Army veterinarians protect Yokosuka Sailors, families

Story and photos by Blake Vives, CFAY Public Affairs

While Sailors stage boxes of frozen food on pallets bound for *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73), the vigilant eyes of Army veterinarian food inspectors ensure the proper transportation and safety of this forward-deployed Sailor "fuel."

During the operation, three veterinarians supervised the safe loading of 39 pallets of frozen food scheduled to be ultimately delivered to *GW*. The food totaled more than 45,000 pounds including: veal steaks, lasagna, ground beef, corn, catfish, chicken, eggs and even brussels sprouts.

Though the public may not be aware, this scene replays continually across all military services. Locally, the Army veterinarians from the Yokosuka Branch Japan District Veterinary Command monitor the food of Sailors and their families.

(Left) Sgt. Christopher Kimrey, Spc. Anthony Hayes and Sgt. 1st Class Danny Hailey of the Yokosuka Branch Japan District Veterinary Command stand ready to monitor the packing of 39 pallets of frozen food bound for *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Oct. 21. Army veterinarians play a large role in ensuring the safety of Yokosuka base food.

"A lot of people don't realize that we are a Department of Defense (DoD) executive agent, which means we work for all of the military forces," said Yokosuka Branch Japan District Veterinary Command Non Commissioned Officer in Charge Sergeant 1st Class Danny Hailey, "That's why our branch is stationed in Yokosuka."

The veterinarians are involved in food safety at all levels.

"What we do starts from the very beginning – where the food is grown or slaughtered – we have veterinarian officers who look at the animals to make sure they aren't sick and check for diseases; we have auditors who check the plants with the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture), ensuring the whole process the food goes through is up to standards."

Yokosuka veterinarians also inspect food sold at the commissary, Navy Exchange, DoD schools and used by Morale Welfare and Recreation.

"Wherever there's food – wherever there are Sailors and their dependents needing food – there's an Army vet inspector behind the scenes inspecting the food, ensuring it's wholesome, checking for conditional defects, making sure it's safe for everyone to eat," said Hailey.

Army veterinarians even play a role in preventing terrorism. "We've developed an anti-terrorism plan for the food supply chain for all of the military. People can rest assured that the food inspectors are out there… in situations of forward-deployment, making sure the food is safe to eat," said Hailey. "We also want to assure them when they are deployed down-range, we are back here taking care of their families making sure they get the best quality food."

(Right) ABEAN Kris Hackney passes a box of frozen chicken nuggets to ABH2(AW/SW) Derrick Watkins Oct. 21. During this food packing operation, Army veterinarians monitored the proper movement and temperature of more than 45,000 pounds of frozen food items.

Hailey notes the importance of food safety for all military services.

"When I first came in [to the Army] they told me I was going to be a food inspection specialist; I didn't know what it was but as I got more into it I realized it's a very important job," said Hailey. "We're not out there on the frontlines with the infantrymen, Navy Seals or Army Rangers doing the combative stuff, but our job is just as important – ensuring the food they're eating is safe, because, if they get sick we've lost warfighters."

FISC logistics leaders gather, assess past, look to future

Story and photo by Blake Vives, CFAY Public Affairs

Logistics leaders from around the Western Pacific gathered at U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka headquarters to assess achievements in 2009 and address the ever-evolving landscape of Navy logistics management.

"With our unique matrix organization it is essential that we communicate, collaborate and cooperate to effectively perform in our fast-paced AOR (area of operation)," said FISC Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Arnold. "We have had a busy year with operations like Pacific Partnership, CARAT (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training) and all of the natural disasters; so, it is good to meet while our exercises are winding down and look to the future."

FISC Yokosuka is the largest Navy logistics command in the Western Pacific and its enterprise is comprised of more than 20 detachments, fuel terminals and sites from Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean to Guam; from Misawa, Japan to Sydney, Australia.

"I'm looking forward to this as a valuable opportunity for all FISC Yokosuka leadership to come together and participate in a forum that results in providing better, faster and more efficient service to our fleet customers," said FISC Yokosuka's new Executive Director Dale Rieck.

FISC Yokosuka Executive Officer Cmdr. Jeff Rathbun agreed.

"It's important to meet face to face," said Rathbun. "It's especially significant because so many of us work over the horizon and we usually only communicate via teleconference with our site and detachment personnel. This helps to put a face to our issues and it makes it easier to ask questions or address challenges."

FISC Yokosuka regularly addresses the challenges associated with supporting national defense strategies by providing around-the-clock logistics solutions for Navy, Marine Corps, joint and allied forces operating in the 7th Fleet AOR.

(From left) FISC leadership: Industrial Support Department Director Lt. Cmdr. Chuck Neu, Regional Services Department Deputy Director Bill Frazier, Regional Services Department Director, Cmdr. Karen Little and Diego Garcia Site Director Cmdr. John Anderson discuss current operational readiness at the annual FISC off-site meeting Oct. 20.

According to FISC leadership, achievements in the past year include continuing to foster a diverse workforce; freeing building space to reduce infrastructure costs; standardizing practices across its large AOR; and completing ONE-NET migration resulting in reduced legacy computer systems.

Arnold emphasized fostering a diverse workforce is especially vital to FISC Yokosuka operations.

"We are living the dream for diversity with our workforce," said Arnold. "Diversity allows the strengths of every member of the team to move an organization forward. We want all of the good ideas out there to make FISC Yokosuka the best it can be."

The FISC Yokosuka Household Goods and Military Post Offices were also highlighted during the meeting.

"They did an excellent job providing Sailor and family support during the arrival of the *GW* (*USS George Washington*)," said Arnold. "The outstanding customer service was evident in the numerous, positive customer evaluations we received."

Items on the horizon for the organization include: a Navy Warehouse Transfer Team scheduled visit in January; implementation of the logistics computer software system, Enterprise Resource Planning 1.1; providing continued effective distance support for current fleet customers; and eventually supporting the Navy's newest platform, the LCS or Littoral Combat Ship.

HOLIDAY MAILING DEADLINES

NAVSUP FISC YOKOSUKA

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25 mail by dates below:

• Parcel Post	Nov. 13
• Space Available Mail (SAM)	Nov. 28
• Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL)	Dec. 4
• First-Class Mail (letters/cards less than 13 oz.)	Dec. 11
• Priority Mail (more than 13 oz.)	Dec. 11
• Express Mail Military Service	Dec. 18

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