Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY brings home CNO Environmental Awards

Story by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) was selected as one of the winners of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards for fiscal year 2011. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East (NAVFAC) on board CFAY submitted the awards packages for the command and received recognition for the work its personnel accomplished in multiple categories.

In a message sent out by Vice Adm. William R. Burke, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, "...The Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Awards recognize Navy ships, installations, and people for outstanding performance in promoting environmental stewardship."

Sixty-eight different command from all over the world submitted packages for the awards in 10 different categories with 30 winners, about three for each category, receiving an award. Commands in the Pacific area of responsibility received awards in five of the categories with CFAY taking three of those five. CFAY was recognized for Cultural Resources Management, Installation; Environmental Quality, Non-industrial Installation; Sustainability, Industrial Installation for U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center, Yokosuka, Japan.

"Environmental quality is based on a multitude of environmental programs that we manage," said Jack Gilbertsen, environmental director. "I think one of the ways our program stood out, is due to our incredible recycling program, the large volume of recyclable materials and all the initiatives we have in place to reduce waste."

The package submitted for the award highlights almost 450 percent increase in recycling over the last two years and describes how the department has achievied goals for its environmental management system, conducted bi-lingual training for personnel, increased waste reduction efforts, reduced hazardous waste, established community relations and involvement through projects like releasing fish and planting eelgrass, ensured that experienced workers passed their knowledge on to new workers, and implemented environmental goals when planning or making decisions.

"The cultural resources is more specific, our package included our work with these stone markers with Japanese writing on them that were found during renovation work on berth 12."

NAVFAC personnel also provided historical tours, maintained historical landmarks and monuments, kept historical buildings in good repair, and worked with several organizations both on base and off that preserved archeological resources like pottery, earthware, fossils, tombstones and other items.

"We did really well this year. We didn't just hit one home run, we hit a few," Gilbertsen said, explaining how he felt about winning.

"All 30 of the winners from the CNO level of competition will advance to the Secretary of the Navy level of competition. A ceremony honoring the winners will be held June, 5 at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington," stated Burke in a message to the winners.

CFAY manages an Adopt-A-Monument program designed to stimulate greater familiarity and awareness of the many monuments located throughout CFAY's AOR. Participants in the program adopted 21 culturally significant monuments throughout Yokosuka Naval Base. Responsibilities assigned to adoptive participants included monthly maintenance and cleanings of the areas surrounding the monuments.

Photo by Ryouko Araki

SECNAV announces 21st century Sailor, Marine initiative

From Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Speaking to the fleet during a worldwide all hands call aboard *USS Bataan* (LHD 5) which was televised and web-streamed live to the fleet March 5, Secretary of the Navy The Honorable Ray Mabus announced the establishment of the 21st century Sailor and Marine initiative.

The secretary explained that the initiative consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness. The programs are divided into five categories, or "areas"; readiness, safety, physical fitness, inclusion, and continuum of service.

"The new defense strategy will put increased responsibilities on the Navy and Marine Corps in the years to come," the secretary said. "You are the department's most essential asset, and it is the duty of the department's leadership to do all we can to provide each individual Sailor and Marine with the resources to maintain that resiliency."

Various programs fall under the readiness area, all of which help ensure we have the most mentally prepared service members and family in department history.

Continued emphasis on the responsible use of alcohol, zero tolerance for drug use, suicide reduction, family and personal preparedness, and financial and family stability all work together to prepare Sailors, Marines and their families for the challenges that they may face and reinforce healthy alternatives on liberty or off-duty. A new initiative will include breathalyzer tests when Sailors stationed onboard ships, submarines and at squadrons report for duty and randomly elsewhere to reduce the occurrence of alcohol related incidents that can end careers and sometimes end lives. This month, the Navy will begin random testing of urine samples for synthetic chemical compounds like Spice.

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Ray Mabus announces the 21st century Sailor and Marine initiative to the fleet during an all-hands call aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) at Naval Station Norfolk March 5. Mabus told the audience the initiative was intended to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat effective force in the history of the Department of Navy.

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Sam Shavers

The initial testing will be conducted by a contracted laboratory, with the Navy Drug Screening Laboratory capable of conducting in-house testing later this year. Every positive result on a urinalysis for synthetic drugs will be sent to NCIS for investigation. Synthetic chemical compound drug use impacts a Sailor's career and family. Sailors found to have positive urinalysis results and possession of synthetic chemical compounds like Spice will be punished under the UCMJ.

"We will enable and support our Sailors and their families. I am extremely proud of our people," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert. "We have a professional and a moral obligation to lead, to train, to equip and to motivate them. Our personnel programs deliver a high return on investment in readiness."

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Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society kicks off annual fundraiser

The chief of naval personnel visited and spoke with Sailors on board CFAY during an all-hands call at the Benny Decker Theater Feb. 23.

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Helping Hands brings message of thanks to Yokosuka Sailors

The Helping Hands organization held a presentation onboard CFAY Feb. 24 for Sailors who were assigned to the Commander 7th Fleet area of responsibility and took part in Operation *Tomodachi*.

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