



## KUSHIRO - The Best Port Call Ever!

After completing FleetEx RUSH was given permission to visit Kushiro, Japan, for four days. This marked the first time in four years that a Coast Guard cutter had visited Japan.

Kushiro, one of the largest cities on the island of Hok-

kaido, is the major home of the Japanese deep sea fishing fleet that we see and board in Alaska during Alpat's. Thus the visit to Japan served two purposes; crew rest and relaxation and a chance to meet the people in charge of the Japanese fishing

fleet.

The island of Hokkaido is the second largest and most northern of the Japanese Home Islands, and Kushiro is located on the southeastern coast.

The people of Kushiro gave the crew a very warm welcome. Upon RUSH's arrival on 19 April, the mayor of the city greeted the Command with gifts of flowers and welcome speeches. Each member of the crew was presented a pin. The city also hosted receptions for RUSH's officers and arranged for 100 crewmembers to tour the city and outlying tourist attractions on the Island. The sulfur pits were the highlight of the tour, though some were disappointed that they did not get a chance to bathe in the hot springs.

RUSH opened house and over 2200 Kushiro citizens toured the cutter, some waiting in the rain to board. RUSH crewmembers responded to their new friends and donated 25 pints of blood to the local blood bank. Some visited