Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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MCPON visits forward-deployed CFAY Sailors

Story and photo by MCSN Declan Barnes, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West visited and spoke with Sailors on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) April 18-19.

During his visit, MCPON toured ships and facilities at CFAY, spent time with CFAY Sailors and conducted an all-hands call at CFAY Benny Decker Theater.

West visited many of the forward-deployed destroyers, including the *USS McCambell* (DDG 85), *USS Mustin* (DDG 89), *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) and *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62). He also led a CPO 365 run with CFAY chief petty officers (CPO) and CPO board eligible first class petty officers.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West speaks to forward-deployed Sailors assigned to afloat and ashore units at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) during an all-hands call at the base theater April 19. The all-hands call was part of a two-day tour, in which MCPON visited various ships and facilities at CFAY.

During the all-hands call, more than 600 Sailors packed into the base theater to listen to West's message and ask him questions.

"Coming out to Yokosuka, Japan, is one of the highlights of my travelling, because it was my first port visit as a young Sailor," said West. "The one regret that I take away from 32 years of Navy service is that I have never been able to do a tour in Japan."

West spoke about the importance of the forward-deployed Sailors and their missions throughout the 7th Fleet AOR.

"The job you do everyday has an effect all the way up the chain," said West. "Every job you do includes that team work necessary for us to complete our mission."

West then dedicated most of his time to answering the questions asked by the enlisted Sailors present. He ended the all-hands call by calling up two volunteers to motivate the crowd by doing "burpee" push-ups and having their shipmates participate in a motivating "hooyah!"

"I was nervous at first, but once I got a sense for how down-to-earth MCPON was, I volunteered," said Hospitalman Horace McCollin, who is assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka and was one of the volunteers. "Having the opportunity to hear what he had to say, and participate in the motivation was an awesome experience." West stressed his overall appreciation and satisfaction with the CFAY Sailors.

"The Sailors in Yokosuka are motivated. They really have a sense of accomplishment and a sense of the mission out here," said West. "Overall, it has been a great visit, and I could not be more proud to be the enlisted rep for these Sailors out here."

CFAY wins SECNAV Environmental Award

From Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) received notification April 10 that it has won a Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Environmental Award in the Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation category.

According to CFAY Environmental Director Jack Gilbertsen, five programs significantly contributed to CFAY winning the award – recycling; the Environmental Management System (EMS); natural, cultural and historical resources; hazardous waste; and water.

"Recycling was a big part of [the award]," said CFAY Public Works Department's Qualified Recycling Program Branch Chief, Roy Ito. "Over the past two years, we increased recycling by 446 percent – from more than 5,000 tons in fiscal year (FY) 2009 to more than 28,000 tons in FY11. That's a significant increase. More than 74 percent of the waste generated at CFAY ends up being recycled."

The SECNAV Environmental Awards program annually recognizes Navy and Marine Corps individuals, teams, ships and installations for exceptional environmental stewardship. Prior to winning the SECNAV award, CFAY won at the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) level in the Cultural Resources and Environmental Quality categories.

"Environmental quality is something the Department of Defense requires us to actively manage using EMS," Gilbertsen explained. "Each year bases review their activities to select significant aspects they would like to address. CFAY's self-chosen EMS goals are to reduce by 64 percent and petroleum, oil, and lubrication spills decreased by 71.9 percent, down from 57 percent at the end of FY09 to 16 percent at the end of FY11.

CFAY's energy and water conservations efforts saved more than 800,000 kilowatt hours of energy and one million gallons of water, resulting in more than $500,000 in cost savings.

According to CFAY's submission package for the award, "With strong support from military and civilian personnel, base residents, and the Cities of Yokosuka, Zushi, and Yokohama, team members have successfully developed and maintained invaluable partnerships crucial to the success of [CFAY's] environmental program."

CFAY will now go on to compete in the FY11 Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Environmental Awards.

At Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East (FE) Public Works Department (PWD) Environmental Division Recycling Center onboard CFAY, forklift operator Tatsuhiro Matsumura dumps sorted metal from a hopper into a larger pile that will be picked up for recycling. According to CFAY PWD Qualified Recycling Program Branch Chief Roy Ito, the recycling center played a significant roll in CFAY winning the SECNAV Environmental award.

Photo by Joe Schmitt

INSIDE

Curtis Wilbur conducts change-of-command ceremony

Cmdr. Joseph D. Femino relieved Cmdr. Christopher T. Monroe as the 14th Commanding Officer of *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) April 20.

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Economic security 'STEMs' from next generation professionals

The Navy's Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program gave students at Yokosuka Middle School a chance to experience possible future professions April 18.

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