

Coast Guard Hosts Japanese Delegates

Story by PA3 James Judge, D7 Public Affairs

MIAMI – Coast Guard Capt. Karl L. Schultz, commander of Coast Guard Sector Miami and Captain of the Port for South Florida along with his command cadre met with Japanese government officials for a mid-May lunch in an effort to foster a better understanding of each others cultures and how each are affected by commerce and port facility issues in South Florida.



Miami -- Pictured above from left to right is Minoru Higchi, Consulate General of Japan, Capt. Karl Schultz, Cmdr. Sheryl Dickinson and members of Higchi's delegation. Coast Guard photograph.

With more than 50,000 Japanese tourists visiting the Great State of Florida annually and the vast amount of trade done with Japan, the Consul General, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, found it beneficial to meet with the Coast Guard's Miami leaders to get to know their local South Florida Coast Guard and to discuss how the Coast Guard operates.

The lunch was traditional Japanese cuisine, eaten with chop sticks. For the American guests, mastery of the use of these foreign utensils went generally well.

"It should be noted that there was some consternation and concern when the soup course was presented, and chop sticks remained the utensil of choice," said Schultz.

During and after the delightful luncheon, important issues were discussed, such as tourism and the Japanese's economic footprint on South Florida as well as their shipping and trade.

"With interface points on the maritime trade front, and with Japanese tourists often engaged in waterborne activities while tourists here in Florida, a better understanding of Coast Guard roles and missions was deemed important by the Consul General and senior members of his staff as well," said Schultz.

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