# Nile C. Kinnick JROTC cadets receive annual military inspection

**Story and photo by Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs**

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Nile C. Kinnick High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) held its annual military inspection at Thew Gym March 24.

The purpose of the event is to display what the JROTC company members do throughout the year, according to JROTC Company Executive Officer Cadet Lt. j.g. Mikkariece Curry.

"We have a guest inspector come and inspect the unit," said Curry. "They inspect uniforms, chain of command knowledge and marching skills."

According to Curry, the company spends time throughout each year preparing for the annual inspection.

"We do a [mock] military inspection every month," Curry said. "Then every week we have a formal and non-formal inspection just to get ready for today."

JROTC, which was created in 1916, is a program that is meant to help mentor and foster leadership and life skills in youth.

"Without a doubt I think it is a great program for the kids to be a part of," said Director Total Force Manpower and Civilian Personnel Cmdr. James Diamond, who was a guest inspector during the event. "JROTC covers a wide range of topics and there is a lot of great mentoring going on in the program. Out of JROTC, they're going to develop a sense of patriotism. Also, I believe it gives them a taste of setting goals and coming up with a vision that they can use during high school and for the rest of their lives."

The skills that the program helps to instill are what attract some of the cadets to JROTC.

"I joined because I thought it would be a really good opportunity to get some leadership skills," said Delta Platoon Mustering Petty Officer Cadet Eva Christine Llanllo. "If I decide to enlist, I'll be able to enter as an E-3 or E-2 and hopefully, I'll have a better chance of getting into the Naval Academy with a JROTC nomination."

Llanllo, who has been in JROTC for two years, joined the program because some of her friends informed her about their positive experiences with the program. Like her friends, she has had good experiences in the program and recommends others get involved, as well.

"I would highly suggest [for] people to join any JROTC branch, because it teaches you a lot of life skills that you need in the long run, such as leadership, honor and integrity," said Llanllo. "It's to teach them that later on in life, no matter if you are in the civilian world or the military world, you'll still get the leadership skills and respectable traits that you need."

**(Right) Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan Rear Adm. James D. Kelly shakes the hand of a Nile C. Kinnick High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadet while handing out awards at the school's annual JROTC Military Inspection March 24.**

The leadership skills and 'respectable traits' are things that could help to improve, not only individuals, but the United States as well, according to Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan Rear Adm. James D. Kelly, who attended the event and handed out awards.

"You're 'rock stars,' every one of you," said Kelly, as he addressed the JROTC platoons prior to their pass in review. "You're around the base, and clearly, you're doing good things at Kinnick high school. Every one of you are demonstrating things as leaders that are going to carry our country in the future. There is no doubt about it in my mind."

# Local JAG officer awarded Region Legal Service Office award

**By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs**

Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Japan Judge Advocate General (JAG) Lt. Jonathan T. Flynn recently received the RLSO Jr. Officer of the Year award.

Flynn, who was chosen as the recipient by a committee headed by RLSO Japan Capt. Stuart Belt, received the award for his handling of several high-profile foreign criminal jurisdiction issues, Satus of Forces Agreement (SOFA) prison matters, private organization issues, private employment, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Civilian Administrative Forum (CAF) cases and military justice matters.

"We're responsible for all foreign criminal jurisdiction cases in the Yokosuka area," said Flynn. "Our office handled several [sensitive] issues last year."

"Additionally, we were able to increase the efficiencies regarding the processing request and things of that nature," he added. "We were, also, able to increase efficiencies in the CAF."

"Last year we processed approximately 220 cases involving civilian or juvenile misconduct, which helped us to maintain good order and discipline on base."

According to Flynn, it is an honor to win the award because there are a multitude of officers in RLSO Japan, which encompasses Guam and Diego Garcia, who could have been candidates as well.

"I am very honored to win this award, because I feel it is prestigious within the [Navy legal] field," said Flynn. "Within the [RLSO] there are very high-caliber attorneys working within this command. They are all here because they have special and unique skills that contribute to the forward-deployed mission here at [CFAY]."

"Every single attorney within this command comes from a great background; they've accomplished great things in their careers and they're all outstanding at what they do. For me to be honored as Junior Officer of the year, among that group, is something I am very grateful for."

Though he won the award for a multitude of accomplishments, he admits he could not have done it without the assistance and support of those around him.

"I am blessed here. I am blessed with outstanding MLC personnel/Japanese liaisons who are great at what they do, and dedicated to their work," he said. "I'm blessed with outstanding personnel in my office who are willing to go the extra mile and do what ever it takes for my office to get the mission accomplished and support the fleet in the forward-deployed mission."

# University students tour base, learn more about U.S. – Japan relations

**Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs**

Students from universities in the Tokyo area took tours of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) and *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73) March 20.

The tours provided the students a rare chance to experience the sights, sounds and people they have been studying about in courses covering contemporary America offered by the U.S. Embassy to students interested in learning more about Japan's strongest ally.

The next generation of young Japanese leaders made the trip down to Yokosuka without much of an idea of what to expect. Their day-long excursion to the base helped put the places and faces they see and hear about on the news in a new light.

"I had a really great experience," said Showa Women's University English communication major Mika Tobe. "We hear in the news about the Navy or America, but to come to base is a really precious experience because we can see first-hand what's going on here. It has provided me with a new perspective – a better perspective."

**(Left) Tokyo American Center Director Ann Kambara, (center) CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed, (right) Acting Country Public Affairs Officer David Marks and a group of university students pose for a photo in Weed's office during a tour of CFAY and the *GW* March 20.**

The tour started with the students watching a command brief and taking part in a question-and-answer session with CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed. The students were then given a windshield tour of the base and had lunch with Weed and *GW* officers at the Officers' Club. The day finished with a tour of *GW*.

Tokyo American Center Director Ann Kambara, who helped organize the tour, believes the tour is an important tool to provide Japanese students with an unfiltered look into the lives and mindsets of American service members in Japan.

"First, the students get to know U.S. military service members as people and develop person-to-person contacts. Second, they are able to ask questions they might have on U.S.-Japan security relations," said Kambara.

Judging by the following comments of the students in the post-tour survey, the day turned out to be a success for everyone involved:

"For the first time, I learned that the U.S. military does not only protect its own people, but also works for the defense of Japan."

"Being able to communicate with the military people directly in an informal lunch setting was a valuable opportunity. For example, observing their facial expressions during the discussion helped me erase my preconceived image of cold and strict military people."

"Before I came to Yokosuka, I thought that the Navy was for the "attack." But I learned about the important role they play in Japan and all over the world."

"I felt that the media portrays the images that are much more drastic and negative than what the U.S. military people actually are about."