Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY pins newest Navy chief petty officers

Story and photo by MC2 (SW/AW) John Smolinski, CFAY Public Affairs

A standing room only crowd of family, friends and shipmates filled Fleet Theater aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) to witness 43 Sailors receive their fouled anchors and don the khakis of a chief petty officer (CPO) during a CPO pinning ceremony Sept. 16.

"This is a very special day in the Navy for us all," said Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Shellinda Miller, who was guest speaker. "Today's ceremony is more than just a pinning. Today you are formally welcomed and accepted into our Navy's chief mess."

The chief selectees had been working their entire career to reach the goal of becoming a chief, but they have spent the past six weeks prior to the pinning ceremony working closely with mentors, their chief sponsors, volunteering at base events and, of course, running together to further instill the values and ethic demanded of the CPO mess.

"For the past six weeks you have been challenged in ways you may not yet fully understand," said Miller. "You have been through the wringer, and I would bet that there is at least one of you that will not fully understand the significance of that hard work until you feel that combination cover placed on your head."

Their commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest levels of training, operational readiness and personnel readiness within their commands has helped forge the U.S. Navy into the most formidable naval fighting force the world has ever seen. The newest chiefs aboard CFAY have a proud tradition to take strength from, and were selected to help instill that tradition of leadership.

Newly pinned fiscal year 2012 chief petty officers stand in ranks on stage in conclusion to the Far East Chief Petty Officer's Mess Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony Sept. 16 at Fleet Theater aboard CFAY Sept. 16.

"You were selected to become chief petty officers because you have proved to your Sailors and leadership that you get it and that you care," said Miller.

The grade of chief petty officer was established more than 118 years ago. Chiefs have a dual role as a technical expert and as a leader. Their highest responsibility is to their people, enlisted, junior officers and family members.

"Being a chief comes with it a great sense of pride," said Chief Yeoman Marvin Harris, leading chief petty officer of CFAY Admin Department. "These Sailors will be expected to lead and guide Sailors and send them down the right path."

The emblem of the rate of the chief petty officer of the U.S. Navy is the gold-fouled anchor, with a length of chain and the letters U.S.N.

The letters officially stand for United States Navy, but according to naval tradition, the "U" stands for the unity of cooperation, harmony and purpose, the "S" stands for service to their faith, Navy and fellow man and the "N" stands for navigation reminding the Sailor to keep on a true course.

Fleet Engagement Team visits CFAY, briefs Sailors

Story and photo by MC2 (SW/AW) John Smolinski, CFAY Public Affairs

Representatives from Naval Personnel Command (NPC) Fleet Engagement Team visited with Sailors from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) at the Benny Decker Theater Sept. 12-13.

Fleet Engagement Team representatives are touring the bases in the region and are briefing Sailors on perform-to-serve (PTS), career management system (CMS) interactive detailing (ID), enlisted retention boards (ERB) and force shaping programs.

"We are here to educate Sailors on all of the programs that directly effects their careers, and educate them on all the information they will need when they are going to make career decisions," said Capt. Hank Roux, head enlisted community manager at BUPERS 32.

Capt. Hank Roux, as part of Naval Personnel Command's (NPC) Fleet Engagement Team, briefs Sailors on the Navy's force shaping programs at Benny Decker Theater Sept. 12-13.

The goal of the ERB is to re-balance manning in 31 overmanned ratings, improve advancement rates and increase Perform to Serve (PTS) opportunity.

"I know it's difficult to get information as steadily as it comes in the states," said Roux. "That's why it is so important to me that we come out here and answer as many questions as possible face-to-face."

PTS began in 2003 as a force management tool used to take Sailors from overmanned rates and transition them to undermanned rates.

It's also used to provide control over quotas in an environment like we have today when Sailors are staying in longer.

"If you are a Sailor with less then 14 years of service, you are going to have to deal with PTS at least once maybe multiple times in your career," said Roux. "That is why sustained superior performance is critical for Sailors. If you are indispensible to the Navy and you continue to perform at the highest of levels, you will make your quota."

It is important that commands and Sailors, whether officer or enlisted, remain aware of all force shaping initiatives and programs.

Individuals must remain involved in the management of their own careers.

"Our priority is to reach the individual Sailor, because it is my belief that they have the most control over their career, and they should never turn over that control to anybody," said Roux. "Secondly, we are trying to reach the chain of command so that they understand that everybody from the Sailor to the commanding officer which includes the leading petty officer, the leading chief petty officer, division officer, department head, executive officer and commanding officer all have an important part to play in this process."

The fleet engagement team held different briefs for specific Sailors like officers, chief petty officers and enlisted E-6 and below during the two days.

"What I am going to take back to my command from this training is the importance of career development boards and how important they are to the whole process," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Patricia Mitchell, who serves as a CFAY Security Department, Training Division career counselor. "This was extremely informative, and I took a lot of notes."

INSIDE

Opportunities abound with Teen, Youth Club membership

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Morale, Welfare and Recreation Teen and Youth Club offers local teens and youth fun and educating activities after school.

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Changing the color of incidents: Green Dot trainers in Yokosuka

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) hosted a "Green Dot" course that ended Sept. 15.

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