

JUMP (Japan U.S. Military Program) @Port Tampa Bay



On February 16th, Consul General Ken Okaniwa hosted the JUMP reception thanks to the generosity of Mr. Paul Anderson, CEO of Port Tampa Bay. JUMP, the Japan U.S. Military program connects past and present service members, families and government civilians who have served in Japan, and builds relationships and provides opportunities for service members to engage with Japan.

About 100 people were in attendance. The reception brought together U.S. service members at CENTCOM and veterans in the Tampa area, as well as representatives from local community organizations, including Port Tampa Bay, sister-cities, Association of Florida Teachers of Japan, and the Japanese community of Tampa.

In his opening remarks, Consul General Okaniwa spoke about the value of the U.S. – Japan alliance for stability of the East Asia region. He also thanked the U.S. for their support in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. In response, CENTCOM Lieutenant General William D. Beydler talked about his experience in Operation “Tomodachi” which provided emergency humanitarian relief in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, and emphasized the importance of the U.S. – Japan alliance.

The Consulate General of Japan in Miami cherishes the links with the U.S. service members who served in Japan, and hopes to maintain contact with them.