



My

CFAY

Weekly

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Volume 9, Issue 26

令和8年7月9日

July 9, 2026

CFAY Celebrates America's 250th Independence Day



Photos by James Kimber, CFAY Public Affairs



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Nature's Front Line: CFAY Environmental Stewardship Bridges Mission and Conservation

**Story and photos by Airman Lara Llabres,
CFAY Public Affairs**

Behind the gates of Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), a silent defense system protects the U.S. Navy's largest overseas installation. It isn't made of steel or concrete, but of native broadleaf trees, natural wetlands and thriving wildlife.

Capturing this living shield in action brought me into the quiet spaces of the Ikego forest. As morning light filtered through the dense greenery, my camera lens focused on the unseen efforts of the CFAY Environmental Division.

Through my viewfinder, I watched environmental professionals meticulously swapping out the batteries on a network of trail cameras set up to monitor the rich animal activity hidden within the woods. It is a constant effort to maintain the delicate ecological balance that keeps the base secure.



Members of the Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Environmental Division inspect a trail camera during a survey in the Ikego forest June 11. This hands-on work is part of a broader environmental stewardship program that protects base infrastructure by cultivating a healthy ecosystem.

Higher diversity habitats are more resilient because they support a larger number of species, said Scott Vogt, the supervisory interdisciplinary biologist and planning and conservation branch chief for the CFAY Environmental Division. "One disease or a bug might take out some plants, but if you have higher diversity, it doesn't take out everything."

Urbanization across Japan's Miura Peninsula has created isolated pockets of nature, which Vogt described as "islands of habitat surrounded by urbanization." The 710-acre Ikego Housing Area acts as a vital environmental corridor connecting these fragmented habitats.

This corridor serves a dual purpose: supporting local biodiversity and fulfilling the Navy's commitment to being a responsible steward of the land. Preserving this natural heritage is a tangible way to demonstrate respect for the host nation's environment.

"It's a really important link between the habitat [to the north of Ikego] and what's down here in Ikego," Vogt said. "It links so you get gene flow for most species ... birds obviously, but snakes, rodents and small mammals. If that was cut off, you wouldn't get that."

Navigating the rugged terrain to reach these remote sites where trail cameras are set up is no small feat. While we traversed the dense forest, Vogt shared a notable detail about the trails. The paths leading to and from the trail cameras are cleared and maintained by the Fleet Reserve Association, a group of volunteer military veterans. It is a fitting partnership, blending continued service with environmental stewardship.

This level of ecological success relies heavily on strong partnerships. Vogt noted the environmental division maintains an excellent relationship with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) maintenance staff at Ikego, who step in whenever asked to assist with habitat management, such as maintaining the firefly streams.



Scott Vogt, Supervisory Interdisciplinary Biologist for the Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Environmental Division, points to signs of animal activity in a bamboo grove June 11, 2026. The team uses such evidence to strategically place cameras to identify species and better understand the forest's food web.

As the day progressed, the team and I moved toward the local school area to address a minor ecological mystery: something had been making a steady meal out of the nearby bamboo. To identify the local wildlife responsible, the team carefully installed a fresh set of trail cameras, eager to capture the culprit in action. This effort is part of a larger habitat management plan targeting encroaching dwarf bamboo, which forms dense monocultures that choke out native flora.

"With higher plant diversity comes a higher diversity of invertebrates, like insects, which a lot of birds and rodents feed on. So, it kind of helps everything," Vogt said. "You get more insects, more prey for birds, rodents and snakes, and this in turn supports a variety of native mammals, like weasels and tanuki at Ikego."

The team also celebrated significant wildlife victories, including the successful restoration of firefly habitats near the Ikego elementary school. Following a severe typhoon in 2020, the team worked to rebuild the habitat for these culturally significant insects, and the population is now self-sustaining.

Because fireflies hold a revered place in Japanese traditions, this restoration resonates far beyond the base gates. Conservation efforts like these show local citizens the base is actively invested in protecting and healing the shared environment.

While tracking wildlife and changing batteries might seem worlds away from typical military operations, the work is vital to the broader mission. Vogt explained that

while these conservation efforts are strictly required under the Japan Environmental Governing Standards, the human impact is just as critical.

People naturally want to live in an environment that brings them peace and happiness rather than surrounded by concrete, he said. "The care poured into the natural surroundings does more than just protect the forest; it integrates morale directly into the community."

The continuous effort to foster life and restore ecological balance across CFAY proves that conservation is a critical enabler of military operations. By transforming vulnerable landscapes into resilient, thriving ecosystems, the environmental team provides a natural shield for essential base infrastructure, a sanctuary for the service members it serves, and a lasting bridge of goodwill with the installation's Japanese neighbors.

Fostering a beautiful, well-maintained environment brings the community together and maintains a good host-nation relationship, Vogt concluded. "It provides a sense of sanctuary that ultimately enhances the mental stability and operational readiness of every community member stationed here."




Recovery

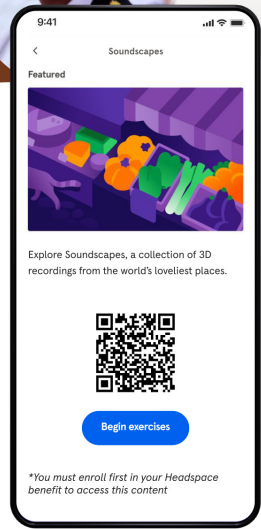
Rest more effectively so you can return ready for tomorrow

When high-pressure days don't end at lights out, Headspace can help. Wind down after demanding days with sleep meditations, sleepcasts, and breathing exercises designed to quiet a racing mind, ease physical tension, and guide you into restful sleep so you wake up ready for whatever comes next.



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work.headspace.com/usnavy/join



9:41

Soundscapes

Featured



Explore Soundscapes, a collection of 3D recordings from the world's loveliest places.



Begin exercises

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CFAY and JMSDF Team Up to Keep the Fleet Ready

Story and photo by Sheryl Sullivan,
CFAY Public Affairs

High-profile military exercises are great for testing alliances, but sometimes the best proof of partnership comes during shoreside maintenance.

During a scheduled water line repair at Carney Gate, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) stepped in to assist Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY). Operating under the bilateral Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), JMSDF dispatched yard water barges to replenish potable water aboard moored U.S. Navy ships, ensuring fleet readiness remained unaffected during the maintenance window.

While the water barges visibly move in and out of the port, the mission's success relied on behind-the-scenes coordination. CFAY Port Operations dockmasters and interpreters worked alongside JMSDF counterparts to safely position the barges. Simultaneously, planners from CFAY Public Works, Port Operations and the Installation Comptroller synchronized the logistics.

On the water, the JMSDF Headquarters logistics team, led by Lt. Cmdr. Hiroyuki Miyawaki, maneuvered the barges alongside the moored warships, delivering hundreds of thousands of gallons of potable water.

The operation showcased more than technical expertise – it reflected trust built over years of cooperation.

"You can't fake interoperability; it has to be proven on the water," said Lt. Cmdr. Jesse Crider, CFAY port operations officer. "To safely deliver hundreds of thousands of gallons of potable water alongside moored warships takes incredible skill, trust and teamwork. The JMSDF and CFAY teams' tight coordination perfectly captures the spirit of CFAY: Fleet, Family, and Alliance."

Sailors, civilians, engineers and mariners from both nations proved that the U.S.-Japan alliance is maintained not only through high-level strategy and exercises, but through people working side by side to keep the fleet mission-ready.

For more than 80 years, CFAY has provided, maintained and operated base facilities and services in support of the U.S. 7th Fleet's forward-deployed naval forces, tenant commands, and thousands of military and civilian personnel and their families.



Operational Safety

Strengthen focus and awareness when every decision matters

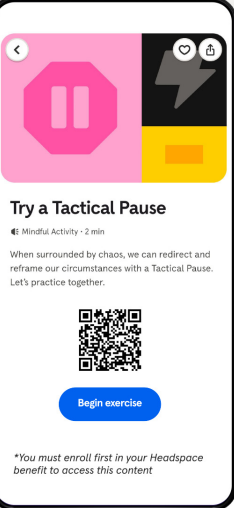


Maintaining attention in high-pressure environments helps support safer operations and stronger performance. Headspace trains your mind to stay present, filter distractions, and act with clarity – even when the stakes are high. Regular mindfulness practice improves attention and decision-making, so you stay alert and grounded in every situation.



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Try a Tactical Pause

Mindful Activity - 2 min

When surrounded by chaos, we can redirect and reframe our circumstances with a Tactical Pause. Let's practice together.



Begin exercise

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SHARE THE ROAD

BICYCLE SAFETY

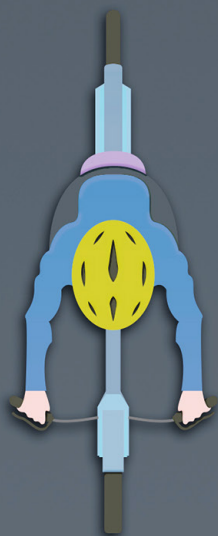


AS A RIDER

Plan routes with less traffic and slower speeds

If you ride at night wear reflective clothing and install front and rear lights

Cyclist deaths increase dramatically during the summer months, be safe!



For more information visit:
navalsafetycommand.navy.mil



AS A DRIVER

Anticipate cyclists' actions

Leave plenty of space when passing

Cyclists usually have the right of way, drivers should yield to them



Navy Exchange Yokosuka Annual Inventory

Store name	Inventory dates (Tentative)		Delayed opening time	Store regular hours
Fleet Store and Fleet Barber	Sunday	July 19	3 p.m.	9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Main Store	Monday	July 20	5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Kids	Monday	July 20	5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Main Service/Beauty Salon	Monday	July 20	5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Ikego Mini-Mart	Tuesday	July 21	3 p.m.	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Home Gallery	Wednesday	July 22	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Home Store	Wednesday	July 22	1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Car Care Center Mini-Mart	Thursday	July 23	3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

- While most locations may open earlier than scheduled above, we have built in additional time to ensure we can address any unforeseen issues and complete inventory accurately.
- Please note that these delayed openings will not impact any food service locations operating within the buildings.



Teen Career Showcase!

Program Dates

Week 1: July 13 - 17

Week 2: July 20 - 24

July 13 & July 20:

Résumé Writing • Interview Preparation

JULY 14 - 16, JULY 21 - 23:

• NCIS • Fire & Emergency Services • Public Works
• Legal • Naval Oceanographic Anti-Submarine Warfare Center • 7th Fleet Band • Public Affairs

July 13 & July 20:

• Q&A with college recruiters



For more information, call the
Yokosuka Teen Center at 046-896-2098



BEYOND THE GATE



Kamakura Fireworks Festival

July 10 (Friday)

7:20 to 8:10 p.m. | Yuigahama Beach (7-minute walk from Enoden Yuigahama Station, EN-13/20-minute walk from JR Kamakura Station, JO-07)

The Kamakura Fireworks Festival is a distinctive event that reflects the historic atmosphere and refined character of the ancient city of Kamakura. Highlights include spectacular large-shell fireworks, breathtaking starmines, and the festival's famous underwater fireworks, which spread out in elegant fan-shaped displays across the sea. We hope you enjoy this unique celebration of summer in Kamakura.

Kurihama Perry Festival

July 11 (Saturday)

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. | Throughout the Kurihama Area (1-minute walk from Keikyu Kurihama Station, KK-67, 5-minute walk from JR Kurihama Station, JO-01)

Kick off the summer season with Yokosuka's earliest grand display of fireworks (Kurihama Beach, 7:30 to 8 p.m.). There will also be a wide variety of festivities such as the Kurihama Parade (lively, large-scale parade featuring mikoshi, festival floats, kiyari (traditional work chants), stage events, Yokosuka Kaikoku Bazaar (Kurihama Shopping Street), marching bands, and Bon Odori dance processions (Kurihama Elementary School), and Commodore Perry's Landing Ceremony (Perry Park, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.).



Oppama Festival 2026

July 12 (Sunday)

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Oppama Ginza Shopping District (Right outside Keikyu Oppama Station, KK-54)

Yokosuka's Oppama neighborhood comes alive during the festival held in the Ginza Shopping District right outside the Oppama Station. See the parade of Rio de Janeiro Carnival style, traditional dances including the soran dance, Okinawa Eisa, taiko drums and enjoy street performances, festival food and drinks.



Enoshima Tenno Festival

July 12 (Sunday)

9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (10-minute walk from Enoden Enoshima Station, EN-06)

This festival begins at 9:30 a.m. at Enoshima's Hetsumiya Shrine. A large mikoshi is carried across the bridge from Enoshima to Koyurugi Shrine on the mainland. On the way, the mikoshi is dunked into the sea (between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.). On the mainland, the mikoshi from Yasaka Shrine meets with a mikoshi from Koyurugi Shrine. The two mikoshi then parade together along a shopping street until the Yasaka mikoshi returns to Enoshima at around 6 p.m.

NEWS AND NOTICES

STUDENT SPORTS PHYSICALS

DoWEA student-athletes, get ready for the upcoming sports season! U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka will host a Sports Physical Day on July 22 to help students complete the physicals required for participation in DoWEA-sponsored athletics.

- July 22, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
 - USNH Yokosuka Pediatric Clinic
- Appointments are open to TRICARE beneficiaries and Space-Available patients.

Before your appointment:

- Complete all required sports physical paperwork.
 - Unaccompanied minors age 14 and older must have parental consent on file to be seen without a parent or guardian present.
- To schedule an appointment, call 243-5352. Don't wait until the last minute, secure your appointment early and make sure you're ready for the first day of practice.

IMPORTANT BEACH RULES

To ensure a safe and enjoyable summer, please practice good beach etiquette and follow the rules below around the Miura Peninsula. The official beach swimming season generally runs from early July to late August, although the permitted swimming hours vary depending on the beach.

- **No barbecue**
- **No alcohol**
- **No loud sound**
- **Cover tattoo**

Visitors who do not follow the rules may be asked to leave.

CONSTRUCTION AND CLOSURES

Yokosuka: 1st Avenue partial road closure from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 6 - Aug. 10 for asphalt repair.

- Howard Street partial road closure required to facilitate crane work to unload materials from 9

a.m. to 3 p.m., July 6 - Sept. 30.

- Two partial road and one parking lot closure between Main Street Food Court and the NEX Home Gallery is scheduled Saturday, June 6 continuing through the fall of 2026 for construction of the new bowling center and food court.

- High traffic lane modification from 5 to 8:30 a.m. Outbound traffic merges into one lane in front of the CPO Club. Inbound traffic will shift to the two middle lanes creating a two lane inbound pattern in front of Bldg. 1997.

- The parking lot in front of Afloat Training Group Western Pacific is secured through 2027 in support of the Navigation, Seamanship and Shiphandling Trainer construction.

Ikego: Imattumi Road partial closure for general excavation work until Dec. 30.

American Red Cross Classes

CPR Training, Basic Life Support, and Babysitting Basics

All classes are blended learning classes. Classes may be added based on community need and instructor availability. Enroll today!

CPR/AED/First Aid Course (\$18)

- Saturday, July 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Email to sign up:
Yokosuka@redcross.org

To register, email: Yokosuka@redcross.org with the class and preferred date/time. You will receive a payment link and be asked to send your receipt in order to guarantee a spot in the course.

 Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka

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