FISC Yokosuka Sailor named COMFISCS' Junior Sailor of the Year

Story by Nannette Davis, COMFISCS Office of Corporate Communication

A U.S Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, (FISC) Yokosuka Sailor from Bow, N.H., has been named Junior Sailor of the Year for 2008 by Commander Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (COMFISCS).

Postal Clerk 3rd Class (SW/AW) Marlene K. Walton was recognized by COMFISCS Rear. Adm. Andy Brown for her outstanding achievement as assistant section leader for Fleet Mail Center (FMC) Yokohama.

"PC3 Walton was selected out of a group of highly talented and worthy junior Sailors," said Brown. "The competition is always keen for an award such as this. She lives up to the Navy Ethos as a wonderful example for us all."

"I am truly grateful to be a recipient of such a prestigious award and am so honored to represent COMFISCS and FISC Yokosuka," said Walton. "This has been a dream come true for me. Great leadership at FISC Yokosuka and FMC Yokohama is what helped me become a better Sailor."

(Left) PC3 (SW/AW) Marlene Walton and Japanese employee Anami Tatsuro, verify a Frankfurt standard mail bag to ensure it was scanned into the system used to track mail dispatched out of Fleet Mail Center Yokohama.

Photo by Blake Vives

Walton's superior leadership and technical skills were vital in the expeditious movement of 38 million pounds of mail and the processing of 30, 40-foot containers of empty mail transportation equipment. Her combined efforts contributed to the FMC Yokohama earning a grade of 99.5 percent on the 2008 postal inspection.

Walton, a registered mail clerk, assisted with the expeditious scanning, processing and routing of 38 million pounds of mail destined to all Pacific Fleet shore facilities and more than 600 Navy and Marine Corps mobile units operating in the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf regions.

COMFICS' Junior Sailor of the Year PC3 (SW/AW) Marlene Walton of FMC Yokohama, sorts mail sacks by destination prior to loading them on a mail truck bound for Narita airport in Tokyo, Feb. 10.

Photo by Blake Vives

As assistant section leader, she managed seven personnel in the daily receiving and dispatching of U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Army mail to locations in the continental U.S. and overseas. She trained section personnel in the proper postal procedures for transporting mail to Narita, Haneda and Yokota Army Materiel Command airports, and for preparing the dispatch documents needed by various airlines supporting FMC Yokohama operations.

"Walton's unwavering devotion and her proven readiness to meet increasingly responsible positions and challenges have earned her this prestigious award," said FISC Yokosuka's Executive Officer Cmdr. Jeff Rathbun. "She is a reliable and dedicated Sailor, who supports the chain of command and works extremely well with her shipmates."

One of Walton's collateral duties was as voting assistance representative. She made sure all FMC Yokohama personnel registered to vote in the recent 2008 presidential election. Due to her strong personal convictions, she worked extra hours to ensure each person completed their voter registration packet and personally mailed out each request to the supervisors of elections for more than 20 cities, countries and states.

Walton also volunteered for numerous events, dedicating her time and efforts in the setup, preparation and distribution of food at various command and community events. She also volunteered to take on the added responsibility of assisting the Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka color guard at the Negishi Bon Odori Festival and numerous other Yokohama and Yokosuka community ceremonies and celebrations.

"Petty Officer Walton is the consummate professional," said Rathbun. "Her performance during this year has been nothing short of amazing."

"The Navy is my passion and my life," said Walton. "I do not take for granted how lucky I am to have such a great job in the midst of tough times. My next goal is to hopefully make petty officer second class. I am always striving to better myself . I am so proud to be in the Navy and to be wearing this uniform. Stay Navy!"

Hakozaki Fuel Terminal moves customers

By Blake Vives, CFAY Public Affairs

The U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Yokosuka Hakozaki Fuel Terminal, located on Azuma Island across from Yokosuka Naval Base, continually receives, stores and provides fuel to its numerous customers. These customers range from commercial tankers to military shore and sea commands.

The goal of the terminal is to provide superior fuel safely and efficiently to its customers. In 2008, the terminal supported U.S. military forces throughout the Kanto Plain by delivering 95 million gallons of fuel safely and without environmental incident. Hakozaki Fuel Terminal Manager Chief Machinist's Mate Doneka Booker ensures the quality of work provided to the customers of the terminal is superior.

"The part of my job that I enjoy most is getting the appreciation and thanks from the captains on the waterfront. They say how appreciative they are for the service we provide here and our great quality of work whether military, USCS (U. S. Civil Service) or MLC (Master Labor Contract) workers," said Booker.

Maintaining the terminal's storage facilities and satisfying the demand for fuel is a constant task. However, in the face of the high-tempo environment, the employees find time to have fun. "It's very challenging; it's a lot of responsibility because we are providing fuel to the military," said terminal worker Chief Machinist's Mate Silverio Delacruz. "I enjoy the diversity of projects because I'm a machinist's mate. Working here I have learned a lot about the fuel industry. Also, working with the MLC workers is enjoyable because they are very nice people and hard workers. They have even taught me their (Japanese) language and culture," said Delacruz.

The Hakozaki Fuel Terminal offers the opportunity for various rates to experience specialized fuels training. "I actually love my job here. This is my first experience with fuels only; so, it's great training, a great opportunity and the experience of a lifetime," said Booker. "If you have the opportunity to get orders here it would be a great experience for an engineman, machinist's mate or aviation fuels boatswain's mate. It's shore duty but we work hard and play hard."

NAVSUP

Faces of FISC

PC3 (SW/AW) Marlene Walton of FISC's Fleet Mail Center Yokohama, verifies the military mail delivery list, paperwork which enables the Navy to pay airlines for the transportation of military mail. Walton's attention to detail and dedication to her duties contributed to her selection as COMFICS' Junior Sailor of the Year.

Photo by Blake Vives

Where are you from?
Bow, New Hampshire.

Why did you choose to come to Japan?
I wanted to experience the culture of Japan. Also, my sister is the Engineering Warfare Officer (EWO) on *USS Shiloh* (CG 68).

How did you come to work at FISC?
I was on *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) for more than three years and wanted to stay in Japan.

Where in Japan do you recommend visiting?
Tokyo is a must see because it is the most famous city in Japan.

What is you favorite part of Tokyo?
Shibuya is my favorite part of Tokyo because it is the Times Square of Japan.

What quote summarizes your approach to life?
***"It's very strange when the life you never had flashes before your eyes."* - Television producer and writer Terri Minsky**