EODMU 5, Dive Locker Sailors host holiday party for children

Story and photo by Joseph Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Japan and Ship Repair Facility - Japan Regional Maintenance Center Yokosuka Navy Dive Locker Sailors hosted children from Shinsen Gakuen on base and to visit where the Sailors work Dec. 6. The visit was a part of a Christmas party community service project for the children.

The orphanage itself has a history with the base. It's one of the places where Yokosuka Sailors can volunteer to clean or paint. When the Sailors volunteer, they get to see where the children live and go to school but on this tour, the children got to see what life is like for some of the Sailors.

"We started our relationship over 50 years ago," said Fumi Iizuka, the director of the school. "These children have been coming here not only during Christmas time but also summer picnic parties and graduation parties. The children don't always get to make good memories from their childhood but going to base can provide very special memories for the children."

One memory that the children will be taking with them was EOD robots "Talon" and "Pacbot." The robots are remotely controlled and are used to remove or destroy hazardous material or explosives. The student got to drive the robots around using the on board video cameras.

"We wanted to demonstrate some EOD equipment to the children," Yeoman 2nd Class Adrian Bracamonte, who helped coordinate the tour. "They also got to see the dog handlers. We got to show them a lot of what goes on over here and it looked like they were having a lot of fun with it."

Following the robot demonstration, the children went inside to see where the divers work and what systems they use to accomplish a mission or how they train to maintain their skills.

EODMU 5 Detachment, Japan and SRF-JRMC Yokosuka Navy Diver Locker Sailors pose with children and faculty members from Shinsen Gakuen Dec. 6. The visit was a part of a community service project for the children who got to see where the Sailors work and to attend a Christmas party.

"We showed them the pressure chamber and our other equipment," said Navy Diver 2nd Class Daniel Bradley, one of the Navy divers. "I think that was great because we do work with Japanese civilians. So, maybe this could give them an idea of what they can do when they grow up."

After the visit to the Diver's workplace, the students were brought to the Community Readiness Center for a Christmas party.

"I think that the best part was getting to know American culture, how they spend Christmas and what Christmas is, and not to learn from a book, but to share time with Americans," said Iizuka. "I really am thankful to the command for continuing the relationship with the children and I thank each of them for the very warm heartfelt welcome they gave to the children."

The Sailors laughed along with the students and enjoyed spending part of their day with them.

"If the commands have the opportunity, they should definitely consider inviting the kids to see where they work because it was awesome to see the kids playing and experiencing what we do here," said Bracamonte.

At the end, the Sailors waved as the children boarded the bus and invited them back next year.

Navy takes to air, beats Army for record ninth-straight year

By Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

The U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen beat the Black Knights, 31-17, at the Army-Navy football game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia Dec. 11.

Navy quarterback Ricky Dobbs threw for 186 yards against an anemic Army pass defense.

The Navy football team's win provided its ninth-straight victory against the Army squad in the annual contest.

The game began somewhat clumsily when both teams experienced running-game fumbles, one by Dobbs, in the first quarter.

Navy, however, quickly scored a field goal, making the score 3-0. Then, an energized Dobbs began to find his receivers about midway into the first quarter. He first hit Navy slot back John Howell for a 77-yard touchdown. The extra point made the score Navy 10, Army 0.

About a minute into the second quarter, Dobbs struck again, tossing a 32-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Brandon Turner. The extra point put Navy ahead of Army 17-0.

Army got on the scoreboard in the second quarter after recovering a Navy fumble. Then, after gaining 23 yards, Trent Steelman tossed a five-yard touchdown pass to slot back Malcolm Brown in the end zone. The extra point made the score Navy 17, Army 7.

The Navy struck back late in the second quarter when Steelman fumbled the ball during a quarterback sneak play on the Midshipmen's goal line. Navy safety Wyatt Middleton recovered the fumble and ran it back for a 98-yard touchdown. The Navy squad made the extra point. At halftime, Navy led Army 24-7.

Both teams tried and failed to gain any momentum in the third quarter. However, the Black Knights kicked a field goal in the third quarter to make the score Navy, 24, Army 10.

In the fourth quarter, Midshipmen running back Gee Gee Greene rushed 25 yards into the end zone for another Navy touchdown. The extra point made the score Navy 31, Army 10.

Yet, the Black Knights refused to surrender. With four minutes left in the game, Steelman completed a pass to Brown, who ran into the end zone for a touchdown. The extra point made the score Navy 31, Army 17.

The Navy victory ups their season's record to 9-3. The Army's record drops to 6-6. Both teams are now bowl game-bound.

Navy quarterback Ricky Dobbs (#4) runs the ball during the fourth quarter of the 111th annual Army-Navy football game Dec. 11. Navy beat Army, 31-17.

U.S. Navy photo by Midshipman 3rd Class Dominic Montez