The Sullivans School hosts Special Education Exchange

Story and photos by Steve Parker

The Sullivans School on board Commander Fleet Activites Yokosuka (CFAY) hosted a Special Education Professional Exchange on March 7. The annual event has happened since 2006 and has afforded quite a unique opportunity to exchange information about special education programs for both American educators at the Sullivans School and local Japanese special education teachers.

The visitors spent the morning visiting classrooms and programs at the Sullivans School, observing firsthand the different models for special education instruction including the inclusion model. Visitors were also shown other support activity programs that are part of the general education system including English as a Second Language (ESL) Math Support Services (MSS),

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(Left) Hiroyasu Yamada, Megumi Arita and Kato Miwako react to a colleague's comment at the question and answer portion of the Special Education Exchange Program that took place at the Sullivans School between Japanese and American Special Educators on March 7. Arita and Miwako are graduate students from Teikyo University.

CFAY civilians held accountable for misconduct via CAF

By Lt. j.g. Nicholas Inns, Region Legal Service Office

Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) is home to thousands of civilian Department of Defense employees and dependents. These civilians are not subject to normal military justice procedures; they cannot be sent to a court-martial or taken to captain's mast. Offenses committed on-base also fall outside the primary jurisdiction of Japanese authorities. So what does happen when a civilian commits a criminal offense onboard CFAY? The answer is the Civilian Administrative Forum (CAF).

As the commanding officer (CO) of CFAY, Capt. D. A. Owen is responsible for maintaining good order, morale and discipline among everyone who lives or works onboard CFAY. CAF is the process by which the captain receives recommendations on what punishment to order for civilian criminal offenders.

If a civilian is alleged to have committed an offense, she will receive a letter instructing her to appear at a CAF hearing. At that hearing, the alleged offender will stand before an Administrative Hearing Officer (AHO) and answer questions about the allegations, the reasons for the offence, and their personal circumstances. The AHO will then consider all the evidence and determine whether or not the allegations are true.

If a civilian is found to have committed an offense, the AHO must determine what punishment to recommend to the CO. Punishments can range from community service for minor offenses by first time offenders to debarment from CFAY and removal from Japan for serious offenses or repeat offenders. Other punishments can include an order to receive a counseling assessment, the imposition of a curfew, or a prohibition from entering the Commissary or Exchange. When a minor has committed an offense that involves a failure of parental supervision, the punishment can also include a requirement that the minor's sponsor perform community service.

Once the AHO has made a decision and forwarded a recommendation, the CO makes the ultimate decision on what punishment, if any, to impose. If, after the commanding officer's decision, a civilian is unhappy with the outcome, she can appeal the result to Commander, Naval Forces Japan.

Even in their unique position, civilians onboard CFAY are not immune from the consequences of their misconduct. People stationed in Yokosuka sometimes get complacent. They access the base everyday for everyday purposes: shopping, eating, or seeing a movie.

But first and foremost this is a military installation that conducts operations in support of U.S. national security objectives and is vital to the national defense of the United States and Japan.

The CAF process ensures that civilians, who act inappropriately and detract from this importance mission, are punished accordingly. This accountability is essential to maintaining good order, fostering a strong community, and ensuring that U.S. civilians associated with CFAY serve as positive representatives of the United States in Japan.

February 2012 CAF results:

Subject's Status	Age	Offense	Punishment
Dependent child	17	Underage drinking	125 hours community service; 50 hours community service with Sponsor
Dependent spouse	22	Domestic assault	250 hours community service; suspended debarment
Dependent child	16	Illegal drug use (Spice)	100 hours community service; suspended debarment
Dependent child	16	Illegal drug use (Spice)	100 hours community service; curfew; suspended debarment
Dependent child	13	Illegal drug use (Spice)	100 hours community service; curfew; suspended debarment
Dependent child	16	Drug paraphernalia	50 hours community service; curfew
Dependent child	16	Illegal drug use (Spice)	100 hours community service; curfew; suspended debarment
Dependent child	19	Communicating threats	Debarment
Dependent child	16	Illegal drug use (Spice)	150 hours community service; suspended debarment
Dependent child	18	Illegal drug use (Spice)	200 hours community service; suspended debarment
Dependent child	15	Illegal drug use (Spice)	200 hours community service; suspended debarment
Dependent child	17	Illegal drug use (Spice)	Debarment
Dependent child	13	Larceny	25 hours community service
Dependent child	13	Larceny	25 hours community service
Dependent child	14	Larceny	50 hours community service
Dependent child	16	Illegal drug use (Spice)	100 hours community service