

# Parade to ignite Fire Prevention Week

By Esther Dacanay

Torii Editor

The Fire and Safety departments of U.S. Army Garrison Japan will be celebrating *Fire Prevention Week* Oct. 7 – 12. A parade will be held at 1 p.m. Oct. 7 at Camp Zama and 3 p.m. the same day at the Sagamihara Family Housing Area and will kick start the week's activities.

The upstanding theme for the week is "*Do You Practice Your Evacuation Plan?*" Although most people don't make it a habit of practicing safety evacuation plans in their home on a regular basis, activities during *Fire Prevention Week* are meant to encourage education and prevention of fire hazards, according to Camp Zama Fire Chief Tim Bosch.

"This is our opportunity to get people together and help them make a plan," he said. "Good luck is always a fortunate thing, but most fires are caused by people."

Luckily, says Bosch, the Camp Zama community has experienced a fire-safe year. However, safety begins with education.

New to the fire safety program are two methods with which the Camp Zama Fire Department uses to help educate community members about fire safety methods in their homes. When new community members attend the Newcomers' Briefing through Army Community Service, they are given a 25-minute briefing on fire safety. This program began in July.

Furthermore, Bosch said, before newcomers are given a key to their home on post, they are required to review a fire safety Power Point presentation through the Housing Department, which incorporates digital photos on fire prevention and safety techniques in the event a fire were to break out in the home. Implemented in August, this program covers topics including: how to put out oil and stove fires; how to operate a fire extinguisher; and who to contact in case of an emergency. A certificate of completion is given to incoming housing occupants who have completed the briefing.

"Throughout the year, fire departments always practice fire safety," said Bosch, who first arrived at Camp Zama in July from Pope Air Force Base. "This year, we're reaching out a little bit more by going out into the community, touching base at the schools, the post exchange and through Army Community Service."

During the week, the Camp Zama Fire Department will host an "open house" to allow students of all grade levels to visit the fire stations, witness fire safety demonstrations, try on fire protection gear and climb onto a fire truck. The fire station "open house" days are scheduled for 2:30 – 4 p.m. Oct. 10 at Sagamihara Family Housing Area and 2:30 – 4 p.m. Oct. 11 at Camp Zama.

Additional fire safety promotions held throughout the week will include contests to engage children and youth in practicing fire safety. A coloring picture contest will be held for children in grades 1 – 3, a fire escape plan contest will be held for grades 4 – 6 and a fire safety campaign poster contest will be held for middle and high school-aged students. Winners at all grade levels will receive various prizes donated by the Camp Zama Post Exchange, Zama Community Spouses' Association and vendors working with Morale, Welfare & Recreation.


In addition to the prizes, the winning color picture from the 1 – 3 grade contest will be framed and hung at the Camp Zama Fire Station. The winning fire safety campaign poster from the middle and high school contest will be displayed throughout the community and five school points will be granted to that grade level.

For the contest given to grades 4 – 6, Bosch said, "The children might put together a really good escape plan and help generate ideas we haven't yet thought of."

Throughout the week, the Camp Zama Fire Department will also be holding fire prevention classes at the schools by taking a fire prevention trailer, which is built like a small home, to allow small children to crawl through it to learn how to stay low when smoke is in the air and get out of the house safely.

Brochures on fire safety are available at the Camp Zama and SHA fire stations. For more information on *Fire Prevention Week* activities, call 263-3356.





## A Purple Ribbon Campaign

**FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM, 263-HELP (4357)**

October is Domestic Abuse Prevention Month in the Army. The Army theme for the year 2007 is "Army Strong: There in No Excuse for Domestic Abuse" Purple Ribbons and free literature will be distributed. The Purple Ribbon is the National symbol that is often used to recognize and support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. In order to provide information and education to strengthening families, the Family Advocacy Program will offer a variety of workshops at ACS, 11 am - 1 pm during the month of October as follows:

Anger Management: 10 October • Stress Reduction: 19 October • Couple Communication: 25 October • Healthy Relationships: 31 October

Workshops are also planned for teens and children. All classes are free and require preregistration. Please contact ACS at 263-8327 to register. If you, your unit, or organization would like to schedule a class, workshop or seminar on topics such as spouse and child abuse prevention, reporting and referral procedures, safety education, family life enhancement, stress management, survival tips for parents, etc., contact the Family Advocacy Program Manager at 263-8327.

- **The Reporting Point of Contact (RPOC)** for suspected child abuse and spouse abuse is the Military Police at 263-3002. Reports of domestic violence may be made on a restricted basis only to the following designated personnel: military health care providers, Family Advocacy clinical social workers at Behavioral Health Services at 263-4610, and the Family Advocacy Program Manager (FAPM) at 263-8327. Information provided in restricted reports will not be disclosed automatically to command or law enforcement. Access to medical care, forensic examination, advocacy, intervention and support will be provided. Contact Lúcia Trimble-Smith at 263-8327 for additional information about domestic violence restricted and unrestricted reporting.
- **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPRP)**  
This is a commander's program designed to help prevent sexual assault through increased awareness and training and to provide information and resources if sexual assault occurs. An individual who is sexually assaulted may report the incident in a restricted or unrestricted manner. To make a restricted report, contact a medical provider, chaplain, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) at 263-8057 or the on-call Unit Victim Advocate at 090-9395-8909. To make an unrestricted report, contact the Military Police at 263-3002, the chain of command, or the SARC at 263-8327 or 080-5080-0430.