



# SKYWRITER

VOL. 66 ISSUE: 4

MAY 2017

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**VPOTUS Comes  
To NAF Atsugi**  
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# What's Inside...



## CHECK OUT OUR NEW CAPTAIN'S CALL VIDEO



## SKYWRITER

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Howard Sam Samuelson

**Assistant Public Affairs Officer**  
Courtney Pollock

**Leading Chief Petty Officer**  
MCC(SW) Ben Farone

**Editor**  
MC3 Matthew Duncker

**Skywriter Staff**  
MC2(SW) Michael Doan  
MC3 Matthew Duncker

**Host Nation Relations**  
Masako Takakura  
Sumie Maruyama  
Ikumi Tanaka

**Webmaster**  
Noriko Yamazaki

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**ON THE COVER**  
LOCAL RESIDENTS VIEW STATIC DISPLAYS OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO NAVAL AIR FACILITY (NAF) ATSUGI DURING THE INSTALLATION'S SPRING FESTIVAL. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MCC BEN FARONE)



# TURNING THE PAGE

A LOOK BACK AT SKYWRITER NEWS FROM PAST DECADES AND WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY.



Left, Guests view static display of aircraft at Naval Air Station Atsugi's Flight line during the base's Armed Forces Day Open House, May 1978. Below, guests take photos of a pilot with a F/A-18 E Super hornet during Naval Air Facility Atsugi's Spring Festival.



おとこむしんぱいからあそび

# NAF ATSUGI PARTICIPATES IN THE 100th YAMATO STATION CLEAN UP



Seventy-three Sailors from Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, Japan participated in the 100th Yamato Station Clean Up April 13.

That Thursday morning, like the 57 Thursdays before, saw a bus load of Sailors from the nearby base unload into the square just outside the train station at 5:50 a.m. for a morning brief before the cleaning began. After the brief, the Sailors gathered their tools and set out to spruce up the area surrounding one of the areas busiest train stations.

The monthly event, which is organized by the Japanese group Let's Learn from Clean Up Yamato, was the 100th iteration since the group began in 2009. The Sailors from Atsugi joined forces with their Japanese hosts in August 2012 and have attended 57 times since.

Sado Yamasaki, a representative from Let's Learn from Clean Up Yamato says working together to maintain their shared neighborhood is the perfect way for the Sailors and Japanese volunteers to grow closer.

"This is a great way to build friendship between the U.S. Navy and the local community," said Yamasaki.

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Eric Laster, from Atlanta agreed.

"I like helping out. I like working together with the Japanese. If all they're asking us to do is this to give back, I don't mind helping



out. It shows that we believe we're all one in the same, we're family, we're a team and we work together to complete the task."

Being able to take pride in a job well done as well as contributing to the cleanliness of his host nation neighborhood was the main motivation for Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Roberto Salas, from El Paso, Texas, who was attending the event for the 20th time.

"It's fun to be part of an organization that cleans up the community here at Yamato station. It's nice to know that when I come back with my family we can share our pride with the community of Yamato, and see how everybody here is making the station beautiful again," said Salas.

Another veteran of the Yamato Station Clean Up is the installation's Commanding Officer, Capt. John Bushey, from Spencer, Iowa. Having attended the event 25 times, Bushey explained how the side-by-side service bridged any potential language barrier.

"It definitely helps us know each other. Even though we're not speaking the same language, we know we're both giving back to the community and I think that shows a common partnership that spans human nature and good will."



STORY & PHOTOS BY MCC BEN FARONE  
NAF ATSUGI PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



# A TRUE VISIONARY

## ATSUGI SAILOR SELECTED FOR NAVY VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD



STORY & PHOTOS BY MC2 MICHAEL DOAN  
NAF ATSUGI PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 Golden Falcons' Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Amy Kretchman, logs and records leading petty officer, a native of Pekin, Ill., was announced as one of five recipients of the 2017 Navy Visionary Leadership Awards.

The Sea Services Leadership Association (SSLA) selected Kretchman as the recipient of the 2017 Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership award for junior enlisted which honors the visionary leadership of service members whose ideals and dedication foster a positive working environment for reinforcing and furthering the integration of women into the Navy.

Kretchman distinguished herself from more than 70 nominees through her leadership of 187 maintenance technicians and management of nine of the toughest maintenance programs from the Commander, Naval Air Forces "Top 10" list of repeat program failures.

"It makes me feel great that she is recognized," said Lt. Christopher Simpson, assistant maintenance officer at HSC 12. "She is a very quiet Sailor who doesn't ask for any applause, any awards, or any recognition at all. So, for her to be recognized by her peers, her command,

and Navy-wide was huge for me personally."

While Kretchman was reading headlines on Navy.mil, she stumbled upon the results of the Navy's visionary leadership award recipient story and discovered her name among those listed.

"I was overwhelmed at first," said Kretchman. "I didn't even know I was put in for the award. It was a huge honor."

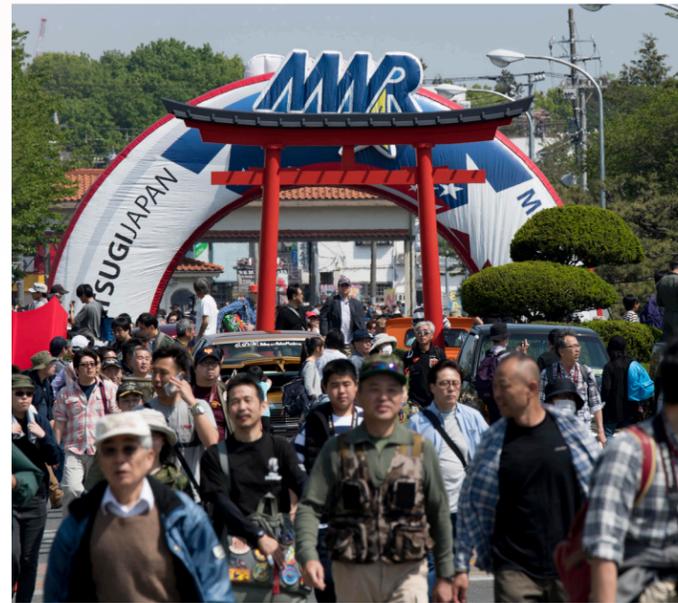
"We didn't tell her that we were going to put her up for anything," said Simpson. "We just see her work every day and saw an opportunity to put her in for this award, and the entire chain of command agreed. So, we put her in for the award and here we are."

Kretchman will receive her honors at the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium (JWLS), June 15-16, in Norfolk, Va. JWLS is hosted annually by the Sea Service Leadership Association (SSLA), and this year's theme is "SSLA, Celebrating 30 Years; Charting Your Course, Navigating Your Future!"

"I want to say what drives me is that I want to do better and be better," said Kretchman. "I want to make a difference even if it is a small difference. I am self-motivated in that sense that I want to do better, step outside of the box, and challenge myself."



# 2017 SPRING FEST



**O**n April 29, Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi opened its gates to thousands of residents from the local community for the installation's annual Spring Festival.

Highlights of this year's event included both fixed and rotary wing aircraft static displays, food and merchandise booths sponsored by base organizations and live entertainment.

NAF Atsugi has hosted open base community friendship events for nearly 30 years as a means to build closer ties and understanding with the communities around the base and all over Japan.





# VICE PRESIDENT PENCE WRAPS UP FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN



STORY BY MCC BEN FARONE / PHOTOS BY NAF ATSUGI PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Vice President Mike Pence departed Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan via Air Force Two April 19, bringing to a close his first official visit to Japan as the U.S. Vice President.

During the Japan portion of his regional visit, the Vice President traveled to Tokyo where he met with Prime Minister Shinzō Abe and led the inaugural U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue with Deputy

Prime Minister Tarō Asō. The Vice President also participated in a listening session followed by remarks to the U.S. and Japanese business community.

Naval Air Facility Atsugi Commanding Officer, Capt. John Bushey, from Spencer, Iowa, said NAF Atsugi serving as the inaugural naval installation in Japan to host the Vice President on his first official visit here is a great opportunity to highlight





alliance by U.S. Forces, Japan Commander Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez, and gave remarks to Japan-based soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Marines, as well as members of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

During his trip, the Vice President emphasized President Trump's continued commitment to U.S. alliances and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighted the Administration's economic agenda, and underscored America's support for our troops at home and abroad.

the service of Sailors, Families and Civilians at the tip of the spear as well as showcase the base.

"We're extremely honored to have supported the Vice President and his staff during his visit to Japan, and proud our Sailors in Atsugi could participate in welcoming him on his first official visit to Japan," Bushey said.

Continuing the Administration's commitment to rebuilding the U.S. military and to its alliances in the region, the Vice President toured the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) where he received a briefing on the U.S.-Japan





PHOTO BY AEC BUCHANAN © DUNCKER

## Naval Air Facility Atsugi VAW-115 "Liberty Bells"

### DESCRIBE THE CHANGES YOU ANTICIPATE TO YOUR OPERATIONS AFTER YOU TRANSITION BACK TO THE U.S.?

While the Liberty Bells will be based ashore for the months following the homeport change, VAW-115 will take advantage of a wealth of training opportunities, some not available in Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF). These include the Naval Air

Warfare Development Center, aircraft simulators, various joint exercises, and an abundance of E-2C maintenance training and technical resources. With fewer real-world operational demands in the months following our HPC, we will place a larger emphasis on training and long-term grooming of our Sailors and aircraft. Preparation for our subsequent deployment will be per the Optimized Fleet Response Plan, typical for squadrons based in the U.S. Additionally, VAW-115 and other E-2C squadrons at NAS Point Mugu will eventually transition to the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye.

### DO YOU SEE THE SERVICES YOU PROVIDE THE NAVY CHANGING?

The short answer - no. Hawkeyes and Airborne Command and Control are low density, high-demand assets. At NAS Point Mugu we will continue to hone our command and control tactics, techniques and procedures learned during our experience as FDNF warfighters. With the eventual upgrade to E-2D, enhanced detection and communication capabilities will add tremendously to VAW-115's mission set.

### WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE COMMAND'S BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING ITS 40-PLUS YEARS IN JAPAN?

The Liberty Bells have played an integral role during numerous international events. From the late 1970s throughout the 1980s, VAW-115 made eleven deployments to the Indian Ocean and North Arabian Sea, VAW-115 deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1990 as part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, flying 179 combat sorties. VAW-115 saw the Persian Gulf again in 2003 and flew

over 350 hours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2013, we flew more than 80 hours in support of Operation Damayan and the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Lastley, one of our biggest accomplishments is the positive relationships we have developed with the Japanese people and our brothers and sisters in arms of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces.

### WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR DEPARTMENT THAT OTHERS MAY NOT KNOW?

The strength of our squadron is that we treat each other like family. I believe this is the foundation of how we accomplish so much in the FDNF environment with the resource constraints of being the only Hawkeye squadron in Atsugi.

### HOW IS THE COMMAND CLIMATE WITH RESPECT TO RETURNING TO THE U.S.?

The command has been working tirelessly to ensure our aircraft are ready for our Trans-Pacific deployment and to ensure our 170 personnel and their families have a smooth transition. We are excited to demonstrate our level of expertise and experience to our sister E-2C/D squadrons in the United States and to learn from them.

### AS THE SQUADRON PREPARES FOR DEPARTURE, WHAT WILL THE CREW MISS FROM ITS TIME IN JAPAN?

We're going to miss a lot, but most notably the brother/sisterhood of CVW-5, the support of the Japanese people, and the opportunity to experience the Japanese culture. The Badmen are true warfighters. From the pilot to the logistics specialists and everyone in between, they put warfighting first. The Japanese have been generous hosts of the Liberty Bells and CVW-5; we will greatly miss their level of hospitality. While Japan will be missed, we look forward to returning to our roots in southern California.

\*edited for space constraints



## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF VOLUNTEERS WHO OFFERED THEIR TIME TO THE YAMATO STATION CLEANUP DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

Capt. Bushey	CS2 Laster
Capt. Wieman	PS2 Lathrop
CWO5 Valentine	MA2 Mattice
AEC Buchanan	AM2 Mayor
AWFC Calhoon	MA2 Mccohnell
PSC Ching	CS2 Medina
ADCS Cleary	AM2 Nunez
MCC Farone	AM2 Octaviano
AZC Salas	AT2 Ording
AWR1 Adomeit	MA2 Ortiz
LS1 Baker	AZ2 Polancogarcia
CS1 Balaga	MA2 Rash
AS1 Carrilloalvarado	MA2 Rock
MA1 Eck	LS2 Sumilang
MA2 Fickenshcer	MA2 Tomkins
CS1 Gecocillo	AM2 Workman
LS1 Guitierrez	MA3 Carillo
CS1 Hale	AWR3 Chase
LS1 Hammar	CS3 Dacuba
CS1 Hawthorne	MC3 Duncker
PR1 Kochman	CS2 Hunt
AM2 Labaro	CS3 Kady
LS1 Matel	AM3 Kitashiro
PS1 Mercy	MA3 Salekolder
MA1 Sayles	MA3 Sula
CS1 Tenchavez	PR3 Williams
AM1 Villanueva	SN Allen
QM2 Chimenti	MASN Buckley
CS2 Corral	MASN Holland
AM2 Douangdara	MASN Morales
MA2 Doubet	CSSN Pascual
AZ2 Gonzalez	YNSN Zertuche
MA2 Hall	SR Greer
AT2 Hoadley	SR Taylor
PS2 Khanh	Sam Samuelson
MA2 Lafayette	

THANK YOU!



Flight Line News Briefs are compiled monthly news reports from squadrons, tenant commands, departments and command groups onboard Naval Air Facility Atsugi.

### FFSC

In preparation of the impending Carrier Air Wing Five (CVW-5) homeport shift from NAF Atsugi to MCAS Iwakuni, spouses from VFA-115 and VFA-195 recently completed a special session of Ombudsman Basic Training. FFSC Atsugi Ombudsman Coordinator, Eldotha Fields, facilitated the training for two ombudsmen and one command support team member. With this increased knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of an ombudsman, they are full of confidence and eager to provide invaluable support to their command families.

### VFA-195

The "Dambusters," recently concluded a fourth Benkyoukai exercise consisting of bilateral air-to-air training with F-4EJ Phantom II aircraft from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) 301st and 302nd Tactical Fighter Squadrons stationed at Hyakuri Air Base. VFA-115 and VAW-115 also participated in the latest iteration of the Benkyoukai initiative, which was developed in 2016 to improve the interoperability between partner nations. The week ended with CVW-5 maintainers and aircrew traveling to Hyakuri to learn about JASDF daily operations and build camaraderie.

### Public Works

PWD Seabees kicked off a MWR fence project of approximately

1700 linear feet at Reid Field. This fence project has labor cost of over \$80K but the Seabees cut the cost to \$0. This project is part of the base improvement plan which will increase morale and improve standard of living of base residents.

### BHC Atsugi

BHC Atsugi now has a kiosk near the main check-in desk which provides easy access to Relay Health, Ice Comments and Tricare Online. You can also find information and videos on diabetes, heart disease, nutrition and other medical inquiries through the E-Health Website. Relay Health makes it easier to get in touch with your provider, track health information and make appointments. It's safe and secure for your non urgent needs.

### MWR / CYP

The 2017 Asia Military Youth of the Year competition concluded at Club Trilogy April 7 with speeches and a celebratory dinner. Ten talented candidates ages 14-18 from Pacific region military installations gathered to learn, explore, lead, and compete. NAF Atsugi's CYP hosted this year's competition in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of America. Nicholas Cary, Jr. of Kadena Air Base, was selected as the Asia Military Youth of the Year, and will compete in the next round of competitions this summer.





SERVICE & SACRIFICE

MEMORIAL DAY



MAY 29, 2017