Saluting Capt. Weed's accomplishments as CFAY

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You refocused the installations full commitment to the fleet and set the path to transforming the installation into a "21st century naval base" and setting the standard by which U.S. Naval Installation Commands are measured.

Mission accomplished by providing the highest quality of service, committing to a safe work environment for personnel, rigorously adhering to the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment and developing a robust and enduring partnership in support of the U.S. - Japan Strategic Alliance.

One of your first community actions was the "Honcho Patrol" on your first night in command.

"My purpose tonight is to show that Fleet Activities Yokosuka support our Sailors and the Yokosuka community," said CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed. "I set the example. One of my goals is to strengthen the Yokosuka Naval Base support to the community." And you have done exactly that.

Other significant community involvement projects and, or events include:

• Seika Kindergarten teacher and student support that has been sustained for more than 60 years.

• Installation of anti-crime streetlights in and around Yokosuka.

• New outdoor smoking ban for Yokosuka area.

• Renovation of the JN Dispensary for 6,700 MLC Japanese employees; first renovation in more than 65 years.

• Creation of memorandums of agreement for local cities in support of natural disasters, influenza epidemics and contingency operations.

One of the many challenges you faced was bringing the plight of the degraded Navy tugs and the number of dwindling Navy harbor pilot personnel program to light. We saw all five Navy tugs operational and ready during your tenure (the last time all five tugs were operational was nearly 11 to 12 years prior) and the U.S. Navy recognizing the critical shortage of Yokosuka harbor pilots.

You were instrumental for many on base firsts. They include:

• New Bayside Café Subway opened.

• Removal of floating piers that served as Berths 10 and 11.

• Implemented the first Farmer's Market that allowed base residents to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers and "CFAY Sunday" which granted host nation guest access to the Yokosuka Base Kasano Park area.

• The opening of the United Service Organization center – for the first time in more than 63 years, the Navy Exchange (NEX) General Nutrition Center, the Rental Partnership Housing Agreement and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Skate Parks on Yokosuka Base and the Ikego Housing Detachment.

• The opening of the Navy's first Cultural Exchange Center that regularly hosts a variety of programs that help teach both American and Japanese guests about each others culture. This center is the first U.S. Military Cultural Exchange in Japan designed for easy Japanese citizen access.

• Implementation of logo designed to increase American citizen patronage and supported by nearly 200 Yokosuka businesses.

• Hosting hundreds of visitors including Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen, Misa Oguri and Agnes Saovi, heirs of Kozuhenosuka Oguri and Francois Verny, pioneers in the construction of the Western-style shipyard in Yokosuka; Commander Pacific Fleet Adm. Robert Willard, 19th Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, Ambassador to Japan J. Thomas Schieffer, Marine General Peter Pace, Commanders Naval Installation Command Vice Adm. Bob Conway and Michael C. Vitale, Yokosuka City Mayors Ryoichi Kabaya and Yuto Yoshida, Master Chief Petty Officers of the Navy Joe R. Campa and Rick West, NASA Endeavour astronauts, just to name a few.

• Spearheaded a robust 21st century communications plan.

• You coined the phrase "Your hometown, my hometown, our hometown, Yokosuka, Japan."

"Our hometown spirit and heart form the backbone of your history and success and not surprisingly, our Fleet Activities Yokosuka community, bears the same spirit," said Weed. "As a community we work together to make CFAY the safest, friendliest and most productive naval base on the Kanto Pain."

(Right) Capt. Daniel Weed and friends fill up on the "Navy Burger," Yokosuka City's new specialty food at a local restaurant before the start of the monthly Honch Patrol.
U.S. Navy file photo

• A myriad of work and support for the arrival of the first nuclear-powered carrier *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73) including the dredging of Truman Bay, *GW* sponsorship program, deployment of Area Orientation Brief and Intercultural Relations (AOB/ICR) trainers to the ship and completion of Berth 12 projects.

• First naturalization training seminar to assist active duty personnel and their families about the naturalization process.

• Artificial turf installed on Berkey Field and fielding of the first environmentally friendly alternative fuel vehicle.

• Implementation on the new Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) civilian clothes regulation and the new streamlined CFAY Check Out process.

• *USS Oneida* Memorial.

• Construction of the Ikego Jinmunji pedestrian bridge project.

• Launching of the Youth Intervention Watch Program and Japanese Quality of Life English proficiency classes; yourself serving as *sensei* to increase Japanese citizen English language proficiency.

• AOB program that focuses on culture and values in a new Community Readiness Center that provides a convenient and central location for fleet and family services.

• Installation of cameras and digital recorders on CFAY patrol vehicles and a pedestrian "Smart Gate."

• Expansion, renovation and modernization of Bachelor Enlisted Housing to support 7th Fleet's most precious resource - our Sailors.

• Implementation of the Christmas "Grand Illumination" event and the installation's Environmental Management Policy that focused on pollution prevention, compliance with environmental requirements, integration of environmental practices and continuous improvement of installation environmental performance that garnered more than 11 seperate environmental protection awards from the Secretary of Defense.

• Opening of the cogeneration plant. The plant, one of largest Energy Saving Performance contract projects in the U.S. Navy, doubles the amount of 60 hertz power, which is the power needed for the ships and more than doubles CFAY 50 hertz power with clean burning natural gas.

• Selection as 2008 CNFJ Installation Excellence Award winner.

"This selection is an indication of your team's sustained superior performance and their continued commitment to providing first rate services and quality of life for our Sailors and those who support our mission," said CNFJ Rear Adm. James Kelly. "Thanks for what you do every day and 'Bravo Zulu' for your continuously extraordinary efforts."

• With a keen eye towards innovative economic development, you collaborated with the city of Yokosuka to identify tasty American-style foods that generated city revenue in excess of $1.5 million.

• In close cooperation with U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, you stood close by to combat the threat of an H1N1 flu outbreak.

• The special viewing of the Japanese feature film "Battle Under Orion." The film depicts the struggles and sacrifices made by the men and women at home and at war during the closing days of World War II. It is centered on a battle pitting a Japanese submarine against an American destroyer.

And awards, 55 in total, wow!

• Number 1 of 77 U.S. Navy bases worldwide for CNIC and winner of the 2009 CNIC Base Installation Excellence Award (four-time winner since 1999)

• 2009 CNO Shore Safety award

• 2009 Meritorious Unit Commendation

• Eight award winning areas to include: Navy Lodge (2008), Ney Award (Overseas galley) (2008), CNO Environmental - Natural Resources Conservation (2009), USFJ Pollution Prevention (2008/09), Natural Resources Protection (2010), NEX Bingham Award (2008), Golden Anchor Award for Retention Excellence (2009), MWR (2008) and Navy Crystal Award for Family Housing (2009).

It has been an interesting and productive three-year ride.

Capt. Daniel Weed, commander of Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) and Mayor of Yokosuka City, Yuto Yoshida, cut the ceremonial ribbon during the grand opening ceremony of the Yokosuka Cultural Exchange Center onboard CFAY Nov. 18, 2009. The Cultural Exchange Center will act as a venue for a variety of functions and events helping to foster U.S. and Japanese cultural exchanges.
U.S. Navy file photo

(Left) Capt. Daniel Weed speaks with CNFJ Rear Adm. James Kelly after the James D. Kelly Fleet Recreation Center dedication ceremony.
U.S. Navy file photo