

## Sailor of the Week

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kegan E. Kay

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### RECOGNITION

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – Sailor of the week is a title granted to a different Sailor on board Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi once a week who has shown exemplary skill and work ethic within their shop and rate.

This week's Sailor of the Week is Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Robert Schwarz, Jr. He was the guest host of the base's weekly show, Captain's Call, with the Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Wieman and Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Rhett Espineli.

Schwarz is from Kansas City, Mo. and a 2002 graduate from Park Hill South High School.

Schwarz has served five years in the Navy. He completed his Culinary Specialist training at Great Lakes, Ill. before being assigned to the Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 151 in Lemoore, Calif.

“Before the Navy I never thought about joining the military,” said Schwarz. “When I first got in the military, to my first command, they told me we are going on deployment.”

Schwarz deployed with VFA-151 on the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

“It’s a big city on water which is kind of memorable,” said Schwarz.

Schwarz is currently attached to NAF Atsugi in Japan where he works at the Five Star accredited Far East Café as part of the base’s supply department.

“Schwarz has consistently displayed an outstanding performance,” stated Chief Culinary Specialist Mandy Francisco, Schwarz’s Leading Chief Petty Officer. “[He is] a confident and efficient Culinary Specialist who is extremely dependable and effective.”

Schwarz has worked as a cashier, Mess Deck Master-at-Arms and is currently working as the Vegetable Preparation Supervisor where he maintains the salad, fruit and pasta bars during meal times.

Schwarz said that being on vegetable preparation gives him a chance to enjoy the best part of his job. It allows him the opportunity to get creative with flavors rather than just working from a recipe card, such as creating a new pasta salad every time he goes into work.

Schwarz said that the Navy has helped develop leadership and special skill sets in regards to cooking, discipline and helping him to mature over these past five years.

“[Schwarz] is an exemplary professional, highly motivated and enthusiastic Sailor,” said Francisco.

Schwarz’s motivation does not end with his work habits, but extends into his personal life as well.

Schwarz enjoys exercising his creative mind while drawing and working on car stereos as well as spending time with his family and wife.

While stationed in Japan, Schwarz has traveled extensively with the Navy highlighting Thailand as his favorite port. If give the chance, he would love to visit the Mediterranean ports in the future.

In his remaining time at NAF Atsugi, Schwarz intends to hike Mt. Fuji and hopes to continue his education and pursue a degree in Business Management or Business Accounting.

Reflecting on his culinary skills and education opportunities, Schwarz has high hopes for his future.

“I want to get out and have my own restaurant,” exclaimed Schwarz.