CFAY Sailors prepare for advancement exam with training session

By MC2 Nardelito Gervacio, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

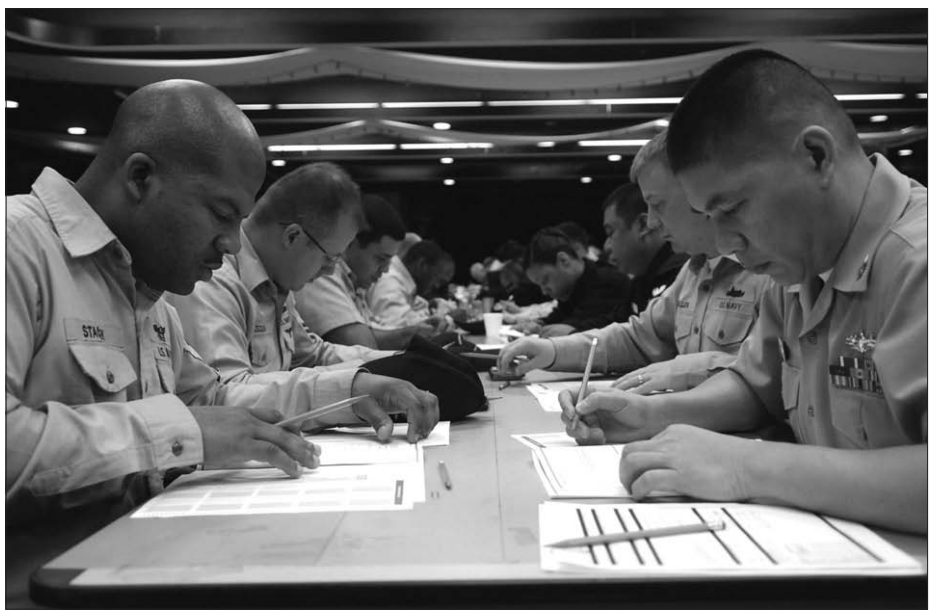
More than 20 Sailors from various shore commands and ships at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), participated in an advancement training session at Commodore Matthew C. Perry General Mess on Jan. 21, in an effort to help prepare them for the upcoming Navy-wide advancement exam.

According to event organizer, Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Randall Clift of Enid, Okla., the training focused on the many tools, references and resources available to all Sailors getting ready for an advancement exam.

"The goal of the study group is to help Sailors," said Clift. "We go over the exam bibliography and answer any questions anyone has about the test."

During the three-hour training session, Sailors learned how to navigate the Navy's professional military knowledge Web site, and learn the following subjects: watch standing, communications, Navy history, organization, personal relations, basic seamanship, ships and aircraft characteristics, customs and courtesies, personal financing, uniforms and formations.

"The Web site is another tool the Navy has out there that people don't really utilize, because they don't know about it," said Clift. "I try to do this every advancement cycle because there is nothing more important than our junior Sailors advancing, because they are the future of the Navy."



First class petty officers from various commands at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka participate in the Navy-wide chief petty officer advancement examination at the base enlisted club Jan. 15.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Charles Oki

Clift pointed out that the advancement training is designed for Sailors who wish to receive more professional education than what is written in the pages of a book.

"I'm here today to get some knowledge on advancement and hopefully make E-4 next exam cycle," said Machinist's Mate Fireman Efrain Rodriguez of Houston, Texas. "I also got some really good information on the Web site about my rating."

Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW) Lenworth Griffith of Brooklyn, N.Y., attended the training for personal gain and to add a new tool to his leadership toolbox.

"I came here to help improve myself and get some important knowledge about the upcoming exam," Griffith said. "I will pass along what I learned today to my shipmates."

New guidance to non-designated Sailors rating exam preparation

By Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

The Navy issued new guidance Jan. 14 for non-designated Sailors seeking to participate in the March Navywide Advancement examination.

NAVADMIN 014/09 Rating Entry for General Apprentices (REGA) updates existing guidance and provides an overview of forthcoming changes to the rating entry process for non-designated Sailors.

According to the message, rating entry procedures, rating eligibility requirements and rating entry specific notes contained in last year's NAVADMIN 197/08 remains in effect with the following modifications:

• Applications for approval-required ratings must be submitted by Feb. 15.

• Sailors requesting entry into the mass communication specialist (MC) rating must have a command endorsed NAVPERS 1306/7, submit published articles and photos, and have an MC E-7 or above endorsement.

• Entry into USN aviation ratings is restricted to General Detail (GENDET) airmen and Professional Apprentice Career Tracks (A-Pact) Sailors only. ASVAB waivers for rating eligibility will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Commands are required to use the Fleet Rating Identification Engine (Fleet Ride) at https://fleetride.sscno.nmci.navy.mil to validate qualifications for the desired rating. Point of contact for access to Fleet Ride is Paul Martin at (901) 874-2970/DSN 882 or e-mail at paul.d.martin@navy.mil.

Commands shall use ASVAB criteria contained in NAVADMIN 344/06 and the eligibility criteria in MILPERSMAN 1306-618 for rating entry. Waivers beyond these limits will be submitted to the cognizant enlisted community manager.

USS Lassen remembers, celebrates life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Story and photo by MCSN Charles Oki, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

The crew of *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) celebrated the life of famed civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a ceremony held in the ship's mess decks Jan. 19.

The ceremony, hosted by *Lassen's* cultural committee included opening remarks by the commanding officer, as well as a recital of King's famous "I have a dream" speech, and concluded with a cake cutting.

"It's easy to judge someone by the way they look or act," said Cmdr. Anthony Simmons, commanding officer of the *Lassen*. "I can look across this ship and say that I don't feel that anyone is measured by their particular background or where they come from. Everyone is here because they bring something unique to *USS Lassen*. The key thing is to respect people and to respect what people bring to the table."

Following the commanding officer's remarks, King's biography was read followed by a recital of his infamous "I have a dream" speech that he made at the Lincoln Memorial.

"I'm happy to be here, I'm happy to be a part of this - this day especially," said Operation's Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Miranda Queen, from Baton Rouge, La.

Queen noted how the observance came just in time for the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the first African-American president of the United States.

"We've made history this year," said Queen. "Tomorrow we'll have the first black president. It shows that after all these years we've maintained King's dream and we've carried it out."

***USS Lassen* (DDG 82) Commanding Officer Cmdr. Anthony Simmons, cuts the ceremonial cake as the officers and crew enjoy a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Jan. 19.**