VPOTUS thanks Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka logistician

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NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka

U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden thanked NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Chief (select) Yokosuka Logistician Specialist Tony Scales during a humanitarian relief recognition ceremony at the Taiyo Community Center, Yokota Air Base, Japan, August 24.

Biden thanked Scales for his efforts in support of Operation Tomodachi, the joint U.S. and Japanese humanitarian effort following the calamitous earthquakes and tsunamis that resulted in meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plants in the Tohoku region, north of Tokyo.

As a result, tens of thousands of Japanese citizens were lost, displaced and homeless.

At the height of the humanitarian effort, 19 U.S. ships, 140 aircraft, and more than 18,000 personnel were dispatched in supporting disaster relief operations in and around Japan.

"I've visited military bases all over the world and what you did here in Japan over the past few months is nothing short of astounding," said Biden in his opening remarks. "I come here for a simple reason, on behalf of the president and myself, to say thank you. Thank you not only for saving thousands of lives. Thank you for making America look as good as we are."

As part of the humanitarian aid, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka stood up a Logistics Operations Center (LOC) dispatched logistics support representatives throughout Japan to support the increased operational tempo of the Combat Logistics Force.

Scales was recognized for "contributing to the expeditious delivery of life saving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief material to the victims of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake, Tsunami, and subsequent Fukushima Nuclear Reactor Disaster.

He enabled the load-out of *USS Ronald Reagan* and *USS George Washington* Strike Groups, *USS Essex* Amphibious Readiness Group and Six Combat Logistics Force Ships allowing the delivery of 180 tons of food and 1.7 million gallons of water to survivors.

United States Vice President Joe Biden speaks to military personnel at the Taiyo Community Center, Yokota Air Base, Japan, Aug. 24. Biden met with key leaders during his nine-day tour through Asia to discuss a full range of bilateral, regional and international issues.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse

"Additionally, Scales assisted in the coordination and delivery of 4,100 pallets of provisions, stores and material to over 20 ships supporting disaster relief efforts," according to the citation provided by Biden.

Scales expressed that he was humbled, but appreciative of the recognition.

"Obviously, I was far from the only one helping out in this effort," said the recent chief select. "But, I've been here for awhile, I love this country, I love my Navy and I was glad to be in a position where I could provide the best of what I am to my country and my host country. Actually, it was an honor."

NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Commanding Officers Capt. Matt Feely shares Scales feelings regarding the prestige of the recognition.

"This is a great honor for Chief (select) Scales, his shipmates and the whole team at NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka," said Feely. "We were all moved, not only by our need to focus on ensuring clarity of information as well as the quick and well orchestrated execution of its logistics mission, but by our recognition of our roles as a logistics providers and logistics services integrators.

"Chief (select) Scales embodied the totality of what we did right in terms of getting the right material to the right people at a desperate time."

In fact, during the two months following the calamitous earthquake and tsunamis, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka documented the delivery on scene of more than 1.7 million gallons of water, 183 tons of food and 61 tons of comfort supplies.

"NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka's reaction was exactly what I want to happen when an unexpected event occurs," said Rear Adm. Mark F. Heinrich, commander, Naval Supply Systems Command and Chief of Supply Corps. "NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka didn't have to network; they didn't have to exchange business cards when the events transpired; they had already done those things. They just executed."

GW ASVAB Study Course helps Sailors improve scores

By SN Tatiana Avery, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN – Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class LaToya Towns did a double-take after seeing her results on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) when the *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Sailor learned she doubled the score of her first test; a success story for the ship's new ASVAB study course Aug. 23.

"My most difficult area was reading comprehension; it really helped me to know exactly how the ASVAB is broken down so that I knew what I needed to concentrate on." said Towns.

George Washington's ASVAB course is offered while the ship is underway and designed to improve a Sailor's math and English skills, two areas where Sailors encounter the most difficulty. Six of the 11 ASVAB subtests are related to these two subjects alone.

"Classes like this are not offered on all Navy vessels so this is a unique opportunity," said Atzel Santiago, *George Washington*'s Education Boss. "If the time comes that a Sailor wants or needs to change their rate, a larger ASVAB score will offer them a bigger job variety to choose from."

With Perform to Serve (PTS) making it harder on some to find a niche in the Navy, a higher ASVAB score can open doors to a number of different opportunities that will allow them to remain in uniform. The hard part is raising their score, a barrier the study course attempts to break down.

Simply put by Santiago, "the higher the ASVAB, the better job selection you have."

Sailors can't just walk in and retake the ASVAB, the study course is a mandatory prerequisite unless they are already enrolled in a college class. Once enrolled in the program, Sailors will practice taking the ASVAB and won't be given a passing grade until they show improvement on the tests.

With Towns increased score, she now has her pick of jobs in the Navy, her selection narrowed to just two rates, Hospital Corpsman or Intelligence Specialist.

"I didn't think it was very difficult to improve," said Towns "I just did what I needed to do to study. I also checked out the ASVAB study guide that's available in the ship's library."