Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CFAY volunteers feed homeless shelter residents

Story and photo by Paul Long, CFAY Public Affairs

Volunteers from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Yokohama Detachment (Negishi) volunteered to feed the homeless at the Kotobuki Worker's Welfare Association shelter Sept. 20.

According to the shelter's staff, 300 people lined up to await the food to be served by the volunteers. The volunteers were comprised of Negishi residents, military, and civilian staff.

Lt. Asa Kim, officer-in-charge of the Negishi detachment, said, "It's one of those community relations projects we really like to do because it supports the local community."

Kim said the menu included hot dogs, oatmeal, cold cereal, milk, cornbread, and macaroni salad. He said that the food was donated from the Negishi All Hands Club, Negishi residents, and the Sailor Recreation Fund.

Crystal Stebbins, a Community Bank Yokohama employee and volunteer, said, "I think that as long as we are here, we need to reach out to the community and build our relationships with the local people."

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) DeWayne Mobley, who works at the Fleet Mail Center in Yokohama, volunteered because he loves Japan. "I've been here almost 10 years. I felt I have to give back to the Japanese; they've taught me so much. It's something I had to do."

The itinerant were very happy to receive a hot meal served by Negishi's volunteers. Yukio Yamaoka, a Japanese national who benefited from the charitable act, said, "We had an earthquake in March and America helped us. Since Japan is in a recession and jobs are hard to find, we appreciate your support."

Another homeless man, Tsutomo Suda, came to Yokohama from Itami City, Osaka Prefecture, after he lost his job. Shortly after arriving in Yokohama, he lost his leg in an accident, and now gets around in a wheelchair, he said. He also said that he gets disability benefits from the government.

"We don't have Americans giving food to the homeless (around Osaka). I really appreciate the Americans giving us food," Suda said.

Kim said that the Negishi detachment has supported this shelter for the past five years.

Rieko Komatsu, a community relations specialist at Negishi, said that she appreciated all of those who volunteered to support the event. "The next time we will do this is around Thanksgiving," she said.

CFAY Detachment Yokohama (Negishi) volunteers serve food to the homeless at Kotobuki Worker's Welfare Association shelter Sept. 20. The volunteers served food donated by sailors and other Negishi organizations.

The Kotobuki Worker's Welfare Association offers various kinds of support for homeless people such as a medical clinic, a library, a TV room, and a job placement office. During the course of the year, the shelter hosts many seasonal events such as Watering (Uchimizu) in the summer time, Tanabata (Chinese start festival), and a Christmas tree decoration during the holiday season.

For more information on volunteering opportunities at Negishi, call 241-4101 or 4102.

George Washington chief petty officers welcome new peers

By MC2 William Pittman, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

Thirty-three Sailors aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) were welcomed into an exclusive Navy fraternity: that of the chief petty officer's mess.

After undergoing 45 days of rigorous training, the prospective chief petty officers learned about what kind of skills are needed to succeed and what it means to wear the gold fouled anchor of a chief petty officer.

Newly promoted chief petty officers stand at attention upon having their fouled anchors pinned to their collars during a chief petty officer pinning ceremony aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Sept. 16. Thirty-three *George Washington* Sailors were advanced to the rank of chief petty officer and allowed the responsibility that comes with putting on the chief's fouled anchors.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Marcus D. Mince

"Our newest chiefs are joining the ranks of about 26,000 chief petty officers scattered around the globe continuing to support our country's efforts in battling terrorism on land, in the air and on the sea," said Force Master Chief Jim DeLozier, force master chief for Commander, Naval Air Forces and the guest speaker at the ceremony. "The 'stressors' and challenges placed on our new chiefs the past six weeks are to provide them with a small taste of what is going to be expected of them as senior enlisted leaders in our Navy. Everyone is watching them, everyone is analyzing them, and now they are under pressure to meet those needs."

DeLozier discussed the importance of being a chief petty officer in a changing world as he talked about the state of the economy and the effects it will have on the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Our new chiefs will be looked at by their Sailors and their Sailors want the answers. Chiefs have always borne the force of change and have done so in good grace and faith to our service," said DeLozier.

Despite a daunting task ahead of them, chief petty officers have a resource unavailable to anyone else, said DeLozier.

"We have a very powerful worldwide web as chief petty officers and you won't find it online," said DeLozier. "Every chief petty officer makes up that web and our new chiefs are now empowered to use that worldwide web to put themselves and their Sailors in a better position to face the challenges of today."

Eighteen percent of eligible first class petty officers around the Navy were advanced to chief petty officer; aboard *George Washington*, 28 percent of eligible first class petty officers were selected to wear anchors and learn about what it took to be a chief.

"The main thing I learned was teamwork and unity, and that the chief's mess can't function as a unit without it," said Chief Gunner's Mate Dustin Cooke from Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "We need to support our chief brothers to help us get through the problems that we encounter from day to day. You can't do it all yourself; it's all about the team."

"I am very confident in this new class of chiefs, not only in Yokosuka but all across the Pacific," said DeLozier. "I can confidently say that our new chiefs are ready to support and serve in the challenges on the horizon."

George Washington's mission is to ensure security and stability in the western Pacific and to work with regional partners to respond to any crisis across the operational spectrum.

INSIDE

Navy bids Roughead farewell, Greenert takes helm

With 38 years of service, Adm. Gary Roughead steps down as Chief of Naval Operations during the change of command ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy, Sept. 23.

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USO Japan gala honors service members' volunteerism

The fourth annual United Services Organization (USO) Japan Service Salute Gala was held at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo Sept. 17.

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