ATGWP provides in-depth training to *Denver* crew during visit

Story and photo by MC3 Andrew Ryan Smith, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

The Austin-class amphibious transport dock ship *USS Denver* (LPD 9), forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan, arrived at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka June 6 and immediately tackled the task at hand – a three-week training availability for the crew.

Thanks to the knowledgeable instructors at Afloat Training Group Western Pacific (ATGWP), *Denver* Sailors, from those responsible for plotting the ships course, to those who proudly keep fires in the boilers, participated in a variety of training courses; including instrument calibration, navigation, and engineering to name a few.

"I want all the students who come through this class to learn their job - and it is about more than just checking gauges," said Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW) Jason Roban, an instructor at ATGWP. "Some new Sailors missed lots of other things that could be problematic down the road."

Members of the crew also trained at the Yokosuka Center for Naval Engineering, a state of the art damage control training facility equipped with a firefighting simulator.

"For most of the young Sailors who come to the school, this is the first time they have fought a live fire," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class (AW/SW) John Cacal. "The simulator gives them a feel for being in a real fire and instills confidence in handling their equipment."

Keeping with the Navy goal to train like it fights, during training, *Denver* Sailors used the same equipment they would use aboard the ship to keep things realistic. Having real fire and smoke in the space added to the experience.

"As a space supervisor, I participate in all of the main space fire drills, but this is the first time I have combated a real fire," said Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Kevin Walsh. "Being able to feel the heat and see a fire gave me a different perspective from the training we normally do."

"It was helpful to charge hoses, because we normally don't get the chance to do that on the ship," Walsh added. "I feel like I will be better prepared in a real fire."

To help strengthen in-rate knowledge, engineers attended the Boiler Water Treatment class at ATGWP, a classroom-centric course with laboratory activities that deals with boiler feed water and potable water properties and chemical treatment.

"This class was very informative," said Ensign Megan McCulloch, *Denver*'s new engineering officer. "I only recently took over as engineering officer and don't know everything about the job. This class helped me learn what to look for in the logs and what procedure to carry out if something isn't working the right way."

After completion of the three-week training availability, *Denver* will return to Sasebo where her crew will make preparations for their fall patrol.

(Right) MM3 Ray Meneses, from Oxnard, Calif., activates his self-contained breathing apparatus at the Yokosuka Center for Naval Engineering Firefighting School June 10. Meneses is attached to the amphibious transport dock ship *USS Denver* (LPD 9), which was at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka for a regularly scheduled training availability.

Naval Safety Center leader tours Yokosuka, talks shop with Sailors

Commander Naval Safety Center Rear Adm. Arthur Johnson talks to Sailors and command safety representatives during an all hands call at CFAY June 22. Johnson and his staff visited Japan to educate the forward-deployed naval forces about potential dangers both on and off duty and to highlight the 101 Critical Days of Summer program.

Story and photo by MC3 Andrew Ryan Smith, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Commander Naval Safety Center (NSC) Rear Adm. Arthur Johnson visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) June 22-23 to tour the base and speak to the community about safety-related issues.

Johnson and his staff delivered several safety-related briefs to Sailors and safety representatives of the forward-deployed naval forces. He also charged Sailors to come forth with their safety concerns and provide possible solutions.

"At NSC, we collect a lot of data and then we provide information on trends we find to the fleet," Johnson said. "This information can impact their decision making and behaviors and outcomes.

In his travels around the base, Johnson talked to as many Sailors as possible, picking their brains for deckplate safety concerns.

"I thought it was good that a two-star admiral would come out to work with people who actually do the job," said Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Richard Copeland. "He listened to our Sailors, was very attentive and concerned with the feedback our Sailors gave him."

"It was good to be able to address some of my concerns about training," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Chris Krueger. "I think the admiral will make sure our concerns are brought to the attention of some one who can change things."

One of the biggest summer safety programs is the "101 Critical Days of Summer" campaign, which emphasizes all aspects of staying safe during the summer, both on and off duty. Johnson gave a presentation highlighting risks Sailors face at work and at play and then asked individual audience members how they cope with various risks.

"The primary purpose of our visit is to support the beginning of the summer safety campaign," said Johnson. "I think we may have started something positive by making Sailors realize they are an important part of the process. Their engagement is helping us find hazards and implement strategies."

Johnson pointed out that alcohol related incidents still top the list of off duty risks Sailors face, then stressed that there are simple ways for Sailors to mitigate these risks.

"First off, one thing Sailors can do to help us is to plan out activities; no one wakes up in the morning looking to have a bad day," Johnson said. "But you will have a bad day if you don't plan ahead. The second thing I would encourage all Sailors to do is to report hazards. As you go through your daily activities you may encounter a situation that needs to be addressed, I would encourage everyone to report that, so we can fix the problem. NSC success is determined by each individual Sailor and Marine and the more we have them engaged the more successful we are."

Completing Motorcycle Safety Course nets Sailors discount

The Navy Exchange (NEX), in partnership with the Naval Safety Center and Commander Navy Installations Command, announced June 17 that it is offering a discount coupon on motorcycle protective gear for all Sailors who complete a Motorcycle Safety Course at their base. The coupon entitles the Sailor to receive 25 percent off their entire purchase of motorcycle protective equipment sold at select NEX stores as well as online at www.myNavyExchange.com.

"We are happy to partner with the Naval Safety Center to bring this discount coupon to Sailors who have completed their required motorcycle training," said Rear Adm. Steven J. Romano, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command. "The NEX does all it can to help promote motorcycle safety including selling protective equipment, promoting safety messages and partnering with the Naval Safety Center. We will do all we can to ensure the safety of our Sailors and their families."

Sailors who complete a Navy Motorcycle Rider Training class will receive a coupon from their course instructor and will have 90 days to make their purchase.