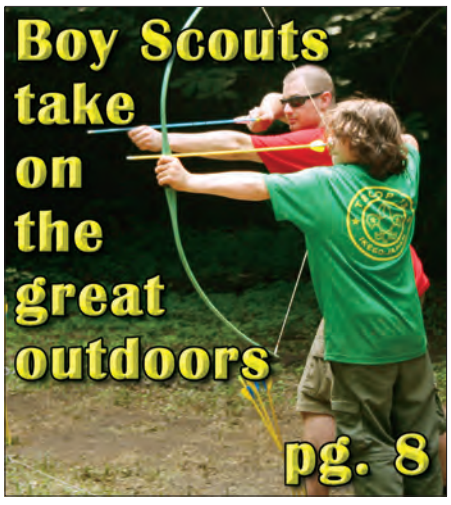
Serving Yokosuka for 50 years

Seahawk 海鷹 Umitaka

U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

Vol. LX, No. 26 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka July 3, 2009



CFAY kicks off 2009 Summer Hire Employment Program

Story and photo by Fumiyo Sato, CFAY Public Affairs

Approximately 60 Yokosuka Middle School, Nile C. Kinnick High School and college students participated in the Summer Hire Employment Program orientation at the Nile C. Kinnick High School Little Theater June 15.

The Summer Hire Employment Program, a Department of Defense (DOD) program, is designed to give youth aged 14 to 23 the opportunity to work at various commands throughout CFAY.

The number of applications for the program almost doubled from last year, according to Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan Human Resource Office (HRO) Lydia Olasin, staffing and classification division supervisor. The 2009 program was divided into two sessions instead of one longer session like last year: the first session started June 15 to July 17 and the second session starts July 20 to Aug. 21.

"I received 143 applications but because I only received 60 vacancies, I had to divide participants [into two groups] so all the students would have the opportunity to be placed in the summer hire program," said Olasin.

During the orientation, CFAY leaders gave briefs about what summer hire employees need to know before starting work. They learned about the CFAY dress code, how to answer the phone, blocked Web sites on government computers and safety issues.

"I learned that you have to be prepared for work and to be safe at work. Now I feel excited to be working and getting some money," said Desmond Mobley, who will start high school this year.

The Summer Hire Employment Program helps students gain work experience while their parents are stationed overseas. Throughout the program, they will be able to enhance basic skills needed at work before entering the workforce.

"We can teach young adults to be better leaders tomorrow. The supervisors of the young adults will be mentoring, giving job training," said Olasin. "That will be good for the children [to learn] how hard work is and how earning money is hard work. To get paid, you have to work for it."

Mobley, who found his first job through the program, expressed his excitement about working at Fleet and Family Support Center.

"I wanted to get experience and get some money; and, I wanted this to help my college in the future," Mobley said. "I hope to learn how to make money and be organized."

During the Summer Hire Employment Program orientation, CFAY Public Works Officer Cmdr. Tim DeWitt leads participants in an oath to "well and faithfully discharge" their assigned duties in the offices they are about to enter as part of the 2009 Summer Hire Employment Program.

This summer, Kinnick High School 11th-grader Amanda Sibayan had the opportunity to work in the career field where she wants to be working in the future. This summer Sibayan will work full-time at United States Naval Hospital Yokosuka (USNH) as a clerk.

"I hope to work at a hospital when I grow up. I want to be a pediatrician in the Air Force," Sibayan said. "I am very excited for the experience. It's an experience that maybe I will be doing [in the future]."

Summer hire applicants need to be aged 14 to 23, U.S. citizens, single and Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) sponsored. They are required to submit documents including a passport with a valid SOFA stamp, a copy of family entry approval, a copy of sponsor's original and extension orders (if applicable) and a social security card.

Blue Ridge to celebrate 30 years in Japan

By *USS Blue Ridge* Public Affairs

USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), the amphibious command ship of U.S. 7th Fleet, will commemorate 30 years as part of the forward-deployed naval forces in a ceremony July 17.

The anniversary celebration, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at berth 9 aboard Yokosuka Base, is being held to recognize the support *Blue Ridge* has received from local Japanese leaders, Japanese Ship Repair Facility workers and Sailors who have served on the ship.

An open invitation to attend the festivities is extended to former crewmembers who have been stationed on the ship at any time during its historic service in a continuous overseas capacity.

E-mail to blrpao@lcc19.navy.mil for more information.

George Washington hosts Palauan president

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

Commander *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group Rear Adm. Kevin M. Donegan welcomed leaders of the Republic of Palau to *USS George Washington* (*GW*) (CVN 73) June 21.

(Left) Palauan President Johnson Toribiong is greeted by *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Commanding Officer Capt. David A. Lausman during a delegation visit June 21. U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Christopher S. Harte

Palauan President Johnson Toribiong and Vice President Kerai Mariur led a delegation that included top cabinet members, the senate president and two Palauan high chiefs, who spent five hours touring the carrier as *GW* passed just north and west of the island.

The visit supports the Chief of Naval Operations' Maritime Strategy by promoting cooperation and trust between partner nations, which will ultimately lead to greater stability in the Western Pacific region.

Donegan, along with *GW* Commanding Officer Capt. David A. Lausman, used the opportunity to reiterate a mutual sense of goodwill between the United States and Palau, one of the world's smallest sovereign nations.

"We know that what you came here to do was to see us operate and to be part of our team—at least for the short period of time we have," Donegan said.

Toribiong and the Palauan delegation observed Carrier Air Wing 5 conduct flight operations on the flight deck of *GW* and also had a chance to see the ship's hangar bay, bridge and combat direction center.

"It's an amazing machine," said President Toribiong. "It's a self-contained city and a fortress. [The crew] is very well trained and disciplined. [The ship] runs like a well-oiled machine."

The visit culminated with a small exchange of gifts including the presentation of a flag flown over *George Washington* in honor of Palauan service members including one that was killed in Afghanistan recently.