Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Mid-Summer Knights readers celebrate success

Story and photo by Paul Long, CFAY Public Affairs

Local parents and their children celebrated reading accomplishments with a bowling and pizza party at the Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Bowling Center Aug. 11.

Every summer, the Department of Defense (DoD) and Morale, Welfare, & Recreation (MWR) sponsor the Mid-Summer Knights Reading program on military installations world-wide. Here in Yokosuka, Library Director Jeff Conner said that participation in this summer program was up about 80 percent over last year.

"This year, we had 560 kids in the program, last year we had 450," Connor said.

More children in the reading program mean that more books were read.

"Over 7,000 books were read last year, this year the children read over 11,000 books," said Connor.

According to Connor, the Mid-Summer Knights Reading program began in mid June and ended Aug. 8. Children who participate in the program are required to keep track of what books they read and they can win prizes for every set of books they read.

For the all of the kids' hard work, they receive a final reward via the bowling and pizza party.

The prizes are paid for by Commander, Naval Installations Command. Prizes the children could win included lunch boxes, T-shirts, water bottles, phone cords, tote bags, stuffed animals, back packs, and frisbees.

"A lot of kids read between two to three set of books, which can be 10 to 15 books," Connor said.

Connor also stated that books geared towards 5 to 12-year-old children are the most popular books.

The program can help to motivate children to discover the joys of reading.

"The summer reading program was very beneficial for my daughter," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Gonzalo Luevanos, of CFAY Security, who brought his five-year-old daughter, Athena, to the bowling party. "She likes to read more and pick her own books. It also helped her to meet other kids."

For more information of the about Mid-Summer Knights Reading program contact the CFAY Library at 243-6730 or 243-5574.

MA1 (SW) Gonzalo Luevanos, of CFAY Security, watches as his daughter bowls, Aug. 11, during a party to honor children who participated in the Mid-Summer Knights Reading program. The DoD & MWR cosponsor the summer reading program, which rewards children with prizes which they earned by reading a predetermined number of books. The kids collected the prizes at the bowling and pizza party.

Yokosuka chief selectees take part in Uniform Night

By MC3 Matthew Cole,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Chief petty officer (CPO) selectees at Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) got their first opportunity to get fitted and purchase their new khaki uniforms and combinations covers during a uniform fitting night at the Navy Exchange (NEX) Aug. 10.

The uniform night allows each CPO selectee the chance to try on and acquire their new uniform items that are imperative in completing the conversion from petty officer to chief.

For many of the selectees it was a moment to reflect on their current achievement and a realization of what it means to become a Navy chief.

"I'm just proud to be part of the Navy and being able to be here to advance to such a great fraternity as the chiefs association," said Chief Engineman (select) Eugene Ceradsky. "The chief's mess is a big family that's not only great to be part of, but exciting at the same time."

The fitting and trying on of various uniforms items is a part of the selectee's transition process.

After weeks of hard work and training, the emotions of pride and joy began to show on the faces of Yokosuka's CPO selectees.

"I feel excited, I feel overwhelmed, and I feel blessed. I'm very proud because this is a community that shouldn't be taken lightly. When they say that this is the back bone of the Navy, they mean it," said Chief Boatswain's Mate (select) William J. Geurin. "We will be the ones to help those below us and help those above us. It's not about us; it's about the people we will be working with."

BMC (select) William J. Geurin, opens boxes of new combination covers to try on during the NEX Uniform Night at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Aug. 11. The NEX Uniform Night is the first time the chief selects get to try on their new khaki uniforms which they will wear at the end of the six week chief induction period which ends Sept. 16th.

The NEX provided refreshments for the selectees and their CPO sponsors.

While the chief selectees ate they were invited to answer U.S. Navy knowledge trivia questions with the chance to win prizes.

The event provided the selectees a moment to socialize with each other outside of the chief induction training environment.

"Being with different chiefs we get to see different ideas, different plans and how different rates work similar issues out," said Geurin. "We learn a lot just due to how we are drawn together in cohesiveness. We communicate we vote and work together, so we can find the right answers together."

After the completion of the selectees' chief induction training, they will officially don the uniform of a chief petty officer and join among the ranks of the deck-plate leadership on Sept. 16.

INSIDE

Sailors become U.S. citizens during naturalization ceremony

Sailors from five different countries took the oath of allegiance to the United States during a naturalization ceremony to become American citizens Aug. 8.

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Fire safety program teaches local students fire safety skills

Students from Yokosuka-area elementary schools participated in a fire-safety day camp program hosted by CNRJ Fire Department on board CFAY Aug. 3-10.

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