Shiloh CSADD Chapter volunteers at CFAY school

Story and photo by MC2 Devon Dow,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Sailors from the USS *Shiloh* (CG 67) Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) Chapter volunteered their time with students at the Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) middle school Oct. 26.

During their time at the school the 16 Sailors ate lunch, participated in outdoor activities and held question and answer sessions with the students. This was the second time for the Sailors to visit the school and they all agreed their visit was time well spent.

"Coming over here today has been great," said Logistics Specialist 2nd Class John Hobbs of Atlanta. "I think this is a good way to show our support for the community and also to have the one on one interaction with the kids. Many of the children's parents are in the Navy and can spend a considerable amount of time at sea. I think with us visiting the school we can talk with children and answer any questions they may have about what life is like at sea, life as a young Sailor, or just be there for them as a friend to talk to."

Gretchen Zaldana, a 7th-grade science teacher at the middle school, praised the *Shiloh* Sailors for using their personal time to spend time with the children.

"The *Shiloh* Sailors are awesome," she said. "The children love the interaction with the Sailors who are very open and vocal with them; the Sailors are indeed positive role models and seem to look forward to their visit here as much as the students. I think the Sailors presence at the school helps not only the students, but faculty and staff as well because it further connects us creating more understanding and a stronger CFAY community."

Along with a continued relationship with the middle school, future volunteer endeavors for *Shiloh*'s CSADD Chapter include a holiday toy drive for children at a local orphanage and cleanup projects promoting eco-friendly habits and maintaining the integrity of CFAY.

CSADD is a Navy-wide program with the mission to provide military members of all branches with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with destructive decisions, while maintaining good order and discipline.

Fire Controlman 3rd Class Deyzharae Johnson, a Denver native assigned to *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) talks with a student during lunch at the Fleet Activities Yokosuka middle school Oct. 26. Approximately 16 Sailors from the ship's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) Chapter volunteered their time at the school answering questions and participating in outdoor activities.

Since the chapter was formed on board *Shiloh*, Information Systems Technician 1st Class Damian Washington, a Fort Washington native and mentor for *Shiloh*'s CSADD Chapter said the ship's chapter has taken off with lightning speed.

"CSADD has had a tremendous and positive impact on *Shiloh*," he said "When we post our sign up sheets for people to volunteer it is always full. I am very happy to see our Sailors turning towards positives alternatives and contributing to the CFAY community."

Navy program helps enlisted Sailors aim for the stars

From Navy Personnel Command
and Naval Service Training Command
Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn.– More than 70 top-performing Sailors from the enlisted ranks were selected to pursue a commission through the Navy's Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) program, officials said Oct. 26.

"These highly motivated men and women will be among the leaders of our Navy well into the 21st century," said Navy Personnel Command Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port. "All those who applied should be very proud of their accomplishments and continue their outstanding performance to ensure professional growth and increase their chance of selection in a future board."

Navy Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 316/11 contains a complete list of selectees and alternates for this fiscal year.

STA-21 is a commissioning program that provides a path for qualified Sailors to receive a college education and earn a commission as a naval officer. Selectees are authorized a maximum 36 months of full-time, year-round study to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Participants in the STA-21 program remain on active duty while attending college and benefit from an education voucher valued at up to $10,000 per year to cover tuition, fees and book costs. STA-21 participants must become members of and drill with a local Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) unit while attending school. Upon graduation, STA-21 participants will be commissioned as ensigns and return to active duty in the fleet.

In addition to the $10,000 per year voucher, Sailors receive their basic pay and basic allowance for housing and are eligible for advancement and may be eligible to reside in military family housing if available.

The STA-21 board meets annually and Sailors interested may apply for either the STA-21 Core Option or the STA-21 Target Option. The STA-21 Core Option allows officer community assignment to an unrestricted line designator during the final year of college based on the needs of the Navy, individual qualifications, aptitude, experience and preferences.

The STA-21 Target Option allows Sailors to choose a career path in one of 17 officer career fields including Pilot, Naval Flight Officer, Surface Warfare Officer, Surface Warfare Officer/Information Professional, Oceanography, Special Warfare, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Nuclear, Medical Fields and Supply.

All STA-21 officer candidates will attend the Naval Science Institute (NSI) course at Officer Training Command, Newport, R.I., prior to beginning college studies at an NROTC-affiliated college or university. NSI is an eight-week course of intense officer preparation and indoctrination. Course enrollment is timed to allow college entrance during fall, spring or summer semesters/quarters.

For a complete list of requirements and more information on STA-21, see OPNAVINST 1420.1B and visit the STA-21 Web site at https://www.sta-21.navy.mil. Sailors should consult with their command career counselor and chain of command for submission requirements, deadlines and recommendations.

Keel laid for future *USS Milwaukee*

From Program Executive Office Littoral Combat Ship Public Affairs

MARINETTE, Wis. – Workers at the Marinette Marine Corp. shipyard in Marinette, Wis. authenticated the keel for LCS 5, the future *USS Milwaukee*, during a ceremony Oct. 27 recognizing the beginning of the ship's construction.

"Starting construction on the fifth ship of the class is a significant step in the life of the program," said Rear Adm. Jim Murdoch, program executive officer for Littoral Combat Ships. "We've learned a number of key lessons from the construction of LCS 1 and 3 which will improve production of these vital fleet assets. We're committed to controlling shipbuilding costs and delivering these ships on time and within budget."

LCS is a new breed of U.S. Navy warship, capable of open-ocean operation but optimized for littoral, or coastal, missions. The Navy remains committed to a 55 ship LCS program and is leveraging competition, fixed-price contracting and serial production to reduce construction duration and costs.

Milwaukee is expected to deliver to the fleet in 2014. The ship will join *USS Freedom* (LCS 1), commissioned in 2008; *USS Independence* (LCS 2), commissioned in 2009, and the future *USS Fort Worth* and *USS Coronado*, both under construction.

The ship, named in honor of the Wisconsin city, will be 417 feet in length and capable of reaching speeds in excess of 40 knots.

PEO LCS, an affiliated Program Executive Office of Naval Sea Systems Command, provides a single Program Executive responsible for acquiring and sustaining mission capabilities of the littoral combat ship class, beginning with procurement, and ending with fleet employment and sustainment.

The combined capability of LCS and LCS mission systems is designed to dominate the littoral battle space and provide U.S. forces with assured access to coastal areas.