

Sailor of the Week Introduced

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RECOGNITION

NAVAL AIR FACILITY, Japan – Sailor of the week is a title granted to a different Sailor on board Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi once a week who has shown exemplary skill and work ethic within their shop and rate.

This week's Sailor of the Week is Legalman 1st Class (LN1) John Mark Robeson McBroom who hails from Los Angeles, California and the son of Catherine Pauline McBroom and Dr. Marcus Samuel Washington McBroom (Deceased). McBroom enjoys spending time and wrestling with his two sons; Zion Taiyo McBroom (10) and David Shingetsu McBroom (6).

McBroom holds the title of Leading Petty Officer (LPO) for the staff judge advocate office at NAF Atsugi which is a part of the Regional Legal Service Office (RLSO) of Japan headquartered in Yokosuka. McBroom responsibilities include assisting the staff judge

advocate, Lt. Nicolaus Gruesen, as he assists the commanding officer of NAF Atsugi on day-to-day legal issues. He is in charge of and assists various tenant commands on military justice issues, and works with the local law enforcement, local prosecutors and our Japanese counterparts to ensure both U.S. and Japanese laws are maintained.

“We put a Sailor in jail for child molestation for six years and he has to register as a sex offender now, so I’m very proud of that,” said McBroom. “We are protecting children from predators like that.”

McBroom has been in the military for almost 12 years. Within that time, he has earned a Joint Accommodation Medal, Joint Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various Sailor of the Quarter awards as well as unit awards. He was also the 2011 winner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award.

“I was really touched that I was chosen for that award by the NAACP,” said McBroom. “My father was involved with civil rights and he was actually a friend of Dr. King. He actually knew Roy Wilkins I found out from people that were at the meeting so that was a big honor for me to win that award.”

McBroom also received the Zenkokai award, the “Good Conduct” Award. The honor is an annual commendation given to select individuals or organizations that have provided significant contributions within their local communities.

“I won the Zenkokai Award for helping out local nationals,” said McBroom. “By trying to save at risk youth from gangs and the mafia in Japan and helping the elderly.”

McBroom previous commands included the Regional Command East Combined Joint Task Force 82nd Airborne and the 101st in Afghanistan, two of the most decorated Army units.

“That’s probably my most endearing memory as far as my military service,” said McBroom. “A friend of mine was a navy Seal, on Seal Team 10, Shane Eric Patton (Deceased), he was in my division in boot camp so I wanted to go [to Afghanistan] just so I could pay honor to his memory.”

When McBroom is not at work he spends a lot time working on his hobby, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). His hobby is also what prompted him to join the Navy. McBroom joined the Navy in hopes of being stationed in Japan where he could continue his MMA training by learning Japanese fighting styles.

. “When I came to Japan, I continued doing Kyokushin Karate and some other Brazillian Jiu Jitsu.” said McBroom. “I had the opportunity to join the gym of Kazushi Sakuraba, who many consider to be the greatest martial artist of all time and definitely on par with Muhammad Ali or Jesse Owens, and so that was a big honor for me.”

LN1 McBroom is being honored as Sailor of the Week by being the guest host of the base’s weekly show of Captain’s Call with the

Executive Commanding Officer Cmdr. Douglas Huggan and Command
Master Chief Carlton Duncan.