relationship with fair organizers.

"We make sure that the agencies don't charge anything. They'll come down and they'll take photos, measure you, everything. They are all good agencies… they've all been true to us," said Long.

Modeling Fair participants talk to one of the modeling agencies set up in the second floor auditorium of the Community Readiness Center Oct. 9. The semi-annual fair organized by the Fleet and Family Support Center Work and Family Life Office, provides residents the chance to "get their faces out there" and try an exciting career in modeling while overseas.

According to Henke, there really is no reason anyone who is looking for something to do shouldn't at least try it out.

"Bring your natural self," said Henke. "It's not like you have to cough up a bunch of dough for it, so that's great."

For more information on upcoming modeling fairs, visit the website www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka, click on the community support tab and then on the FFSC tab. Information will be posted as it is made available closer to the date of the spring fair.

Fleet and Family Support Center provides employment assistance to family members

By Bruce Moody,
CNIC Navy Family Readiness Program

The Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP) is the subject of Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO) Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert's latest FAMILYGRAM.

FERP assists military spouses in obtaining employment and maintaining a career as a military family member. Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC) offers this program at its Fleet and Family Support Centers.

"The Navy recognizes that moving every few years creates career challenges for military spouses," Greenert wrote in the FAMILYGRAM. "The Family Employment Readiness Program addresses those challenges in workshops and through individualized assistance. The goal is to help family members with their job search, particularly as they are impacted by the changes in the economy and labor market conditions."

Established by law as part of the Military Family Act of 1985, FERP assists participants in planning careers which are compatible with the mobile military lifestyle.

"If you live too far from a Fleet and Family Support, just call the center nearest to your location and the staff will provide you assistance over the telephone," Panshella Cole, FERP Manager, said. "While we're not a job placement service, we will help you learn about job opportunities in your current location or the location to which you're moving. We'll help you polish your resume [and] prepare for interviews. We'll help you out over the phone, e-mail, whatever it takes."

In addition to individual counseling, FERP offers workshops and seminars where family members can learn valuable skills such as resume writing, interview techniques and dressing for success. Further educational exploration opportunities include such areas as self-directed job searches, federal employment strategies, career planning and financing a career change.

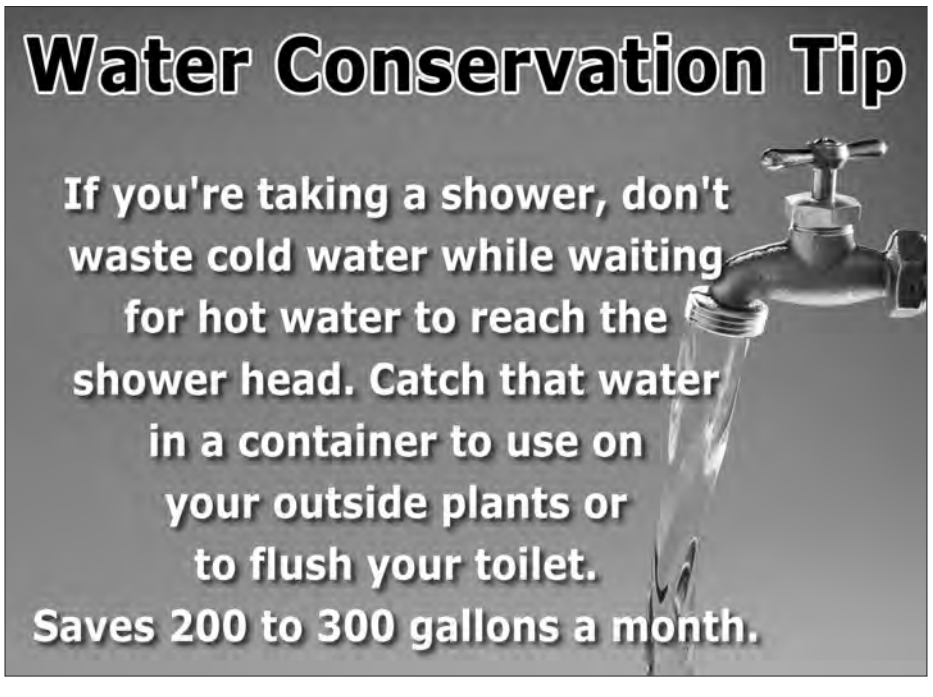
"Of course, all of our services are free," Cole said.

Employment resources beyond those offered through the Fleet and Family Support Center are listed in VCNO Greenert's latest FAMILYGRAM available at http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/94F08E79-E498-43E9-9089-B3CEBEEF27D4/0/NAV10289.txt.

The Fleet and Family Support Center provides unified, customer-focused, consistent and efficient programs and services to support sustained mission and Navy readiness, and help strengthen personal and family competencies to meet the unique challenges of the military lifestyle.

Services are offered through three coordinated support divisions; Deployment Readiness, Career Support and Retention, and Crisis Response. Each division provides specialized, professional information and assistance to military commands, service members, U.S. civilians and their family members.

Contact Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Fleet and Family Support Center at 243-FFSC (3372) or visit their website at www.cnic.navy.mil/Yokosuka/CommunitySupport/FFSC/index.htm for more information.



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"However, like one individual's family is transferring to another installation, I sent a letter along with the debarment to the CO (commanding officer) of that installation. So, that installation will probably not allow that individual aboard that base either," Owen added.

Additionally, Owen informed the attendees that the Grand Illumination event will not be held this year.

"That's simply because the numbers [of attendees] has tapered off over the last couple of years," he said. "And, look at the month that we are doing it in… it's going to be rainy, probably, it's going to be cold, and it's not going to be a memorable experience. So, we want our open base events to be memorable experiences for those who come."

Other items discussed at the meeting were concerns about how U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka manning levels are affecting medical and dental care; and CFAY traffic court regulations.

For more information on upcoming town hall meetings, check the community announcements section on page 2 and watch the CFAY base channel 15.