Zenkokai awards honor volunteers' service to Japan

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

The Nippon *Zenkokai* Association honored individuals and groups for their time and service to the community in a ceremony held at Meiji Jingu Shrine Sanshuden Hall May 26.

Zenkokai, in Japanese, means "good deeds" and the annual ceremony usually gives several of the awards to service members and military community members.

The Nippon *Zenkokai* Association is an independent, non-profit organization under the auspices of the Japanese government and is committed to encouraging good conduct of people and enhancing a warm, mutual relationship among the members of society.

The award, established in 1951 is presented to individuals or groups whose gallant or benevolent acts are particularly beneficial to their neighbors or the general public. In 1955, the award was opened to honor foreigners who have contributed to the betterment of life in Japan.

"This year 250 people or groups applied to receive the award, we narrowed it down to just 64," said Tsutomu Kojima, former *Zenkokai* Association administrative officer. "There are a lot of recipients from the military. I feel that shows that there is a greater bond between our two countries."

The efforts of the service members varied between smaller local community service projects to larger cleanup projects from the March 2011 Great Kanto Earthquake. Recipients from region Japan installations included Personnelman 2nd Class Marc Nash from Personnel Support Detachment Yokosuka, who worked at a homeless shelter and worked with kids from a children's home, Phil Eakins, from Sasebo, who worked on historical tours and around Sasebo's Naval port, and some Sailors from the Naval Construction Battalion deployed to Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi who participated in relief efforts for victims of the earthquake.

"We won the award for the work we did helping the people in Ishinomaki last year and we continued through to this year," said Builder 2nd Class Charles Ferguson, NAF Atsugi Public Works Department. "We helped build shelters for people who lost their homes and were living in temporary units."

BUC Christopher Knox, Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Command Sasebo, receives an award from Kohsho Kawamura, president of the *Zenkokai* Association, for "good deeds" done in service to the community and Japan, May 26. Out of the 64 people chosen to receive the award, a third were service members from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as other members of the military community.

All the recipients gathered on stage and bowed to Mr. Kohsho Kawamura, the president of the *Zenkokai* Association, and received a formal document stating why they were selected and a broach style pin with the flower logo of the association on it. The group then turned to the crowd and bowed to them before departing the stage.

To be selected, individuals and organizations from all over Japan filled out the application form and sent it in to the association. The *Zenkokai* Association makes it selections based on the kind of work done and/or how long the person has committed to a project. Winners are invited to the Meiji Jingu Shrine in Tokyo to receive the award. The U.S. military members made up roughly one third of the total group of recipients.

Reserve officer relieves active officer as Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka commander

By H. Sam Samuelson, Naval Supply Systems Command Public Affairs

In a first for the command, a Navy reservist relieved the active-duty commanding officer of Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Yokosuka during ceremonies at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan May 30.

Navy Reserve Capt. Craig Doyle relieved Capt. Matt Feely in the historic ceremony.

Doyle is also the commanding officer of NAVSUP Navy Reserve FLC Yokosuka detachment in San Diego.

"There are so many truly historic implications to today's ceremony and they bear recognition," said guest speaker Rear Adm. Valerie Huegel, deputy commander, NAVSUP Global Logistics Support. Huegel is also a Navy reservist.

"Today, we are witness to a Navy reserve component leader assuming the mantle of commanding officer for his active component command," said Huegel. "For those of us who serve in the Navy Reserve, this is a true demonstration of the 'Total Force' concept. We are proud and honored to assume this obligation. We welcome our active component command's trust. We look forward to meeting the demand!"

Doyle is taking time off from his commercial position as the Arizona regional president for Comerica Bank, as a board of director for the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, the City of Phoenix Development Process Steering Committee and a local, non-profit suicide and sexual assault crisis response and counseling group.

According to NAVSUP Commander and Chief of Supply Corps Rear Adm. Mark F. Heinrich, the change of command demonstrated the intrinsic value of a ready Navy reserve community.

"As with all our valued Navy reservists, Capt. Doyle brings a wealth of both Navy and commercial experience to the role," Heinrich said. "On top of that, the change of command in Yokosuka also demonstrates further that investments we have shared with our reserve component staffs in training and readiness are returning great dividends in skills, knowledge and the ability of our reservists 'step-up' when the call comes.

"I welcome this historic forward movement in active reserve integration and the capital it promises as we leverage resources to continue serving our fleet and shore customers."

Doyle is no stranger to Japan. He has both commercial bank consulting as well as prior Navy experience in the region and he says he looks forward to re-engaging both the Navy and his new host country.

"I am very proud to be back in Japan and especially proud to be afforded the opportunity to fill-in as the commanding officer of NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka," Doyle said. "I'm looking forward to the assignment and blurring the line between active and reserve references. I'm joining an already great staff with a great reputation and I'm honored to be a part of the team."

Feely, a native of Dedham, Mass., graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1983. He earned an MBA at The Wharton School of Business as well as a Ph.D. in decision analysis at the Center for Energy and the Environment and the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at the University of Pennsylvania. He anticipates returning in a teaching or counseling capacity.