

NAVAL WEATHER SERVICE FACILITY  
YOKOSUKA, JAPAN



Change of Command Ceremony

1030  
23 AUGUST 1976

# **PROGRAM**

**Japanese National Anthem**

**United States National Anthem**

**Invocation**

**Commander Harold L. BAAR, CHC, USN**

**Remarks**

**Rear Admiral Thomas B. RUSSELL Jr., USN  
Commander, U. S. Naval Forces Japan**

**Remarks and Reading of Orders**

**Commander James L. GILCHRIST, USN**

**Reading of Orders and Remarks**

**Commander Neil F. O'CONNOR, USN**

**Benediction**

**Commander Harold L. BAAR, CHC, USN**

**Music – U. S. Seventh Fleet Band**



**JAMES LEON GILCHRIST  
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY**

Commander James Leon Gilchrist, U. S. Navy, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Majoring in business and mathematics, he graduated in June 1956.

He entered the Navy immediately through Officer Candidate School and was assigned for his first tour of duty to Patrol Squadron Eight at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, as a tactical navigator. His second tour of duty was with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two based at Rota, Spain.

After two fleet tours his third duty precipitated his conversion to meteorology as his specialty. This duty was at the U. S. Naval Post Graduate School in 1963 where he specialized in Air/Ocean Environmental Interaction. His studies involved equal emphasis on atmospheric and ocean phenomena. All subsequent tours of duty have been in Environmental Science.

From 1965 through 1967 he served as Forecast Duty Officer and Satellite Officer at the Fleet Weather Central Guam. He then served as ship staff meteorologist aboard the USS Hornet (CVS-12). After a subsequent tour of two years as operations officer at the Alameda Weather Central he was assigned as Officer in Charge of the Naval Weather Service Environmental Detachment Moffett Field, Ca., from 1971 to 1973.

This led to his command tour as Commanding Officer, Naval Weather Service Facility, Yokosuka, Japan. This command administratively and operationally controls all U. S. Naval Weather units in the Pacific Ocean west of Guam and the Indian Ocean office on Diego Garcia. The Naval Weather Service Facility was established by Commander Gilchrist in 1974.

Commander Gilchrist will be reporting to the staff of CINCPACFLT in September for duty as meteorologist.

He is married to the former Tina Jones of Chicago, Illinois. The Gilchrists have one son, Jai Leon age 15.



**NEIL F. O'CONNOR**  
**COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY**

Commander Neil F. O'Connor was born 1 April 1928 in Homer, Nebraska. He enlisted in the Navy in 1945 and following basic training, attended the Aerographer's Mate School at Lakehurst, N.J. His first assignment was to a weather station at Eniwetok, M.I. followed by duty aboard the USS MT MCKINLEY (AGC-7), Naval Station Adak, Alaska, the USS MT OLYMPUS (AGC-8), and the Naval Station Argentia, Newfoundland. In 1951 he was promoted to Chief Aerographer's Mate.

In 1957 Commander O'Connor was commissioned and assigned duty with the National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Md, and in June 1958 was ordered to the 6950th Radio Group, USAFSS, Chicksands, England. In July 1960 he was assigned to the National Security Agency European Headquarters at Frankfurt, Germany. From 1961 to 1963 then Lt. O'Connor attended the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, Ca., where he graduated with a degree in Meteorology. This was followed by assignment to the Naval Weather Facility Yokosuka where he served as senior watch officer and forecaster. In 1967 he was ordered as meteorologist to the USS YORKTOWN (CV-10), homeported in Long Beach, Ca. From 1969 to 1973 he served as Special Assistant to the Commander, Naval Weather Service Command, Washington, D.C. In August 1973 CDR O'Connor reported for instruction at the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. Upon graduation in July 1974, he reported as Fleet Meteorologist on the Staff of the Commander, Seventh Fleet, embarked in the USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CG-5).

Commander O'Connor is a graduate of the University of Maryland, and graduated with a Masters Degree in Systems Analysis from the University of California.

He is married to the former Jean Ellen Cabel, of Washington, D. C. They are the parents of three daughters and two sons, Catherine, Christine, Cynthia, Charles and Cornelius.

## HISTORY OF U.S. NAVAL WEATHER SERVICE FACILITY, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

United States Naval Weather Service Facility, Yokosuka, Japan is a component of the world wide Naval Weather Service under the office of Director, Naval Oceanography and Meteorology. The Commanding Officer also serves as the Staff Meteorologist for the Commander, U. S. Naval Forces Japan. Other activities comprising this command are the U. S. Naval Weather Service Environmental Detachments at Atsugi and Misawa (in Honshu); Kadena, Okinawa; Cubi Point, Philippines and Diego Garcia. The command also provides Meteorological and Oceanographic Equipment Technical Services to Seventh Fleet Units and Military Sealift Command ships in the area, as well as the Navy and Marine units at NAF Atsugi, MCAS Iwakuni, NAF Kadena, NAF Misawa and MCAS(H) Futema.

In 1952, during the Korean War, it became necessary to enlarge the U. S. Naval weather service in Japan. Several locations were discussed, including Tokyo, Oppama, Yokosuka and Atsugi. Yokosuka was finally selected and an advanced unit was set up in the present building which had formally been used as the Imperial Japanese Navy signal tower. This building is designated F-71 at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. In 1957 Naval Weather Services were reorganized and the Fleet Weather Central was redesignated as a Fleet Weather Facility. In 1971 another re-designation to Naval Weather Service Environmental Detachment was accomplished. The current Naval Weather Service Facility was established on 1 July 1974. The basic mission of the command is as follows; "To provide, within local and/or functional area of responsibility, detailed meteorological and related services to the Naval Establishment as directed." Some of the tasks that are performed by the Naval Weather Service Facility Yokosuka are:

1. Prepare local forecasts for the Yokosuka, Camp Fuji and Sasebo areas and for local ship operating areas.
2. Issue wind warnings for Tokyo Bay and Sasebo areas and disseminate tropical warnings issued by FWC/JTWC Guam.
3. Prepare climatological studies.
4. Providing meteorological training to fleet and shore activities.
5. Provide command and support for specific weather detachments in the Western Pacific.
6. Conduct liaison with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and the Japanese Meteorological Agency on environmental matters.

The Naval Weather Service Facility is also assigned the responsibility of Alternate Joint Typhoon Warning Center with the U. S. Air Force Weather detachment at Yokota Air Base in the event the FWC/JTWC Guam becomes incapacitated.

