

CFAS Town Hall Meeting

Main Base Chapel

April 21, 2026

CFAS - Installation focused talking points and Q & A:

Talking Points

- CFAS welcomes its next CMC, Master Chief Luis Creollo, who will be relieving CMDCM Benavidez in May.
- Expect all housing and office spaces to switch to A/C by the end of this week.
- Turn on your dehumidifiers if you haven't done so already to prevent mold.
- Utilize the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system to report discrepancies or suggestions for how to improve installation facilities and services. It is highly encouraged to include contact information so we can provide responses to best support you and your needs.
- Single and unaccompanied deployed personnel who will not be able to pay their Road Tax prior to the 31 May deadline will not incur a penalty from the National Tax Agency. Deployed members will have several working days after they return in order to pay their Road Tax. If you plan to depart the area after returning from deployment, ensure your Road Tax is paid prior to departure to avoid a penalty. Deployed personnel with spouses in Sasebo are not exempt and must pay Road Tax by the deadline.
- If a deployed member's stateside driver's license expires while they are deployed, the CO can issue an extension of their SOFA driver's license. The service member should submit an Exception to Policy (ETP) letter to retain driving privileges in Japan while they renew their stateside license.
- As a reminder, resources are available through FFSC and BHC Sasebo for anyone who needs mental health or healthcare services. These include mental health providers, Military and Family Life Counselors, and Chaplains. Contact FFSC for an extensive list of resources for service members and their families. Military One Source also has free

counseling options available. Lastly, keep an eye on BHC Sasebo's Facebook page for more information on mental health resources available through the Headspace app.

Q & A:

- Q1: "Can we get an update on the status of the switch installation for Hario athletic field lights? At the last town hall, we were told that the goal was to be installed and operational by the start of the summer 2026."
- A1: "In January time frame, there was a switch installed. We unfortunately didn't quite get it right the first go around. It's positioned a little bit high for people to be able to access. So, we're working together with Public Works to get that moved down. In addition, in the fall time frame, we're working on installing a button that will give you the ability to turn the lights on for 90 minute intervals."
- Q2: "So right now, how does the switch work? If they turn the switch on, when do the lights turn off?"
- A2: "The light switch, as it is now, is similar to what Nimitz Park has. It turns the lights on and leaves them on and turns them off when you hit it again."
- Q3: "But we will install one in the fall that will be a 90 minute one? And then if the 90 minutes are up and they're still playing, they just hit the button again?"
- A3: "Yes."
- Q4: "When Hario has their day-long power outage, is it possible for the Hario Commissary to open on Monday after the outage? This way, we do not lose access to the commissary for two days on these weeks. Alternatively, perhaps the planned outage could occur on Monday instead?"
- A4: "The planned outages are done on the weekends because it's the least impact to everyone. Yes, we can arrange that for you. When we have to have a power outage on Sunday, we can open (the Hario Commissary) on Monday. With the upcoming May 9th Saturday power outage, we are actually opening Early Bird from 0700 to 0845 for those people who want to come. Because I know the very next day will be Mother's Day. And after power comes back on, I'm not sure what time, hopefully before 1600, then we'll

post it on Facebook, and we will reopen until 1900, instead, so we'll give you time to shop.”

- Q5: “When will the Hario Housing be able to receive packages from black cat and other delivery companies like main base does?”
- A5: “They are allowed right now to go into housing in Hario, which has been true for two and a half years. However, they have declined to complete the process because in their eyes it’s not worth their time because there are not enough deliveries. The delivery drivers who work that area have said that they don't want to share their personal information with the base, so we cannot give them a pass. Whereas it's different on main base because the same driver who delivers to Dragon Vale housing also makes deliveries on Main Base to commands, and they have a larger volume of packages. We have talked on several occasions with the company and the driver to encourage them to come and obtain access. We've made it as easy as possible as we can for them, and they have elected not to. It's not us that’s preventing them from coming and delivering on the installation. It is solely a choice by the driver.”
- Q6: “Is that just Black Cat or other companies that deliver?”
- A6: “There are at least two or three delivery services that we've seen down there, and I am tracking right now that none of them have come and delivered their information to receive a pass to deliver packages to Hario.”
- Q7: “At the moment, we don't really have any group fitness classes in Hario. I was wondering if there were any plans for that in the future?”
- A7: “Yes, there are. There are always plans for group exercise classes, and if you're interested in getting certified, or if you know or have friends who are interested in these classes, you can all join our fitness team.”
- Q8: “Regarding the car rental service in Hario, and it was possible we can get one of the flatbed or Kei trucks?”
- A8: “There is an equipment request to buy that. It won’t be immediate, but it is in the works.”

CNSGWP Det Sasebo – Fleet focused talking points and Q & A:

**Please note: Some responses have been summarized or redacted due to operational security reasons and some issues may have changed or already addressed since the questions/issues were submitted in advance of the town hall meeting.*

Talking Points

- **Mail:** Expect most Sailors to get mail that has been sent prior to April 1st to be delivered through Singapore within the next week. Mail should've started flowing already to our ships that are already over in 5th Fleet. They do appreciate their packages, and ask that you please understand that while logistics are improving, it is still an issue while they're operating. The logistic trains that we have to get food, parts, people, and mail out to the sailors in 5th Fleet with the ongoing conflict is taking longer than usual. Things have to get prioritized to get out to the ships. First and foremost is getting dry and frozen food out to them. Next priority is sending parts, and then the third priority is getting the packages and personal mail sent out. As you may have seen on the news, there are a lot of ships operating over there, so things are taking a little longer than normal to get out to them.
- **Communication:** Communications remain an issue. If anybody's sailor does not get back to you via a messaging application, have no fear. You can utilize their government email, i.e. their ship-based email. If that does not work, feel free to utilize your ombudsman, your respective ship's Command Master Chief, or even Master Chief Pittinger. Most likely your Sailor is in a limited communications environment.
- **Social Media:** Be aware of fake posts on social media. If anything happens, you will hear updates through official channels. Additionally, certain ship Triad biographies were removed by higher headquarters due to family members receiving threatening correspondence. If you receive any form of harassment due to your spouse's or family member's involvement in the ongoing efforts in the Middle East, report those incidents to CFAS Security who will take action and work with NCIS.
- **Pay & Allowances:** Sailors should be getting family separation allowance, IDP (imminent danger pay) tax free. Most of this should show up on their April Leave and Earnings Statement (LES). If they are not on there, please make sure your Sailor reaches out to their respective personnel office to let them know so they get those entitlements. For ships that are still operating in 7th Fleet, they do not get those additional entitlements.

- Powers of Attorney: If for some reason you need a Special Power of Attorney, please let your Sailor know and they can work with the legal office on their ship to get a Special Power of Attorney.
- Ships' Schedules: We ask for patience in regards to scheduling and truly appreciate our service members [in 5th Fleet] and those here on the home front during this time.
- OPHOLD: For Sailors on OPHOLD, they will keep their follow-on orders. If they run into any issues here, the Sailor should reach out to their chain of command. For example, if your orders are ending in May and you are concerned about the impacts to housing, the Sailor should reach out to their chain of command and work with the CFAS Housing Office here and we will address that.
- Pre-Deployment Checklists: Utilize resources at FFSC such as the deployment support handbooks to prepare for upcoming deployments, especially if it is the first time you and your family are experiencing it.
- OPSEC: Operational Security remains paramount. Sailors are limited in what they can tell their families regarding ship schedules and movements. Families should keep OPSEC in mind as well, especially when posting on social media. Utilize your Ombudsman as well if you have any questions.

Q & A:

- Q1: What is happening with people who were supposed to be PCSing during the now extended deployment? How are we handling the families here in Sasebo?"
- A1: These are handled on a case-by-case basis. We are trying to ensure detailers do not lose their follow-on orders and the personnel teams on board the ships and the command triads are actively managing that situation.
- Q2: "Are some being OPHELD?"
- A2: "For clarification, an OPHOLD is an Operational Hold due to operational commitments which require a Sailor to remain aboard the ship. Currently, flying personnel into and out of the Gulf is challenging which causes inbound Sailors' arrivals to be delayed. Right now, there are OPHOLDS in place by each of the ships, and as the schedule opens up, those Sailors will be allowed to transfer."

- Q3: “We know you can't comment on the schedule. When might we expect to get some concrete information on it? How will that message be transmitted to families? Asking because there can be up to three different sources: either the Commodore, the ships, and the Surface Group.”
- A3: “We'll all hear from the ships and the Commodore first. And information will flow through Ombudsman to get information out to the families.”
- Q4: “When, when might we know the schedule?”
- A4: “Because ship schedules are not for public release, we cannot comment on that. The expected schedule can change multiple times in one day at this point. We appreciate everybody's flexibility, and as we get closer and those shifts are directed to return, that information will start flowing through command triads and through the outlets.”
- Q5: “There has been a lot of press coverage lately on the messing situation. Can you give us a rundown of the real supply chain getting to the ships? What can we say to families in the U.S to reassure them of the crew's well-being? What is the prognosis for getting care packages to them?”
- A5: “We have no reports of ships that are running out of food or rationing. We spoke to the Commanding Officer of one of the ships recently, and he assured me they had adequate food. While there were initial delays in shipments, the food and the supplies are getting out to the ships in that region.
- Q6: “It seems that we are about to run into High School graduations getting missed. And is there a way to facilitate a recording? I know you can't rely on Wi-Fi, especially in OPSEC environments, but there are a lot of seniors graduating that are going to be missed. And I'm wondering if we can do something about that?”
- A6: “I (DoWEA Representative) will speak with our district leadership as well as our E.J. King leadership to see what we can do as we get closer to graduation.”
- Q7: “My understanding is that USS New Orleans doesn't have an attorney that can sign off on wills. I've asked a couple of times if I could get some feedback on when you can make that happen.”
- A7: “At a minimum, ships that don't have attorneys have legal officers that are able to reach out to the PHIBRON JAG. But I will take that question back to leadership to see what that process is for the New Orleans and other ships that don't have JAGs on board.”

- Q8: “We’re part of a Minesweeper family. We were just wondering, is there any update that you're allowed to give us just on sweeps in general besides what the news is telling us obviously?”
- A8: “As we've seen, there may have been naval mines put in the water in anger and the minesweepers in Bahrain were recently taken out of Bahrain. So, there is a need for [minesweepers from Sasebo] to help in removal of these mines from the waters there.”
- Q9: “I have orders to the Tripoli, and I was wondering, what is the likelihood that you will continue efforts to have Sailors meet the ship, or are we going to continue to stand by?”
- A9: “Due to logistical issues in that region, it is difficult to send Sailors out there. We are doing everything possible to get Sailors to the ships in that region, but with commercial airline service disruptions in the region, it is causing delays.”