



MCPON West visits CFAY during Independence Day celebration

By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

As part of his recent visit to the forward-deployed naval forces (FDF) in Japan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West spent some time aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) July 2 - 6.

During his visit, some of the places West toured were the ships in port, Home Port Ashore quarters, Purdy Gym and CFAY Security.

"It's my first visit as MCPON, but I've been to Japan many times... the first time I came here was in 1982," said West. "I enjoyed myself as a young Sailor here."

According to West, doing an FDF tour should be on every Sailor's list.

"It's just an amazing place, there are a lot of good Sailors and a good mission here in the FDF," West said. "In the 28 years that I've been in the Navy, if I have one regret, it's the fact that I didn't do an FDF tour. I would encourage every Sailor, at least one time in their career, to come over here and see what this is all about."

Additionally, during his visit, West took part in the annual CFAY Fourth of July celebration.

"[Fourth of July] is for everybody," said West. "It's [the birthday of the United States] and it's a great holiday to be celebrating, right here in Yokosuka."

During the celebration, West took part in a Paul Revere 5K Fun Run with the CFAY Chief Petty Officer Mess, performed the opening coin toss for a Yokosuka Seahawks football game and, to help raise money for the Navy Ball, subjected himself to being dunked in a dunk tank.

According to West, celebrating with FDF Sailors is good, because they are important to the Navy.

"It's a very important force, out in the FDF, the Sailors



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West speaks with the ongoing security shift for Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) July 3. West, during his first visit to Japan, toured Yokosuka Base and took part in the annual CFAY Independence Day celebration.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

that man these ships, the mission that you do, is realized every single day," West said. "We have a lot of great ships... we have a lot of great material, a lot of technology out

there, but none of that is possible, all they are hunks of metal without the people behind them. That's the power of our Navy and that's our Navy Sailor."

CNO visits Japan, South Korea, strengthens partnerships in region

By MC2(SW) Rebekah Blowers, Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

The chief of naval operations (CNO) visited Japan and South Korea July 1-7 to reinforce the Navy's commitment to its partner nations and further enhance the friendship between the two navies and countries.

Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO, made the official visit to strengthen the relationship with his counterparts, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) Chief of Staff Adm. Keiji Akahoshi and Republic of Korea Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jung Ok-Keun as well as other official dignitaries.

Roughead said that meeting with his counterparts is imperative to building global maritime partnerships, an essential piece of the maritime strategy. He said these visits help strengthen partnerships in the region.

"Our discussions were really an opportunity for me to talk about the importance of our alliance, to discuss the strength of the relationship that we have, [and] to commit ourselves to continue to cooperate on things that increase the security and the prosperity of our countries in the region," Roughead said.

CNO visited Tokyo and met with his counterpart, Akahoshi, along with other government and military officials. He also visited Yokosuka Naval Base where he held an all hands call with Sailors from *USS Decatur* (DDG 73), *USS Michigan* (SSGN 727) and *USS Albuquerque* (SSN 706) and attended a base-wide Independence Day celebration barbecue with Sailors and their families.

While in South Korea, CNO visited Seoul and Chinhae, where he met with Jung. Roughead also held an all-hands call with Sailors at U.S. Forces Korea Headquarters in Seoul.

Roughead also expressed his appreciation for all of the Sailors and their families in the region.



(Left) Japan Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada congratulates Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead after being presented with the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun award, one of Japan's highest honors, while visiting Tokyo July 3. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

"One of the reasons I am here is to thank you personally and thank your shipmates for everything that you do to make the relationship what it is and to reflect so positively on the United States Navy," Roughead said. "Because you are the United States Navy when it comes to representing us in [the region], and I really appreciate that."

