George Washington recognizes key players during SRA period

By MC2 Dave Reynolds, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

USS George Washington (CVN 73) (*GW*) recognized several key players of the week Feb. 5 for outstanding professionalism in the performance of their duties.

As *GW*, the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, undergoes a selective restricted availability (SRA), members of several organizations have come together to make a difference in keeping the "Spirit of Freedom" mission-ready and in the highest possible material condition.

The weekly "key player" awards are based on nominations from workers' parent commands: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS), Ship's Repair Facility (SRF) Yokosuka, the Yokosuka-based contractor Sumitomo Heavy Industries, and *GW* ship's force. *GW*

Commanding Officer Capt. David A. Lausman, PSNS Project Superintendent Chris Hughes, and SRF Project Superintendent Nick Giannoukakis presented the awards during an all hands call in the aircraft carrier's hangar bay.

"These key players have gone above and beyond what's expected or required of them," said *GW* Chief Engineer Cmdr. John Lund. "In some form or another, they've displayed great initiative and outstanding work that's been recognized by both their peers and their supervisors."

The following workers and Sailors were recognized:

• Kouichi Yagami of SRF Shop 51, was recognized for his supervision of Electrical Work Zone 2 115-volt receptacle upgrade. Yagami's supervisors said that his strong leadership and exceptional dedication has resulted in production progress currently ahead of schedule.

• Operations Specialist 2nd Class Greg Luebbert of *GW* Operations Department currently supervises 28 Sailors on the ship's lagging team, who have completed 500 separate jobs covering 9,050 square feet. Luebbert was praised for exceptional initiative and a can-do attitude which has led to 100 percent production with minimal rework.

• Yeoman 3rd Class Zachary Tillman, assigned to *GW* Reactor Department, created 75 red space control badges, including conducting security checks and verifying projected rotation dates. He was commended for his efforts in controlling Sailor access to restricted spaces, allowing critical work in these spaces to continue.

• Tony Crew, PSNS and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Code 260 Engineering and Planning, has devoted numerous long hours to ensure that work on the No. 1 main engine critical path job has run smoothly, providing deckplate assistance to mechanics and handling urgent issues swiftly and efficiently.

Lund emphasized the high level of organization and teamwork which goes into a successful maintenance availability.

"We've come together as a team here to provide the maintenance necessary for the ship to return to full operation and continue our mission here in the western Pacific Ocean," he said. "On an annual basis, we provide 195,000 man-days of work. If you break that down, that's a lot of work that we've got going on."

Sailors repaint a portion of the hull of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73). *George Washington*, the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, is in a scheduled selective restricted availability here at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN William Gatlin

More than 600 shipyard workers from PSNS and approximately 600 worker from SRF, mostly Japanese nationals, are currently working on *GW*, in addition to the 1,500 Sailors working on shipboard teams dedicated to lagging, tiling, welding, preservation, and door and valve repair.

Lund said the importance of teamwork goes above and beyond the maintenance efforts, and spoke about the long history of partnership in support of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the U.S. in this its 50th Anniversary year.

"There's a lot that goes into the partnership between our two countries with respect to the importance of being able to work together," Lund continued. "We've always got exceptional and outstanding support from our Japanese partners in both the maintenance part of our mission as well as our operational mission."

CFAY Safety Office hosts regional explosives safety training

Story and photo by Kevin McDonald, CFAY Safety Office

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Safety Office hosted and coordinated the effort to bring explosives safety training from the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center (DAC), in McAlester, Okla. to Yokosuka Base Jan. 11 to Feb. 5.

This valuable training provided many regional explosive safety officers, Navy Munitions Command personnel, military working dog handlers, naval facilities planners and other ordnance professionals from Japan, Guam, Bahrain, Djibouti, Hawaii and San Diego with training not otherwise available in Japan.

According to DAC Instructor Robert "Gene" Byrd, the logistic support provided by CFAY Safety Office personnel was superb and the idea of bringing this training to Japan was well thought out and saved valuable funds for individual commands.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed this trip to Yokosuka," said Byrd. "Hosting multiple classes has provided a unique training experience to this region. By importing this training to Japan, an estimated $300,000 in training funds was saved."

More than 110 students attended the training, which has been the largest running exportable training DAC has ever provided.