Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Vol. LXII, No. 36 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Sept. 16, 2011

CFAY wins 2011 Pollution Prevention Award

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) received the 2011 U.S. Forces Japan Pollution Prevention Award during the Joint Environmental Conferance held at Yokota Air Force Base Aug. 15. CFAY won the award for its efforts to achieve standards, recycle and reduce waste, maintain record keeping and increase public awareness during the year.

In the write up for the award Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East (FE) Public Works Department (PWD) Environmental Division onboard CFAY stated that CFAY was the first installation to declare conformance with ISO14001, which is a guideline for Environmental Management Systems to improve their environmental performance through effective management and planning.

The Environmental Division used those guidelines to either continue current efforts or initiate new ones. The Recycling Center on CFAY was one of the NAVFAC organizations that continued to make significant achievements in pollution prevention.

"We diverted about three million pounds from the solid waste stream and that saved the government about $2 million and generated about $700,000 dollars for us," said Recycling Branch Chief Roy Ito.

CFAY currently diverts a percentage of its solid waste stream for recycling and has expanded direct on-site support services to include ships in dry-dock, restoration and reconstruction projects and demolition and deconstruction projects, according to a statement from the Environmental Division.

"We also cover the housing detachments" said Ito. "We have waste management efforts in Ikego and Negishi. We have the regular solid waste receptacles, those are the green dumpsters that everyone sees, and we have recycling centers."

A follow-up statement Environmental Division also showed that it significantly reduced the amount of hazardous waste disposal by more that 500,000 pounds during fiscal year 2009 and 2010, as compared to 2008 by developing a process for hazardous waste disposal, evaluating and enforcing authorized use lists, optimizing reuse initiatives and finding and maximizing use of new markets for recycling materials.

"That means that the waste that has been collected is going to be disposed of correctly or made into something new," said Ito. "Instead of ending up in the environment, we've recycled this waste so it can benefit other people."

At NAVFAC FE Public Works Department Environmental Division Recycling Center onboard CFAY, Forklift operator Tatsuhiro Matsumura dumps sorted metal from a hopper into a larger pile that will be picked up for recycling Sept. 6 . The recycling center played in significant roll in CFAY winning the U.S. Forces Japan Pollution Prevention Award.

CFAY was also assessed on record keeping and increasing public awareness. By educating and engaging the public in ways to prevent pollution, the Environmental Division has helped people recycle more and reduce waste. The division also has plans for the future that will continue to make CFAY a leader in pollution prevention.

"We're looking into starting curb side pick up for recycling," said Ito. "There is also a cable stripper that will improve the profitability of our copper wire recycling. So, we're always looking for a way to make our process better."

George Washington commemorates 10th anniversary of 9/11

Story and photo by MC2 William Pittman, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

Sailors aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) gathered for a ceremony to mark the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The event, which was organized by *George Washington* chief petty officer selectees, consisted of several speakers explaining the importance of remembering the sacrifice of the 2,977 killed during the attacks and the global ramifications that arose when the rest of the world strengthened their alliance with the United States as a result of the incidents of that day.

"The act of terrorism and cowardice [perpetrated] on 9/11 changed everything for us," said Capt. David A. Lausman, *George Washington* commanding officer. "That one act has changed our perceptions, our procedures and our lives."

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists affiliated with Al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets crashing two into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, another into the Pentagon and a fourth into a field in Shanksville, PA. Of the nearly 3,000 killed, 372 were from nations other than the United States.

"After that brief moment in history, all of the countries in the world were aligned together because of this attack," said Lausman. "We refocused the alliances that our country has held throughout the world; as part of the forward-deployed naval force, day in and day out we work with all our coalition partners to ensure peace and stability throughout the world."

USS George Washington played a pivotal role in the nation's defense following the attack, by being tasked with providing air support over New York City following the attacks.

Ten years later, the now Japan-based aircraft carrier honored those killed on Sept. 11 with speeches, patriotic music and the laying of an American flag next to a piece of the World Trade Center on permanent display in the ship's hangar bay.

"9/11 is meaningful to me because of the heroes that I have had the privilege over the last ten years to know who have willingly given their last full measure of devotion by sacrificing their lives to protect our nation from those enemies," said Lt. Benjamin Howard, one of George Washington's chaplains. "Each of these people represents to me what 9/11 is all about. It is the sacrifice and dedication of great Americans willing to risk their lives on a daily basis to keep an attack like that from happening again."

Signed into law less than two months after the attack, Sept. 11 is now a national observance known as Patriot Day.

"This is Patriot Day, the day of infamy that we all lived, when we were attacked and we started to protect our freedoms. Today our mission is clear and today is a day to remember," said Lausman.

"It started with all those who rushed in to save others at the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, as well as stopping an attack in a Pennsylvania field," said Howard. "It is continued for the last ten years with all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who have willingly served in wartime to carry out justice on our enemies and it continues today with each one of us who continue every day to serve, to be prepared to defend our country so that another 9/11 will never happen."

Chief petty officers pass the national ensign through ranks in a flag detail during a Patriot's Day ceremony onboard the nuclear aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Sept. 9. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States that resulted in the loss of nearly 3,000 American lives.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Stephanie Smith

INSIDE

U.S. 7th Fleet holds change of command ceremony

Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk was relieved by Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift during a change of command ceremony on board *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) Sept. 7.

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Ombudsman honored during appreciation dinner

CFAY leaders, service members and family members said thank you to Yokosuka ombudsman for their service at an appreciation dinner held Sept. 1.

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