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# CFAY

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## CFAY Observes Joyous Season



Photos by Taylor Ardito, Garrett Cole, and  
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# AROUND CFAY

## CFAY Holds 75<sup>th</sup> International Christmas Celebration



Story and photos by Garrett Cole, CFAY Public Affairs

**A**t Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), the holiday season is in full swing, marked by the annual International Christmas Celebration (ICC) at the Chapel of Hope. This year's event, significant for its 75th anniversary of the chapel, continues strengthening the bonds between American and Japanese communities.

On Dec. 3, the ICC, a tradition nearly four decades old, welcomed approximately 120 guests from eight local churches and the Japanese Evangelical Missionary Association (JEMA). "The ICC is a vivid representation of our shared values and the strong bond between our countries," said the CFAY commander during the celebration.

The Chapel of Hope, a spiritual and community cornerstone at CFAY since its dedication on March 21, 1948, has seen generations gather under its roof. This year's celebration featured an exhibition of historical photos, highlighting the chapel's role in fostering unity and cultural exchange.

Special guests Mr. Shiro Yagai and Mr. Yoshito Yagai, who have ties to the chapel's early history, were in attendance, adding a personal touch to the event's rich tapestry of history and relationships.

Cmdr. David Kim, Command Chaplain for CFAY, shared a



**Capt. Leslie Sobol, Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), gives opening remarks at the 40th annual International Christmas Celebration held at CFAY's Chapel of Hope. The celebration was open to all denominations to celebrate the holiday season with fellowship, food, and a Sunday service.**

poignant message about the evening's theme, "Hope."

"Hope is not just a feeling; it's a driving force," Chaplain Kim said. "It brings us together, fuels our resilience, and fosters a sense of community, especially in times of uncertainty."

The ICC also featured vibrant musical performances, adding to the festive atmosphere. The Yokosuka Citizenship Committee Gospel Choir and the CFAY Protestant Worship team delivered stirring renditions that captivated the audience, underscoring the evening's theme of hope and unity.

Following the CFAY Tree Lighting and Breakfast with Santa, these events are a testament to the base's vibrant and inclusive holiday spirit. The ICC, in particular, stands as a beacon of hope and friendship, symbolizing the enduring partnership between Japan and the United States.

For more than 75 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.

