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"Jewel of the East" gets second look for Ney Award

Story and photo by MC2(SW/AW) John Smolinski, CFAY Public Affairs

Sailors and master Labor Contractors (MLCs) working in Commodore Matthew C. Perry General Mess known as "Jewel of the East" at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) undergo the second round of inspections from the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Headquarters inspectors Aug. 24.

The inspections are part of the ongoing process for the prestigious Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial (NEY) Award for food service excellence awarded every year.

"For us here at the galley, Ney is an everyday standard," said Chief Warrant Officer Daniel K. Ayars, Jr., CFAY food service officer. "It's all about consistence; we treat everyday like we are going to be inspected."

In order to be eligible for the Ney Award, a galley must be a five-star facility. "Jewel of the East" has won the Ney Award five times in its history, last time being in 2008.

"For the past 14 years, we have been a five-star accredited galley," said Chief Culinary Specialist PeterDennis Ramos, supply department leading chief petty officer. "Last year we made it to the final round, the year before that we were a runner-up, this year hopefully we can go all the way and bring this award back to Japan."

The staff at the "Jewel of the East" have be preparing for these inspections for the past six months.

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Krystle Noelle Mattia said that attention to detail from making sure that the food gets out on the serving line correctly; making sure our paperwork is filed correctly, to the cleanliness of the galley and the surrounding area outside is the key to success.

The "Jewel of the East" competes against all overseas ashore general messes for the Ney honor.

"I already know that they have achieved excellence," said Mike Bowlin, CNIC Headquarters galley program analyst. "What I really look for is any kind of safety or sanitation violation. The main reason for the inspections is to give feedback to Washington about the conditions of our facilities for future budgeting issues."

The Ney Award finalists will be announced by the end of the year, and the winners will be announced in February 2012.

"The Ney award is not just what we see today, because everyone is on their 'A' game," said Bowlin. "The best way to assess how a galley performs day-to-day is the surprise inspections. "I have been around long enough with 25 years of food service experience that I can tell how a galley performs by watching the Sailors' reactions to the food they are eating."

CNIC Headquarters Analyst Mike Bowlin, examines the CFAY Commodore Matthew C. Perry General Mess, known as the "Jewel of the East," Aug. 24, during a second look inspection for the prestigious Ney Award.

Navy administrative message (NAVADMIN) 019/11 states that the NEY is the most prestigious food service award in the Navy. These annual awards, co-sponsored by International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA), encourage excellence in Navy food service programs with the objective of improving the quality of life for our Navy personnel.

George Washington takes friends and families on cruise

Story and photo by MC2 William Pittman, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

More than 2,000 family members and friends of the crew of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) enjoyed a Friends and Family Day cruise, Aug. 27.

Family and friends of Sailors stationed aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) board the ship prior to the ship's Friends and Family Day cruise into Tokyo Bay Aug. 27. The Friends and Family Day cruise allowed Sailors' families and friends to board *George Washington* to get a first-hand look at what life for their Sailor is like at sea.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Alysia R. Hernandez

George Washington, the U.S. Navy's only full-time forward-deployed aircraft carrier, provided multiple entertainment acts, including a famous Japanese Elvis tribute performer, Taiko drummers, and Hawaiian dancers, along with paintball, bouncy houses, movies, human gyroscope, sumo wrestling, and face painting, as well as various entertainment provided by the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department.

The day was highlighted by a sea-power display and air show involving the aircraft and pilots of embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5.

"This cruise is basically a way to say thank you to the families that sacrifice their Sailors to us for six months," said Lt. Cmdr. Dave Hecht, the Friends and Family Day cruise coordinator. "We gave our families access to our ship, to see how we live and work underway, as well as show them a demonstration of our air prowess. This is the least we could do for their sacrifice."

George Washington pulled out of Yokosuka at 7:30 a.m., allowing the families to spend a maximum amount of time aboard with their Sailors.

The ship's MWR department ran the entertainment in the hangar bay, while the ship's Supply department supplied the guests with food, beverages and several tables that sold *George Washington* merchandise not otherwise available for sale.

"This cruise was a huge team effort; every department had a hand in setting this cruise up," said Hecht. "Every person contributed a piece of the puzzle to make this event a success, and because of everybody's hard work, the puzzle has become a masterpiece."

"This was a great visit, and I especially liked that *George Washington* provided a lot of activities in-between the events for the kids so they didn't lose steam," said retired Chief Navy Counselor Jon Way, scout leader of Boy Scout Troop 13, who brought several of his scouts aboard *George Washington* for the cruise. "But the air show was definitely the highlight of my scouts' visit."

At the middle of the cruise, everybody moved to the flight deck, where everybody got to watch CVW-5's aircraft launch off the flight deck, fly in formation and perform touch and goes, a maneuver where the aircraft makes an approach as if making an arrested landing but then continues back into flight.

*see **"FAMILY DAY"** pg. 8*

INSIDE

Navy iPhone application provides emergency information

CNIC) reminds Sailors, retirees and their families Aug. 26 about the "Navy Life" iPhone application (app) that provides emergency information.

Pg. 8

Negishi community celebrates Bon Odori

CFAY Yokohama Detachment, locally known as Negishi, hosted its 46th Annual Bon Odori festival Aug. 27 on the grounds of the housing area.

Pg. 9