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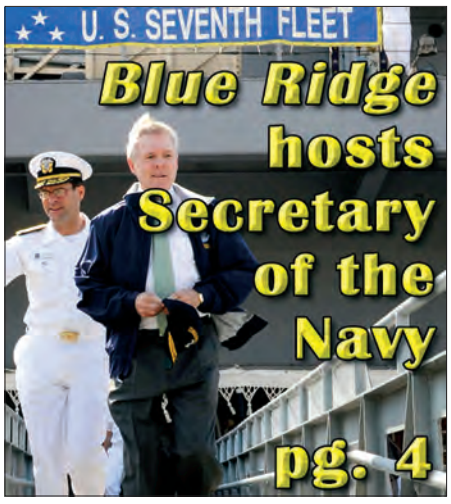
U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

Vol. LX, No. 36 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Sept. 11, 2009



DoD recognizes CNFJ Regional Fire Department with award

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) Fire and Emergency Services Department was recognized as having the Best Fire Prevention Program in the Department of Defense (DoD) in 2008. The award was presented at the DoD Fire and Emergency Services Awards Banquet by Commander Naval Installations Command (CNIC) Aug. 28. This is the second time in three years the CNFJ Fire Department has earned the prestigious award.

The award recognizes the best Fire Prevention Program for outstanding achievements and accomplishments in: fire prevention inspections; engineering and fire code compliance and enforcement; community and public education programs; and innovativeness.

According to CNIC Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, the CNFJ Regional Fire Departments articulated fire protection requirements during the bed down of *USS George Washington* (CVN 73); implemented a proactive emergency planning public information campaign to educate families about the importance of planning for emergencies; and contributed to a 64 percent reduction of unattended cooking fires during 2008.

"It is the hard work and leadership of the management over the Fire Prevention division and also all the inspectors; these guys consistently go above and beyond in all the programs," said CNFJ Regional Deputy Fire Chief Willam Casey. "What I mean by that is [fire] code enforcement, public relations [and] always out there going above and beyond all of the instructions and directives. At this level of competition, everyone has outstanding programs. We (CNFJ Regional Fire Department) feel community support for our fire prevention efforts separated us from other programs. Without the community support, we would not have achieved this level of success."

The CNFJ Regional Fire Department has developed strong relationships with their counterparts outside the gate by conducting joint training exercises and offering tours of the fire department headquarters to recent fire academy graduates. They also work closely with CFAY residents teaching fire prevention at safety fairs and conducting demonstrations at various locations aboard CFAY throughout the year.

The Fire Department has an especially good relationship with The Sullivans School elementary school. Every year the CFAY Fire Department hosts students to let them actually see, touch and use real firefighting tools. The events provide kids with a fun and entertaining way to learn serious, life-saving and fire prevention training.

Children learn how to use a fire extinguisher while taking part in a full day of fun and learning during the annual Japan-U.S. Fire Prevention Activity Camp held every summer aboard CFAY and at the Yokosuka City Fire Bureau. The CNFJ Fire and Emergency Services Department was awarded the DoD Best Fire Prevention Program for their outstanding achievements and accomplishments in 2008.

"We have a wonderful rapport with the fire department," said The Sullivans School Vice Principal Willette Horne-Barnes. "They are very concerned with keeping all of our kids as involved as possible in fire prevention training. In my mind, they truly keep our kids safe."

George Washington completes inaugural summer deployment

By MC3 Charles Oki,
***USS George Washington* Public Affairs**

The *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group (*GW* CSG) completed their inaugural summer deployment Sept. 3, returning to their forward-deployed home at Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

The *GW* CSG, commanded by Rear Adm. Kevin M. Donegan, is comprised of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15, and the guided-missile cruisers *USS Shiloh* (CG 67) and *USS Cowpens* (CG 63).

USS George Washington (CVN 73), flagship of the carrier strike group and the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, departed Yokosuka June 10, traveling 4,552 nautical miles on its inaugural summer deployment. *GW* was accompanied into port by the guided-missile cruiser *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) and the guided-missile destroyers *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62) and *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85).

A central focus of the deployment was promoting security and stability throughout the Western Pacific Ocean by enhancing interoperability and building partnerships with Western Pacific nations.

"Throughout our Western Pacific deployment, we were able to work with a large number of allies and global maritime partners, which enhances our joint capacity to preserve security and stability," said *GW* Commanding Officer Capt. David A. Lausman.

"Being on our first summer deployment in the region, it was important to get out and meet our regional maritime partners for the first time, and show our readiness and willingness to partner with them now and in the future.

"We continue to look forward to all future underway periods where we can nurture growth and understanding with all of our global maritime partners throughout the 7th Fleet area of responsibility," continued Lausman.

Sailors perform line handling duties while tug boats help manuever *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) pierside upon the carrier's return to Yokosuka Sept. 3 after completing their inaugural summer deployment.

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

During the deployment, the *GW* CSG participated in Talisman Saber 2009 (TS 09) July 13-25. TS09 is a biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Defense Force focused on enhancing combat readiness, building and fostering relationships between nations, and preparing responses to possible crises and conflicts. Aviators from embarked CVW 5 made simulated strikes on targets in central and northern Australia during TS09, and Sailors from *GW* Air Department were able to launch and recover aircraft in an increased-tempo flight operations environment.

Another way *GW* Sailors fostered partnerships and interoperability was through the three port visits made by the aircraft carrier: in Perth, Australia; Singapore; and Manila, Republic of the Philippines. During each visit, local citizens and military members toured the ship and interacted with Sailors.

See ***GW RETURNS***, pg. 4