Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Victims honored during Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony

By Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) took time Sept. 11, to remember and honor the more than 2,900 victims of the malicious, terrorist attacks that took place Sept. 11, 2001, that stunned a nation, and left broken families and hearts.

Of the death toll, more than 2,600 people died at the World Trade Center; 125 died at the Pentagon and 256 died on the four airliners.

The tragic events opened the eyes of many as to the extent that Islamic radicals will go to in order to achieve their agenda, and in doing so united not only the United States against acts of terrorism, but other nations as well.

"The legacy of that September day lies in the worldwide embrace of the freedom that followed. Today, millions of people from nations around the world stand united behind one ideal that the destructive agendas of radicals shall never eclipse the light of liberty," said Chief Cryptological Technician Technical (sel.) Willie Brewer III, in his remarks prior to the laying of the ceremonial wreaths.

"Though enemies of freedom hide throughout the world, every day, we and our allies remove more of them from the innocent populations they infest. We stand on the frontlines of our defense, but we do not stand alone. Forces from Britain, Poland and many other nations stand beside us and the American public stands behind us," Brewer added.

In addition to the CFAY ceremony, Sept. 11 remembrance ceremonies were performed worldwide.

One such ceremony was held at the Pentagon Memorial located in Arlington, Va.

"The perpetrators of this evil act didn't simply attack America; they attacked the very idea of America itself - all that we stand for and represent in the world," said President Barrack Obama as he addressed the crowd during the Pentagon Memorial ceremony.

Local chief petty officer selectees salute after laying wreaths upon the Sept. 11 Memorial located in front of the Chief Petty Officer's Club during the CFAY Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony.

U.S. Navy photo by CTRC(SW) Cynthia Dodd

"And so the highest honor we can pay those we lost, indeed our greatest weapon in this ongoing war, is to do what our adversaries fear the most - to stay true to who we are, as Americans; to renew our sense of common purpose; to say that we define the character of our country, and we will not let the acts of some small band of murderers who slaughter the innocent and cower in caves distort who we are," added the president.

"They doubted our will, but as Americans we persevere. Today, in Afghanistan and beyond, we have gone on the offensive and struck major blows against al Qaeda and its allies. We will do what is necessary to protect our country, and we honor all those who serve to keep us safe.

Out of the ashes of tragedy arose the will of a people united against terrorism.

"There is no doubt that the horrific acts of a few were surpassed by the heroic acts of many," said Brewer.

Cowpens Sailors volunteer time, supplies during Manila port visit

By Lt. j.g. Maxwell Schmidt, *USS Cowpens* Public Affairs

More than 25 Sailors from the guided-missle cruiser *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) volunteered their liberty time Sept. 7 to bring smiles to the students of Padre Zamora Elementary School during the ship's port visit to Manila, Republic of the Philippines.

The Community Service (COMSERV) project was organized by the *Cowpens* Command Chaplain, Lt. Kermit Jones Jr., and coordinated with Children's Hour, a non-profit organization that asks individuals and companies to donate at least one hour of their earnings a year and then donates these funds to projects that help children in the areas of education, food, shelter, protection and total development.

Sailors took part in a ceremony upon arrival and then proceeded to a question and answer session before beginning a free time of games and personal interaction. During the ceremony, students sang several traditional songs and offered a cultural dance demonstration for Sailors to enjoy.

"It was a very rewarding experience for me, but more importantly, I think the children really enjoyed it," said Cryptologic Technician Technical 2nd Class David Lansom. "I was happy that we could provide so much joy by answering questions and interacting with them."

When asked to teach the students a song, Sailors chose "*I'm a Little Teapot*," bringing delight to the children as they were 'tipped over and poured out.' Most of the participants were from the 6th-grade class, although the entire school of 2,000 students became involved as the event unfolded.

"Opportunities like this are great when you can make a few kids smile," said Logistics Specialist 1st Class Robert Gonzales. "During this Manila COMSERV, we were able to light up the entire school just by our presence. Now, that was awesome."

Saying good-bye was difficult. School administrators originally thought the event would last only one hour, but were pleased to learn that *Cowpens* had allotted two hours. The children were so excited and the Sailors so involved, however, that the event lasted nearly three hours total.

Cowpens Sailors also delivered more than $2,000 worth of educational supplies that were donated by the pre-school on Yokosuka base, which included educational toys, crafts and other items that the school said would be very useful in teaching.

***USS Cowpens* (CG 63) Sailor STG1 Robert Cooper exchanges stories and plays games with the children of the Padre Zamora Elementary School during a Community Service project Sept. 7. The event took place during the ship's port visit to Manila and was coordinated through Children's Hour, a non-profit organization that helps children in the areas of education, food, shelter, protection and total development.**

U.S. Navy photo by LS1 Robert Gonzales

Cowpens has established a command goal of 2,000 hours of community service during the 2010 calendar year, half of which is in foreign ports. The Zamora School was the first opportunity to begin meeting that goal and it is the first of several planned COMSERV events during their current deployment.

INSIDE

GW Rugby Club helps raise more than $20,000 for charity

***USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Rugby Club helped raise more than $20,000 at the 7th annual Fat Boy 10's Invitational charity event at Clark Airbase Sept. 4.**

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Seminar teaches shop owners how to cater to foreign residents

The Cultural Exchange Center hosted a Foreign Customer Service Seminar Aug. 31 in an effort to help local shop owners better understand how to cater to foreign residents.

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