



## 26,500 turn out to celebrate Yokosuka's Spring Festival

Story and photo by Tetaun Moffett, CFAY Public Affairs

An absolutely perfect spring day set the stage for last weekend's U.S. - Japan Spring Festival held on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) April 6.

Approximately 26,500 Japanese guests joined Yokosuka base community members to observe the beautiful flowering of cherry blossoms.

In keeping with Japanese tradition of holding cherry blossom festivals or *Sakura Matsuri*, this year's cherry blossoms brought promise to a new season. Each year CFAY opens its gates to invite Japanese neighbors for a day of festivities, strengthening the bonds of friendship with our host nation.

During the festival and the days following, residents admire the decorative and alluring cherry blossoms of Kasano Park. Several organizational booths were set up to served some of the finest American traditional foods such as hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza and myriad of other delicious snacks.

According to Navy Career Counselor 1st Class Tony Turner a command volunteer from *USS McCampbell* (DD 85) this was a great opportunity to continue to foster good community relations between the U.S. Navy and the Japanese community.

"This is my first Spring Festival and I really enjoy the opportunity to come out and partake in this traditional celebration. The Japanese have a wonderful culture and community, and this is an awesome way to share the spring season," said Turner.

Both *McCampbell's* Chief Petty Officer and First Class Petty Officer Mess teamed up for the first time to show their support for the community of Yokosuka by sharing a booth at the festival.

"It will be nearly a year since we arrived in Yokosuka and we have taken this time to come together and show our appreciation for the Japanese culture and giving back to this community is one of our first priorities," said Chief Boatswain Mate (SW/AW) Jay Green.



An estimated 26,500 Japanese guests came out to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka to celebrate the 2008 U.S. - Japan Spring Festival April 6. Both Yokosuka base and Japanese communities joined together to enjoy cherry blossoms, food and fellowship.

Representing purity, symbolizing the season of spring, peace and the country of Japan; the 2008 U.S. - Japan Spring Festival continues to bond two communities together celebrating a commitment to friendship.

## Yokosuka chief petty officers celebrate 115 years of service

By MC2(AW) Chantel M. Clayton, Fleet Public Affairs Det., Japan

Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) chief petty officers (CPO) came together on April 1 to celebrate 115 years of CPO unity and pride.

This occasion was also a time for CPOs to reflect on Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa's message to the Chief's Mess, stating that the CPO birthday, "serves as a time of year when chiefs re-commit themselves to the brand of deckplate leadership that defines who we are and what we do."

In celebration of the CPO birthday, events such as a CPO fitness workout, cake cutting ceremony and a unity walk were arranged. In addition, all chief petty officers wore their combination covers while out and about in uniform.

"The CPO combination cover is special," said CFAY Command Master Chief, CMDCM (SW/AW) Wayne Smith. "The cover is one of the first identifiers of the CPO rank. If you watch old war movies, chiefs were still wearing dungaree uniforms, but they were identified by wearing the combination cap. It was an identifier that represented that there's a chief, there's someone that knows what's going on and knows how to get the job done. In years gone by, the cover was only broken out for official ceremonies, in particular, induction, but I think it is a good thing to have it out for the chiefs' birthday."

The unity walk, similar to regularly scheduled Tuesday and Friday walks through the local community, brought the Yokosuka CPO community together to interact with their Japanese neighbors outside the base gates.

"The purpose of the unity walk was to reinforce the fact that chiefs are there and are



(Left) CFAY CMDCM Wayne Smith looks on as CSG7 CMDCM James Shubert and NCTSFE PSC Louis Saldana cut the cake during the CPO birthday ceremony held at the Jewel of the East enlisted galley April 1. Photo by Yuhji Kawabe

engaged," said Smith. "This was to remind the chiefs that we have to remain engaged in the community. We have to go out and interact with the local community, and provide a positive role model or positive demonstration on how Sailors should act on liberty. It's an opportunity to remind those chiefs that this is the community we live

in and not only do we have to take care of our Sailors on base; we also have to support the community that takes care of us off base."

For some local chiefs like Submarine Group Seven Command Master Chief, CMDCM (SS/SW) Jimmy Schubert, the CPO birthday is a time to look back on how things have changed over the years. Schubert is the oldest member of Yokosuka's CPO mess, receiving his anchors in 1990.

"The role of the chief is far more challenging than years ago," said Schubert. "We are the example of how things are done in the Navy, such as how we wear the uniform and how we react to things. This is the most important season of the year, where changes in the Navy take place."

Schubert also commented on the quality of CPOs serving in the Navy today.

"Some of these chiefs came into the Navy after I made chief," said Schubert. "They are a far better group of people than when I made chief."

Even though the CPO birthday is a time for celebration, some feel it's just business as usual.

"Chiefs are chiefs every day of the year," said Smith. "For us it's business as usual. We just keep going, as far as making Sailors accountable

for their actions and completing the mission. We make sure everyone is following procedures and making sure Sailors and their families are taken care of. It should be the same stuff every day."

### TOWN HALL MEETING

Ikego  
Atsuka Tower  
April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Negishi  
Negishi Theater  
April 29, 6 p.m.

Yokosuka  
Benny Decker Theater  
April 30, 6 p.m.

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