Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Model UN student diplomats work to solve world problems

By Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Students from 12 Far East Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) high schools came together to participate in the Model United Nations (MUN) program at Nile. C. Kinnick High School on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka March 8-11.

MUN is a program in which high school students play the role of international diplomats working towards the resolution of current issues around the world.

Nearly 120 students separated into smaller groups representing a myriad of countries, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the media. Student NGO and country representatives were then assigned to one of four sub-groups that include: General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Human Rights Committee and Security Council.

Kinnick High School Senior Brad Steiner, who was the President of the Security Council, guided the proceedings of his council and helped to pass a resolution which would help provide supplies to allied forces in Afghanistan.

"We try to get resolutions passed, we try to solve problems," said Steiner. "Whenever you pass a resolution it's really nice. You get to see hours of debate and work culminate in one big resolution. It's definitely a lot of fun."

Students participating in the MUN began preparing for their roles weeks and months in advance to ensure they can best act as diplomats for their designated countries.

Kubasaki High School Senior Andrew Lostesnes from Camp Foster in Okinawa represented the nation of Iraq on the Security Council.

"You have to go in and research the country you represent [and] that country's point of view and present [it] in character," said Lostesnes. "Even if it's the complete opposite of what you think, you have to represent what your country would say and what they would do."

In addition to current events and the international political platform of represented nations, students also learned the fine art of negotiation and patience, which are synonymous with diplomacy.

"You always wonder why it takes so long for things to get done, but, once you realize how many things you have to consider and the diplomatic process, it gives you a much better understanding of why it takes so long in the real world," said Lostesnes.

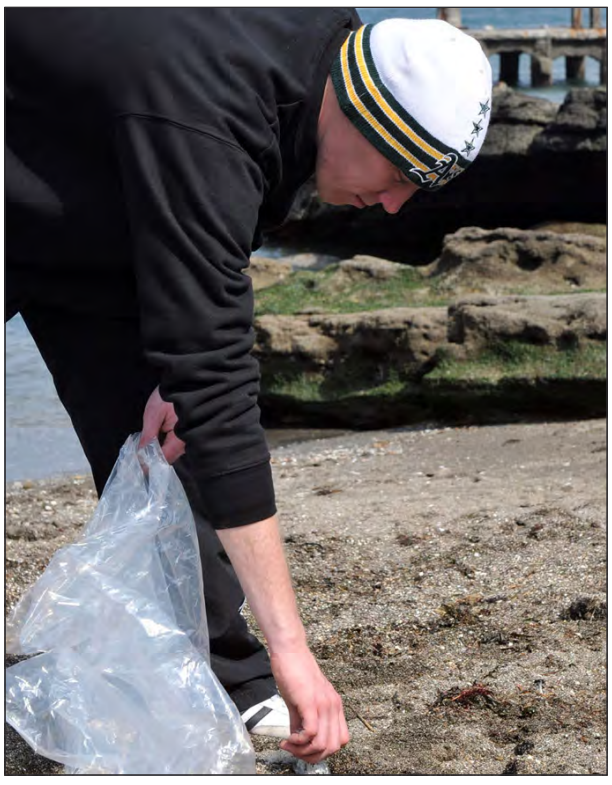
DoDEA high school students debate a pending resolution at an unmoderated caucus in between sessions of the Model United Nations Security Council. Nearly 120 students from 12 high schools participated in the Model United Nations program held at Nile C. Kinnick High School on board CFAY March 8-11.

Photo courtesy of Model United Nations Press Corps

MUN co-organizer and Kinnick English teacher John Taylor explained that this program gives students real life skills and helps push them to become problem solvers.

"We have serious issues that require serious answers and MUN students are getting a first-hand look at how difficult it is to try to find common ground with others," said Taylor. "The thing about MUN is this; it really forces you to improve these skills."

Yokosuka Sailors participate in annual Kannonzaki Beach clean up



Story and photo by MC3 Charles Oki, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Sailors from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka joined forces with neighbors from the local Japanese community to clean up Kannonzaki Beach March 13.

Approximately 70 Sailors attended the community service project where they picked up trash and raked the sand, prepping the beach for warmer weather.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW/FMF) Lavonne Melton of Goldsboro, N.C., who serves as chairman of the Yokosuka Volunteer Group, said projects like the beach clean up are important for maintaining a strong relationship with the local population.

"This is what we do to help create a healthy environment," said Melton. "I don't just mean cleaning up garbage, but also creating a healthy relationship with the locals. When the local people see us out in town doing our part to keep our community clean, it builds a stronger bond between everyone as a community. When overseas, maintaining a positive relationship with our local community is one of the most important things we can do."

PS2 Kyle Payne, picks up trash during the Kannonzaki Beach clean up March 13. Approximately 70 Sailors from Yokosuka took part in the community service project where they picked up trash and raked the sand, prepping the beach for warmer weather.

Members of the forward-deployed naval forces realize that positive relationships and good ambassadorship are important parts of the alliance the U.S. enjoys with Japan. According to Yeoman 2nd Class (SW) Samuel Kolapo, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., community service projects are an important part of the mission of serving overseas.

"Anyone who gets stationed in Japan needs to realize that we are a part of the Japanese community," said Kolapo. "As ambassadors, it's something we need to do to show we care about where we are. I think the working relationship that the United States shares with Japan starts at the community level. If we weren't able to work together as a community, I don't know how anyone could expect us to work together as a military."

The Kannonzaki Beach clean up is an annual event that is sponsored by the Fureai Volunteers Circle and the Miura Fujisawa Shinken Volunteer Circle. The clean up is one of several events held throughout the year to help clean parks, beaches, temples and orphanages.

INSIDE

Spectrum Lounge, VITA Center help Sailors do taxes

CFAY MWR and the VITA Center teamed up to help Sailors do their taxes with a Pizza and Taxes event at the Spectrum Lounge March 4.

Pg. 8

NAVFAC FE top engineers recognized during ceremony

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East recognized its top engineers during an awards ceremony held at the command headquarters March 4.

Pg. 9