Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Assistant Secretary of Navy visits CFAY, addresses Enlisted Review Boards

Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Juan Garcia III, speaks to Sailors and Marines about the 21st Century Sailor and Marine Initiative, at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's Fleet Theater during an all hands call Aug. 27. The 21st Century Sailor and Marine Initiative consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

U.S. Navy photo by Joe Schmitt

By MC2 John S. Smolinski, CFAY Public Affairs

The Honorable Juan M. Garcia III, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), addressed the future of Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) to Sailors on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) during an all hands call Aug. 27.

Last year's ERB was charged with identifying the most qualified Sailors for retention, applying both performance indicators and available quotas. Combined, the first and second phases of the ERB reviewed approximately 16,000 records for approximately 13,000 available retention quotas. Though the primary criterion for all boards is sustained superior performance, the ERB contained both quota-based and performance-based elements.

"There is no intention of doing another ERB this year, no intention to do one next year or to do one in the indefinite future," said Garcia. "The idea was that it is a one-time only evolution."

The board looked at only the most overmanned ratings and examined the performance of approximately 16,000 Sailors, according to Naval Administrative message (NAVADMIN) 129/11. Approximately 3,000 Sailors will not be retained on active duty, but were encouraged to apply for Selected Reserve, if not accepted for conversion.

"For ERB-eligible Sailors, this should not be viewed as personal or reflected as poor performance, these are great Sailors," said Garcia. "The system was backward. We had historic-level retention and we had a fleet out of balance. With this strategy, we had to pick the right Sailor, in the right place, in the right time."

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Fleet, Family Support Center kicks off Anti-Bullying Campaign

Story and photo by Paul Long, CFAY Public Affairs

"bul·ly noun \bu-lē, bə-\: 2 a : a blustering browbeating person; especially : one habitually cruel to others who are weaker." – Merriam-Webster Dictionary

In an effort to stem bullying among the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Schools onboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY), the Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC) kicked off its first Anti-Bullying Campaign in front of the CFAY main Navy Exchange and Commissary Aug. 24.

The FFSC staff had a display table where they offered booklets on anti-bullying as well as information on the other services that they provide

"We're taking anti-bullying pledges from the kids," said U.S. Army veteran and FFSC Exceptional Family Member Program Coordinator Stacie Shook.

According to Shook, the pledge is for kids who see someone bullying another student, for that witness to say "Stop" to the bully, or go get further assistance from a teacher.

"A lot of people who are being bullied don't get help, they keep it inside, and that makes things even worse," she said. "The child's responsibility is to not bully someone else," Shook said. "You want the child to stand up to bullies so that they don't gain control. We want people to unite and stand up to bullies."

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(Left) Tricia Marino and Tony Dungla, of Yokosuka's Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), hand out snow cones to children and their parents during the FFSC Anti-Bullying Campaign kick off Aug. 24.

INSIDE

USS George Washington gears up for CART II

U.S. Navy forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Sailors began the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) II Aug. 26.

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The Sullivans School solar-panel project complete

CFAY and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East completed and commissioned CFAY's second large-scale solar photovoltaic energy system of the summer, Aug. 27.

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