FISC Yokosuka announces chief selectees, sends praise

Story and photo by Blake Vives, CFAY Public Affairs

U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka Chiefs' Mess gathered to officially announce its seven new chief selectees Aug. 3.

Chief (Sel) Storekeepers Joseph H. Melton, Lynn U. Posis, Elcidrodrigo Famorcan, Joe Ardon and Chief (Sel) Postal Clerks DeAndre Allen, Alexis Barboasvazquez, and soon to report Ajaka Chesterfield, comprise the seven FISC Yokosuka selectees.

FISC Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Arnold congratulated each chief selectee and discussed the "big shoes" that they will be expected to fill.

"You were selected on your past performance and also your potential. It's really the potential that we want to focus on as you go through your chief initiation and as you get ready to put on your kakis because that's what we are looking for," said Arnold. "We have a lot of great examples here at FISC Yokosuka with our current Chiefs' Mess headed by [Command] Master Chief [Juan] Morales."

Arnold also reminisced about chiefs he has worked with and the command's expectations for its new chiefs.

"Chiefs have been the backbone of the Navy since the beginning," said Arnold. "As I look back at my career, chiefs have helped mold me ever since I was a young ensign on my first ship. You have a big responsibility ahead of you because we count on our chiefs to indoctrinate and guide our junior enlisted; we also depend on them to do the same with the junior officers."

Morales pointed out that though the upcoming journey from chief selectee to chief will be challenging it will also be unforgettable. "These seven Sailors will be embarking on what will be their most challenging yet rewarding experience. What they will learn in the next several weeks will remain with them for the rest of their lives," said Morales. "Amongst the myriad things that will be ingrained in their heads will be, teamwork, relying on one another in becoming one, and , most importantly, learning to be humble. This time of the year is the best time for all chief petty officers, whether on active duty or retired, to reflect on their own experiences and what this achievement means for these young Sailors."

After the successful completion of a six-week initiation process, the selectees will be able to call themselves U.S. Navy chiefs.

FISC Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Arnold congratulates Chief (Sel) Postal Clerk (SW) DeAndre Allen along with other FISC chief selectees, after the official announcement Aug. 3.

NAVSUP

Faces of FISC

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Supply Officer Lt j.g. Naohisa Murata is welcomed as the U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka Officer Intern by FISC Yokosuka Commanding Officer Capt. Mike Arnold. In his daily duties as the FISC Yokosuka Officer Intern Murata works closely with U.S. Navy counterparts to provide logistics support. Photo by Blake Vives

Where are you originally from?
Hakodate, Hokkaido.

What brought you into government service?
I wanted to contribute myself to the national defense of my country.

What is your secret to being successful?
Never get angry.

What are your goals as the FISC Intern?
I would like to learn about how the U.S. Navy operates and increase my English skills.

In all of your travels, where is your favorite place?
Istanbul, Turkey, where I visited during my distant cruise.

What is your most memorable life moment?
My four years in college during which I devoted my whole self to playing American football with my buddies.

What is you life motto?
Persistence is power.

FISC LSR: feeding, fueling, equipping U.S. ships, forces, in 7th Fleet AOR

By H. Sam Samuelson, FISC Yokosuka Office of Corporate Communication

If the major sea-going navigation lanes from, say, San Diego to all points in the Western Pacific were like an interstate highway, you might see a road sign bobbing just off the island of Guam that reads, "Now leaving U.S. territory. Make sure you have all your belongings."

The next sign ahead: "If not, don't worry. We deliver."

Guam is a crucial logistics hub for U.S. fleet and other forces forward-deployed in the Western Pacific ocean, and home to U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka's eastern most detachment (Det.), Det. Marianas.

Det. Marians is one of 20 sites and detachments which comprise the FISC Yokosuka Enterprise.

Recently, FISC Yokosuka Det Marianas shouldered the simultaneous logistical support for the humanitarian mission Pacific Partnership 2009 and Exercise Talisman Saber 2009. Like the elements of a "perfect storm" those key fleet events looked like a tsunami on the horizon. But the detachment was not alone.

When FISC Yokosuka and the detachment anticipated the convergence, the headquarters operations department planned and launched a Logistics Response Team (LRT) to Guam designed to shore up support for FISC Yokosuka Det Marianas and ensure FISC Yokosuka met the logistical challenges head on.

"These key events are not over – but, thanks to the LRT concept, we met the swell in the workload and got the supplies delivered," said Chief Ship's Serviceman Elly Mercado, the FISC Yokosuka LRT leading chief petty officer who just recently returned from Guam.

The LRT concept is not new. An LRT is comprised of storekeepers, postal clerks and even culinary specialists who are dispatched, as needed, to remote sites to fulfill the logistical needs of deployed forces in the vicinity.

"They essentially augment, if not replace, shipboard supply staff ashore," said FISC Yokosuka Operations Department Customer Service Officer Lt. Al Francisco.

Francisco adds that FISC Yokosuka has upgraded the LRT concept. Call it LRT 2.0.

"Not too long ago, ships' supply staffs had to wrangle the kind of support we provide. Today, we use the LRT concept. The benefit is, our qualified Logistics Support Representatives (LSR), who make up an LRT, know the area, know the vendors and know the resources to receive, stage, load out and distribute everything a ship needs."

Francisco said that ships' needs include everything from consumables and repair parts to husbanding services, including pierside support, such as crane service, potable water, phone lines, force protection and ground transportation.

"That's really where we make the LRT concept shine," said Francisco, "by leveraging our experience in the AOR (area of responsibility) to provide service faster and more efficiently."

According to Francisco, the service is a boon to ships: "It's well received, I can tell you that," he said, "we just had a ship's CO [commanding officer of *USS Cowpens* (CG 63)] rave about the service. 'I don't know how we'd do anything without the LSRs she said. It was humbling but we mean it when we say we're there for the fleet."

The LSR and LRT concepts are not new but were reshaped as a part of a Navywide Distance Support Initiative that combines people, processes and technology into a collaborative network without regard to geographic location. This redesign enabled the LSR and LRT to meet the demanding needs of a forward-deployed environment and feed, fuel and furnish all AOR ship support needs.

"I would really say that the LSRs in the Western Pacific function in a way that is very challenging and completely different from anywhere else," said Francisco.

Stricter regulation for unaccompanied baggage during moves

Due to recent issues and questions regarding the maximum weight allowed in an unaccompanied baggage (UB) shipment for Navy members during a permanent change of station move, effective spring 2009, the U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka Personal Property Office implemented the following policy:

Navy members are authorized UB not to exceed 600 pounds for the member and 200 pounds for each dependent.

Thus, a member with a spouse and one dependent would be authorized 1,000 pounds.

This policy is in accordance with Joint Federal Travel Regulations paragraph U5320.B, relative to UB shipments by commercial air, as well as aligning with existing Marine Corps policy.

This new guidance will be incorporated into the NAVSUP P490 under paragraph N5320.B.

If you have any questions or for more information, please contact the FISC Yokosuka Personal Property Office at 243-7062.