Local Sailor honored by Human Resources Community

Story by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Lt. Cmdr. Jed Espiritu, CFAY PSD Officer-in-Charge, was named Human Resources Community Junior Officer of the Year for 2011. He has received the news that he has won the recognition and will be presented the award later in the month.

Lt. Cmdr. Jed Espiritu, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) Officer-in-Charge, was named Human Resources Community Junior Officer of the Year for 2011. The award signifies him as the best from a pool of officers Lt. Cmdr. and below selected from Navywide human resource offices.

Espiritu took orders to the command starting in May 2010. He gives credit for earning the award in part to the Sailors and personnel that work for and with him at while stationed in Yokosuka. Less than a year after he started, he and the PSD workers would make themselves stand out for their handling of the events around the March 11 disasters.

"I think it was the great accomplishment that this detachment made during March, with the earthquake and the tsunami and the crisis that was ongoing at that time. The team pulled together," said Espiritu, explaining why he though he had been chosen. "[Our team] bonded together during that time. We fought through all the complexities of the JFTR, the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, and accomplished what we did. I think that the big thing too, is that everyone else did their part and put in extra effort. We accomplished our regular mission while also sending thousands of family members down range to safe havens."

Starting in December 2010, Espiritu also served as the N-14, Military Personnel Services. It's a new billet for an officer to work at the region level for Commander Navy Region Japan as part of a realignment of detachments in Japan, Singapore and Diego Garcia to a single resource located in Yokosuka.

"At the time there was no one assigned to that billet. The region came in and asked me to step in and I filled in for that position,' said Espiritu. "Whatever opportunities are out there, whether supporting the Department of Defense Education Activity schools, working collaterals like traffic court judge, case review community for the family advocacy program, civilian administrative forum, I like to do what I can to support the community."

The announcement of who won the award comes out in a U.S. Navy Administration release and at first Espiritu didn't think it was he who had won the award.

"I heard they announced it in Washington and I was like, 'Well it went to whoever they awarded it to;' and then I read my name and I started shaking in my boots," said Espiritu. "And then, in a matter of hours I started hearing about some of the advancements we received. Seven of my folks were selected for advancement. So, it was good news for lots of people here."

Espiritu encouraged others going up for similar awards, that be a good leader, to have a good chance of receiving awards , the key is to put others ahead of yourself and always give your best effort.