



Spotlight on:

# Fleet & Family Support Center

One of your first must-visit locations upon arrival at CFAS is the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). Their 3-day, mandatory Area Orientation Brief /Intercultural Relations (AOB/ICR) class will introduce you to the installation and to the host community beyond the fence line.

It's fitting that FFSC manages and hosts AOB/ICR because no doubt about it: That third letter in the acronym, "Support," is what FFSC is all about.

FFSC's mission is to facilitate increased personal, family and community wellness and self-sufficiency in this remote overseas environment and support commands in achieving optimal operational readiness. They do that primarily with a one-two punch of offering a variety of over 400 classes each year attended by over 5,000 people, and boasting a wide range of services for sailors, civilians and family members, all from trained clinicians.

Ask around and it's likely CFAS community members will have their favorite FFSC offerings. Collectively, the list would read something like this:

- The **AOB/ICR** is mandatory as it begins the processes for moving into government or off-base quarters and for obtaining your Japanese driver's license. It's a fun three days, too. You'll meet the base commander and other key department heads or representatives and learn useful Japanese phrases. (Japan is like any other foreign country you may have visited or



lived in. At least trying to learn and use the host language is most appreciated.)

- **Deployment support** for returning forward-deployed ships or visiting ship is unmatched at CFAS. FFSC wrote the book on it.
- The **Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI) program** advocates inform a victim of their rights and options and provide emotional support and guidance through the medical, legal and military process. More than that, SAVI is first proactive, committed to community awareness programs

to prevent having to be reactive.

- **TAP/RTAP workshops** provide information to those separating or retiring in making an informed and effective transition from military to civilian life. Department of Defense, Department of Labor and Department of Veterans Affairs as well as other military/community subject matter experts facilitate.
- **PRIDE class** is a completely interactive delivery format where students learn cultural diversity, leadership, life-skill values and financial skills.

## —Fast Facts—

- Offers over 400 classes per year (over 30 each month)
- Processes over 2,000 personnel through 40 "Indoc" classes each year
- Sponsors popular SAVI Fun Run/Walk each April
- Eriko's List of Things To Do
- FFSC on the Web
- "Beyond Your Cho With Eriko" 0745 Wednesdays on AFN
- "Your Money with Yolanda" 0745 alternating Tuesdays on AFN



## In Their Own Words

“The job at FFSC makes me feel I'm worthy. It has proven even a rural girl in Sasebo can achieve something that people appreciate. It's my pleasure to introduce local culture, events, and history to newcomers from overseas. I learn a lot from them, too. I think that's the reason I've been working at FFSC for over 18 years.”

Eriko Kawahara

## Local Talent

The FFSC is staffed by 28 Department of the Navy civilian employees and three Japanese employees.