

DDYJ's Sasebo detachment celebrates 1,000 days accident free

By Jonathan Lontoc, DDYJ Public Affairs

The Sasebo detachment of the Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ), achieved a major safety milestone Apr. 30 when it celebrated 1,000 days of operations without an accident.

“Monthly safety training by the section leaders, and our employees training on-site with peers about safety have significantly contributed to this great success,” said Youicho Matsuura, the Deputy Director of DDYJ Detachment Sasebo.

The Sasebo detachment is a significant factor in the success of its Yokosuka counterpart that recently received a safety award from the

Defense Distribution Center (DDC). As a whole, DDYJ has operated for four fiscal years – 2002 through 2005 – with a lost-time case rate less than 1.0.

The lost-time case rate approximates the number of work days lost due to accidents for every 200,000 hours worked. DDYJ worked more than 4 million hours during the four year period.

“With over four hundred employees, achieving a lost time case rate of less than 1.0 is quite a feat,” said CDR Will A. Clarke, SC, USN, DDYJ’s Commanding Officer. “As a world-class distribution center, the team here fully believes that *anzien da ichi* – our efforts and practices are paying off.”

DDYJ Safety Officer Ken Augustine said the rate was well below the average lost-time case rate for commercial warehousing operations. “A lost time case rate of 1.0 puts us among the very best companies in the U.S.,” he said. So far this year, DDYJ’s lost time case rate is .46, a rate that puts it on par with some of the safest business operations

in the world.

The Department of Defense (DOD) began focusing on safety several years ago when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld challenged all DOD organizations to reduce their accident rates by 50 percent over a two year period. DDYJ was the first of DDC’s large distribution centers to meet that goal, and it has since beaten its previous year’s record.

DDYJ is the largest DLA activity in the Pacific region, providing distribution support to Carrier Strike Group (CSG) warships stationed in Yokosuka, the Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) in Sasebo, as well as the ships and major industrial shore commands in Japan, Singapore, Diego Garcia and the Middle East.

While DDYJ continues to serve its customers in the West Pacific and Middle East, the recipe for maintaining a safe work environment stays on track toward another successful – and safe – year.



Yasutaka Fujimatsu, the leader of DDYJ Det Sasebo Detachment local delivery section, oversees a pier-side delivery. “Accurate and timely delivery operations, with no mishaps, have been performed for years under Mr. Fujimatsu’s supervision here in Sasebo,” said Youicho Matsuura, the deputy director for DDYJ Detachment Sasebo.



Work safely.