

Reenlistment around Mount Fuji

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kegan E. Kay

10 October 2012

REENLISTMENT

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Ryan Readhimer and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Manuel Mendoza reenlisted aboard a U.S. Navy C-12 aircraft in a flight around Mount Fuji, Oct 2.

While Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi Executive Officer, Cmdr. Douglas Huggan piloted a C-12 during a routine training flight, Capt. Steven Wieman, commanding officer of NAF Atsugi, and Security Officer Lt. Frederick Wood performed a once in a lifetime reenlistment ceremony for Mendoza and Readhimer.

“We like to do something special during reenlistments as much as we possibly can,” said Wieman. “So I think anytime we can make that as special as we can, to make it as memorable and motivating and inspiring for other people to do the same, we try to do that.”

Readhimer and Mendoza both exclaimed the reenlistment flight around Mount Fuji has been the most memorable experience since enlisting.

“It was special because my wife and I climbed Mount Fuji for our four year anniversary,” said Mendoza. “We actually did the night climb and got to see the sun rise on our anniversary.”

“We are lucky here at NAF Atsugi to do things like that in our aircrafts,” said Wieman. “They took up the chance to go flying and see the local area and made it a very special day for me and the Sailors.”

Readhimer and Mendoza both work for Naval Security Forces at NAF Atsugi and have been in the Navy for almost five years.

“I hope to gain a lifetime of experience,” said Readhimer. “And the honor and sense of pride of the world’s greatest Navy, and being in the fellowship that many don’t see.”

“I love my job, the best decision I ever made was to enlist and join this rate,” said Mendoza. “I feel like I have a lot to contribute and I have a lot of potential to reach still.”

Shortly after their reenlistment ceremony, Readhimer and Mendoza gave advice for Sailors thinking about reenlisting.

Readhimer pointed out the benefits of serving in the Navy such as access to the Galley, pay checks twice a month and other security benefits.

“Stay with the military and if you don’t like it, just stick with it, it’ll get better. It did for me,” Readhimer concluded.

“I’d tell them to do what makes them happy,” said Mendoza. “Do what you like, do what you love and if this is where your heart is, give it your all.”

“I’m of the opinion that most people kind of don’t know what they are getting into joining the Navy, or the service,” explained Wieman. “But on the second time around, during their reenlistment, they know exactly what they are getting into and they are recommitting themselves to service.”

After completion of their tour at NAF Atsugi, Readhimer’s next assignment is in the Persian Gulf while Mendoza is assigned to a station back in the U.S.