Serving Yokosuka for 50 years

Seahawk 海鷹 Umitaka

U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

Vol. LX, No. 37 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Sept. 18, 2009

Never Forget: 9/11 Ceremony commemorates acts of extraordinary heroism, tragic events

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) residents and guests marked the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 atrocities by honoring the heroism and sacrifices made by first responders and civilians at a Remembrance Day Ceremony and parade held aboard CFAY Sept. 11.

Events began with a Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the Chapel of Hope, which featured an invocation by Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Donald Moss, musical tributes by Jennifer Benefield and Luis Pena, the Two Bell Ceremony, opening remarks by CFAY Capt. Daniel Weed and guest speaker New York City Fire Department (FDNY) Capt. (Ret.) Alfredo Fuentes, who served as acting battalion chief for the FDNY Marine Division during the response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Sept. 11 remains particularly poignant because we remember not only our military combatants but ordinary people thrust into demanding circumstances and challenged to perform extraordinary acts of heroism," said Weed. "We are blessed...Fire Chief Alfredo Fuentes from the New York City Fire Department is here today to commemorate this solemn event."

Fuentes gave a moving and inspirational speech, relating to the audience his first-hand account of what happened during his heroic response, and the recovery from his subsequent injuries, to the tragic events of Sept. 11.

Fuentes suffered severe, nearly fatal, injuries when the north tower collapsed, trapping him and several others under the debris.

Although suffering from a skull fracture, collapsed and chemically burned lungs, nine broken ribs along with other injuries, Fuentes managed to maintain radio discipline and direct rescuers to his location saving the lives of those trapped under the debris with him.

Chief Machinist Mate (Sel.) DeWayne Johnson, from San Antonio and Chief Electronics Technician (Sel.) Jason Nall, from Tulsa, Okla., lay a wreath on the 9/11 memorial outside the Fleet Activities Yokosuka Chief's Club. The memorial was dedicated to the base by the FY 2002 chief petty officer selectees to remember those who perished in terrorist attacks eight years ago.

Photo by MC3 Charles Oki

"I ask you never to forget what happened on 9/11, never to forget the civilians, remember the way rescuers responded, and always remember the way we as Americans responded," said Fuentes during his remarks at the Chapel of Hope. "Inviting me here to U.S. Naval Base CFAY Japan to speak today makes me and all those who made the supreme sacrifices on Sept. 11 a part of your community and it reassures me of how truly close we are as Americans."

Following the ceremony at the Chapel of Hope, a parade, led by the Yokosuka Fire Department and Chief Petty Officer (CPO) selectees, left from the chapel and made its way to the 9/11 memorial site located in front of the Chief Petty Officer Club where CPO selectees laid a wreath on the memorial to conlude the parade.

Lt. Steve Boatwright, who survived the attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, provided closing remarks for the ceremony.

Naval Oceanography Antisubmarine Warfare welcomes new commanding officer during change of command ceremony

By Lt. Anthony Eastin,
NOAC Yokosuka public affairs officer

Cmdr. John A. Okon relieved Cmdr. Eric J. Trehubenko as Naval Oceanography Antisubmarine Warfare Center (NOAC), Yokosuka, Japan commanding officer (CO) during a change of command ceremony held at the Fleet Theater aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Sept. 1.

Commander Okon, a native of Syracuse, New York, graduated from the State University of New York Maritime College with a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and Oceanography, a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine Third Mate License and was commissioned an ensign in May 1991.

Prior to arriving to Yokosuka, he served as executive assistant to deputy director for regional operations where he was responsible for day-to-day current operations of the joint staff.

During the ceremony, Trehubenko addressed the personnel of NOAC Yokosuka regarding the two years he served as their CO.

"What an incredible privilege it's been to be your commander. Thank you to each man and woman under my command. I could not have done my job without you," Trehubenko said. "We have worked together as a team and I am very proud to have been part of that team. I know that you will extend that same courtesy, willingness and enthusiasm to the next most fortunate man in the room, my able successor, Commander John Okon."

Additionally, Trehubenko was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his tenure as CO of NOAC Yokosuka, during the ceremony.

The ceremony had special guests in attendance such as U.S. Naval Forces Japan Commanding Officer Rear Adm. Richard B. Wren, Task force 74/54 Commanding Officer Rear Adm. Michael J. Connor, CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed and Deputy Hydrographer of the Navy Capt. John Cousins, who was the keynote speaker for the event.

(Right) Cmdr. Eric J. Trehubenko gives farewell as Deputy Hydrographer of the Navy Capt. John Cousins, Naval Oceanography Antisubmarine Warfare Center (NOAC), Yokosuka, Japan Commanding Officer Cmdr. John A. Okon, and Senior Chief Aerographer's Mate (AW/SW) Jed Johansen look on during NOAC Yokosuka change of command ceremony at the Fleet Theater aboard CFAY Sept. 1.

Photo by AG1 David Vohs.