Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Adopt-a-Chef arrives at CFAY, trains culinary specialists

Story and photo by MC1 Greg Mitchell, CFAY Public Affairs

Certified Executive Chef Darryl Espinoza trained *Sailors* on cooking techniques during a visit to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) "Jewel of the East" Adm. Matthew C. Perry General Mess March 26-28.

Espinoza made himself available to *Sailors* by volunteering his time via the Adopt-a-Chef program.

Established in 1998, the program aims to send professional chefs and cooks, to U.S. Navy ships and shore commands, in order to provide culinary specialists with culinary-industry-level training.

Top chefs from all over the United States volunteer to teach skills ranging from the service and presentation of food to knife techniques and using their experience and knowledge to enhance Navy culinary training.

"The Adopt-a-Chef program is about bringing the outside world of food to the military world of food," said Espinoza. "Culinary specialists should have the understanding that their 14-21 day serving cycle is the same cycle used in both hotels and restaurants. Repetition and solid training are keys to providing any appetizing meal."

Espinoza's foodservice career began when he was 14, working in the military mess hall at Upper Heyford Air Force base in England.

It was in Europe, where Espinoza spent a great deal of his childhood living and traveling, that he discovered his

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(Left) Executive Chef Darryl Espinoza trains CSSR Richard Soto, and CSSNs Keanu Fuller and Kevin James on proper de-boning chicken techniques March during his visit to the CFAY "Jewel of the East" Adm. Matthew C. Perry General Mess. Espinoza volunteered himself to CFAY Sailors, as well as students, via the Adopt-a-Chef program. Established in 1998, the program aims to send professional chefs and cooks, to U.S. Navy ships and shore commands, in order to provide culinary specialists with culinary-industry-level training.

'Battleship' stars visit CFAY for special movie promotion

By MCSN Declan Barnes, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

The stars and director of the new film "Battleship" visited Sailors and their families at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) during a 'meet and greet' at the Benny Decker Theater April 2.

Director Peter Berg and actors Taylor Kitsch, Alexander Skarsgård, Brooklyn Decker, Rihanna and Tadanobu Asano met with Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Capt. David A. Owen, participated in a question and answer forum and took photos with the Sailors.

Singer and actress Rihanna said working and learning from Sailors during her time making the film was a humbling experience.

Actresses Rihanna and Brooklyn Decker, stars of the Navy-oriented film '*Battleship*' are interviewed by MC2 Brandon Shelander during a visit with the Sailors and families forward deployed to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka April 2. The director and stars visited with the Sailors and answered questions during a meet and greet at CFAY's Benny Decker Theater.

"It was really special having a lot of real Navy Sailors and veterans help us make the film," said Rihanna. "We could never stand up to half of what you guys are. We look up to you guys so much, and I have so much respect for you guys."

Owen said he appreciated the stars taking the time to come and visit the forward-deployed Sailors.

"It's always great when we can get celebrities over here, and these are some really awesome individuals," said Owen. "Sailors have been talking about this for the past couple weeks, and I hope they know just how much this means to them."

The feeling of deep appreciation for the struggles and sacrifices of the Navy's forward-deployed forces resonated throughout the entire cast.

"I'm always interested in supporting the military," said Berg. "I love and have so much respect for everybody in the military, particularly the Navy and their families, and we all understand the sacrifices that you guys make."

After the event at the base theater, the stars visited the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), vistied with the crew and took a tour of the ship.

"To come all the way over here and meet so many Americans that have made such great sacrifices – it's humbling," said Berg. "All of us got emotional flying in here on the helicopter."

"This movie was made for you guys," said Decker. "Keep up the hard work."

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Red Cross Yokosuka Chapter recognizes volunteers

The American Red Cross Yokosuka Chapter held an awards ceremony at the Admiral Arleigh A. Burke Officer's Club at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka March 30.

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CFAY community spends day at the ballpark

Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka Capt. David A. Owen invited Sailors, family members and civilians assigned to various commands at CFAY to an alternate work location March 30.

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