Mission-critical fleet mooring systems repaired

Story and photo by Yasuko Nakamura, NAVFAC FE Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center (NAVFAC ESC) engineers and Underwater Construction Team TWO (UCT 2) divers recently repaired mission-critical fleet mooring systems on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY).

Inspections conducted at CFAY in 2009 as part of NAVFAC ESC Fleet Mooring Program (FMP) determined that repairs were needed on five of nine fleet moorings, including refurbishment of mooring buoys.

"NAVFAC ESC is here with personnel from UCT 2 Air Detachment BRAVO to conduct repair and sustainment work to the fleet mooring systems supporting the forward-deployed naval forces here in Yokosuka," said Steven Cohen, NAVFAC ESC FMP manager. "This project provides the FMP, a cost-effective way of performing the needed repair work, and provides critical over-the-water heavy rigging training experience to help UCT divers maintain their rigging competencies in the marine environment."

The NAVFAC ESC-UCT 2 Air Detachment BRAVO team leveraged the experience and expertise of the local facilities engineering command, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East (NAVFAC FE), to execute the repairs. NAVFAC FE provided contract solicitation, award and post-administration support vital to the project's success.

The fleet mooring systems at CFAY are temporary or emergency "parking spaces" for CFAY Port Operations and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships. Moorings are utilized by U.S. Navy and allied fleets worldwide to provide additional berthing, hurricane-typhoon contingency moorings, training for mooring operations and securing of preposition vessels as well as off loading of fuels at fuel piers. They consist of multiple large anchors, mooring chains and surface buoys.

More than 200 fleet mooring systems owned by Commander Navy Installations Command around the world are managed by NAVFAC ESC, which conducts underwater inspections of them every three years.

Refurbishment of mooring buoys was accomplished by NAVFAC Far East this year as well as preparation of contract documents and solicitation, and contract award to a Japanese contractor for crane support. Mooring repairs were scheduled by UCT 2 to coincide with other planned projects here during their visit, and CFAY Port Operations provided an essential material barge for the project.

UCT 2 Project Superintendent CM2 John McDowell sends hand signals to raise a 25.3-ton foam buoy out of the waters of Green Bay for replacement. UCT 2, in cooperation with NAVFAC ESC, NAVFAC FE and a Japanese contractor, recently completed repair and reinstallation of the CFAY fleet mooring systems.

All project assets were moved into place Nov. 15 and mooring repair work began Nov. 16, with the team completing two moorings per day. Multiple crane lifts of up to 25.3 tons were safely conducted and the job, including de-mobilization of the floating crane, was completed Nov. 20. All nine fleet moorings at CFAY were either inspected, repaired or had their buoys replaced and are now in satisfactory condition for continued fleet use.

Cohen said the most challenging part of this project was the safe manipulation of the six to 10-ton riser chain sinkers used to hold the mooring buoy in place onto the deck using both the main hook of the crane as well as one of the floating crane's anchor winch systems. This involved proper hand signaling and eye-to-eye contact between the project superintendent and the crane operator as well as the winch operators.

Navy seeks comments on recent HHG moves

By COMFISCS Public Affairs

Commander Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (COMFISC) announced Dec. 2 that customers who have recently moved on permanent change of station (PCS) orders are being asked to complete a customer satisfaction survey (CSS) to ensure the quality of future moves.

The household goods program manager asks customers to think of this an opportunity to present the government and industry organizations involved in recent moves with a scorecard or grade report.

"Whether this move was their best move ever, just average, or their worst, we encourage all our customers to complete the short 12-question survey to ensure Navy leadership is aware of how their move went," said Deborah McGlennon, COMFISCS household goods program manager.

The survey will arrive by e-mail between seven and 21 days following delivery of a service member's personal property. Customers can also select the Personal Property/POV link at www.SDDC.army.mil to access the survey; or they may contact their local personal property office for assistance.

The results are used in two ways. First, the military services use the results to determine how well the origin and destination personal property offices did in assisting customers. Additionally, the ratings on how well the commercial moving companies performed determine how much business they will get from the Department of Defense in the future.

A component of the Naval Supply Systems Command, COMFISCS operates as a single cohesive team providing global logistics services from 110 locations worldwide and is part of a network of more than 22,500 military and civilian personnel providing combat capability through logistics.

NIOC sponsors holiday bowling party for local welfare facility residents

By Yoko Kato, CNFJ Public Affairs

A total of 20 Japanese children and their mothers, accompanied by welfare facility staff members visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Dec. 4 to attend a holiday party sponsored by Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) First Class Association.

Since 1998, NIOC has been providing helping hands and sponsoring numerous events to the facility on a periodic basis. Currently, about 30 children reside in the facility with their mothers for various reasons; some were forced to escape from abusive fathers, others for financial reasons. Due to its nature and the children's safety, the name of the facility can't be disclosed.

"Since hearing about the event, the children and their mothers were looking forward to it very much," said welfare facility senior staff member Daisuke Kawasaki. "Unfortunately, some children got sick and couldn't make it today. They were so upset they cried this morning. Visiting the base is something very special to them."

Event coordination is usually time consuming and involves a lot of people. Preparation for this specific event also required a lot of time and people - preparing Christmas gifts for the children, nicely wrapping the gifts, providing food and drinks, reserving the bowling alley, reserving a van and guest paperwork for base security. The event coordinator, Information Systems Technician 1st Class Malkia Ross ensured the event went smoothly.

"They enjoyed the food and bowling together," said Ross. "Toward the end of the game, Santa Claus showed up at the bowling alley with a bagful of toys for the children. He called each child's name and presented the gifts one by one."

Information Systems Technician 1st Class Chris Tognocchi, another integral member of the association had mixed feelings about this year's event as it will be his last.

"I have been doing this for four years now," said Tognocchi. "Since I will transfer soon, this is my last event with them. I am going to miss them a lot."

NIOC Commanding Officer Cmdr. Niels F. Mateo praised the voluntary involvement NIOC personnel have established throughout the prefecture this year.

"I am extremely proud of NIOC and especially of the relationship between our First Class Association and this facility," said Mateo. "Interacting and sharing with local communities continues to be one of the most important aspects the U.S. Navy life in Japan and NIOC looks forward to our continued relationship in 2011."

Tis the season... but don't cook your own goose

A kitchen fire in Yokosuka, which occurred last month in a tower apartment, ended up costing the resident more than $500. That's right, residents pay for all costs associated with cleaning up, renovating and replacing damaged appliances when damage to units are caused through their own negligence. Actually, this resident was very lucky because it was only a very small unattended cooking fire, and damage was minimal not only to the unit but other units in the tower as well. Right now, I bet you're thinking about renter's insurance.

Great thinking – check with the Housing Services Center to find out how you can get it. Here's another great thought – The next time you have something cooking on the stove make sure you keep your eyes there too. Don't cook your own goose this holiday season!

A Public Service Announcement brought to you by Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Public Affairs Office and the Housing Services Center

*The USO invites all single and unaccompanied service men and women to join us for a **FREE** Steak & Eggs Breakfast on Christmas morning. The USO Center on the second floor of Club Alliance will be open at 7:30 a.m., where you can connect with family and friends back home with Internet access and worldwide phone calls provided at no cost to you. Thank you for your service and happy holidays!*

USO
Until Every One Comes Home

"TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL"
Steak & Eggs Breakfast

Date: Saturday, Dec. 25
Time: 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Location: Club Alliance
3rd Floor Ballroom

Drawing gifts generously provided by: The New Sanno Hotel, Hard Rock Cafe