



Community bids farewell to Kinnick High School Class of 2009

Story and photo by Dan Bowen,
CFAY Public Affairs

Proud parents, teachers, friends and classmates joined the 93 students of the Nile C. Kinnick High School (KHS) class of 2009 at the 62nd annual graduation ceremony held at the Yokosuka Arts Theater June 9.

The night included music by the KHS band, renditions of "Lean on Me" and "If You're Out There" by the senior class, a commencement address by Samuel Williams, addresses by the Student Class President John O'Brien, Class Valedictorian Marie Conner, Class Salutatorian Bruce Pfirrmann, and most importantly, the presentation of diplomas by KHS Principal Lorenzo Brown.

The ceremony began with a welcome address given in four languages: English, Japanese, Tagalog and Spanish. Donovan Brown, who provided the English version of the address, thanked those in attendance for taking part in such an important moment in their lives.

"We'd like to thank all faculty, friends, family and honored guests who graced us here with their presence at this shining moment in our lives," said Brown. "We hope this evening will be a memorable celebration of our class accomplishments as we close a chapter in one phase of our lives and turn the pages towards another more exciting phase towards our future."

Whatever is next for the class of 2009, whether it be college, a career in the military or joining the civilian workforce, KHS graduates have a distinct advantage over their peers. KHS has helped prepare these students for a world that has changed significantly from when their parents graduated. Globalization now dictates the direction

of the technologically-driven, service-oriented and constantly evolving business arena that today's youth will lead into the future.

As alumni of KHS, these soon-to-be leaders have been afforded the amazing chance to live as global citizens in a diverse environment and attend a school that according to the KHS Web site, www.kinnick-hs.pac.dodea.edu, has prepared them to be responsible, knowledgeable individuals who can respond well to the challenges of our highly technological society and constantly changing world.

Class Secretary Ja'la Wourman, who will be attending Eastern Michigan University in the fall, is grateful for her time at Kinnick and believes her experience there has had a truly positive impact on her life.

"Going to [KHS] has made me real open to diversity, and it's enabled me to explore different cultures, and meet new people," said Wourman. "I think it's made me a more, well-rounded person because of all the different people you get to meet and the different aspects you experience by [interacting] with those different people."

Wourman also offered advice to newcomers to KHS, "Take advantage of the time you have here, be open, get involved in the community and meet new people; because, [KHS] really does help you broaden your horizons."

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Eric Krievs hugs his son, David, after the Kinnick High School graduation ceremony held at the Yokosuka Arts Theater June 9. The ceremony awarded 93 students with their high school diplomas. According to Principal Lorenzo Brown, 83 percent of the Class of 2009 plans to attend a college or university and 12 percent plan to join the military.



George Washington departs Japan on first summer deployment

By *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

The Carrier Strike Group centered around the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), departed Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan for its first annual summer deployment June 10.



PC2 Kent Landis and PCSN Jeremy Fleming sort more than 3,000 pounds of mail in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73). *George Washington* departed CFAY for its first annual summer deployment June 10.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Rachel N. Clayton

Commanded by Rear Adm. Kevin Donegan, the *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group with more than 5,000 Sailors, is also comprised of 7th Fleet's forward-deployed naval forces veterans: Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5; Destroyer Squadron 15 and the guided-missile cruisers *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) and *USS Cowpens* (CG 63).

George Washington, commanded by Capt. David A. Lausman, replaced *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) last September as the flagship for the permanently forward-deployed carrier strike group.

"This deployment is the culmination of a tremendous team effort that first executed the historic transition to Yokosuka, and then flawlessly completed the four-month selective restricted availability," said Lausman.

George Washington Carrier Strike Group has been underway for most of the past month, completing sea trials, carrier qualifications and a Combat Operations Efficiency evaluation with embarked CVW 5 following the conclusion of *George Washington's* first Japan-based Selective Restricted Availability earlier this year.

The ship and crew returned to Yokosuka June 5 for a few days of rest after a 17-day at-sea period, and are now operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

"Our main focus for this deployment is enhancing stability throughout the region by our underway presence," said Lausman. "The cornerstone of this is the CNO's [chief of naval operations] Global Maritime Partnerships; throughout this deployment we have the unique opportunity to work closely with many of our Pacific Rim coalition partners where we will put this theory into practice."

CVW 5, commanded by Capt. Michael S. White, includes four F/A-18 Strike Fighter squadrons (VFA): the "Royal Maces" of VFA-27, the "Diamondbacks" of VFA-102, the "Golden Dragons" of VFA-192 and the "Dambusters" of VFA-195. It also features Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 115 "Liberty Bells," Carrier Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 136 "Gauntlets," Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (HS) 14 "Chargers," as well as detachments from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 "Providers" and Light Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HSL) 51 "Warlords."

