Kinnick students learn fast pace of journalism during conference

Story and photo by Vicki Boehler,
Nile C. Kinnick High School Public Affairs

Many Nile C. Kinnick High School (KHS) students recently found themselves immersed in the fast pace of journalism. For four days during the week of Oct. 24, students, teachers and judges descended on the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo for the annual Far East Journalism Conference.

Surrounded by their competitors from the area Far East schools, students attended various workshops in journalism, yearbook production and video broadcasting. Journalism ethics, specifics in writing and speaking were the key topics emphasized. At the end of the conference the students' knowledge was put to the test.

Students from each school were put into teams in which they worked with students from other schools to produce a newspaper, school yearbook or television news broadcast. Though hectic at times, students learned the emphasis of teamwork. The conference also enabled the students to work under the feel of a "deadline." Most students knew deadlines of a homework assignment but when a paper has to "go to print" or when a story has to "hit the air" they noticed a totally different energy.

'We were each given different roles," said KHS junior Georgia Loughlin, "I had four days to produce a two-to-four-page newspaper product."

Students were able to view and work with equipment such as computers and video cameras generally used in the journalism field.

"From a broadcasting point of view, the Far East Journalism meeting was great. The help and speakers were also amazing. I ended up learning so much about broadcasting and the behind the scenes graphics that go into the journalism business," said KHS senior Cory Seffoss.

Many students in attendance were affected differently from what they learned and experienced during the conference.

"I learned how to be punctual and responsible for not only my story, but also to make sure I was contributing to my group as much as possible," said KHS senior Natasha Sears.

(Left) Nile C. Kinnick High School journalism students Georgia Loughlin, Aimee Oliver, Cory Serfoss and Natasha Sears, pose for a group photo after attending the annual Far East Journalism Conference held in Tokyo at the New Sanno Hotel Oct. 24. During the conference, students were put into teams to produce a newspaper, school yearbook or television news broadcast.

KHS junior Junta Tokunaga's team placed second in the broadcast competition. KHS students Nicole Barcega and Georgia Loughlin also placed in their respective categories.

Navy VOLED program changes help achieve educational goals

By Susan Lawson,
Center for Personal and Professional Development Public Affairs

Changes made to the Navy's Voluntary Education (VOLED) program this year are designed to first prepare the Sailor for the job and then focus on the pursuit of academic goals.

A significant change included the stand up of the Virtual Education Center (VEC) where Sailors can receive counseling and information around the globe.

More details on these updates and program changes are available in Navy Administrative Messages NAVADMIN 105/10 released March 2010 and NAVADMIN 245/10 released July 2010.

"It's important for our Sailors to understand the Navy's focus on voluntary education," said Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD) commanding officer. "Our goal is not to simply 'enroll more Sailors,' but to enroll Sailors who are postured for success in the pursuit of a degree."

CPPD, part of the Naval Education and Training Command domain, manages the execution of the Navy's VOLED programs.

"We work closely with Sailors to ensure they maximize their education benefits by providing them with education planning and counseling prior to their use of tuition assistance (TA)," Hollingsworth said. "This pre-planning and counseling gives Sailors time to acclimate to their work in the Navy, and also allows them time to develop foundational education skills that will help ensure their future academic successes.

According to Hollingsworth, NAVADMIN 105/10 is the most significant VOLED policy change in the past 12 months, and has been met with broad approval, especially within the ranks of senior enlisted leadership. NAVADMIN 105/10 requires new accessions, both officer and enlisted, to serve one year at their first permanent duty station before applying for TA. It further requires all Sailors to have an education plan on file with Navy College before TA will be authorized.

"The Navy's VOLED policies serve to get the right Sailor, the right degree, at the right time," Hollingsworth said. "The first 12 months at the first permanent duty station is a crucial period of 'Sailorization,' when Sailors should concentrate on learning their Navy job and establish themselves as a valued asset to their command.

"The education plan requires Sailors to think about their education goals. This thought process serves to reduce the number of individuals who take courses arbitrarily, without a focus toward long-term education goals. We want Sailors to succeed in their careers and in their academics, which is why we provide them with comprehensive education planning and support services," Hollingsworth added.

The TA program provides active-duty personnel funding for tuition costs for courses taken in an off duty status at a college, university or vocational and, or technical institution.

Navy TA pays tuition and fees charged by educational institutions for course enrollments up-front for Sailors. Under the program, TA pays 100 percent of tuition costs for courses applicable to the completion of a high school diploma or equivalency certificate.

For other education levels, there is a fiscal year credit limit of 16 semester hours, or 24 quarter hours, per individual. Payment for tuition and fees cannot exceed $250 per semester hour or $166.67 per quarter hour.

For more information on Navy College opportunities, visit https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/.

For more information about CPPD visit https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cppd/.

FAST Marines commemorate 235th birthday

Marines assigned to Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Company Pacific take part in a physical training run on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Nov. 10, in commemoration of the Marine Corps 235th birthday. For 235 years, at sea and ashore, Marines have succeeded in overcoming hardship and adversity to protect the United States, and provide humanitarian aid and assistance to countries worldwide.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Kenneth R. Hendrix