USNH Health Officer awarded for disaster relief efforts

Story and photo by Richard McManus, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka

Lt. Donald Ordinario, Radiation Health Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka has been awarded the Capt. Ernest W. Brown award by the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center for excellence in Navy occupational health, preventive medicine, and/or health promotion for 2011.

Ordinario created the only Navy dosimetry program that manages multiple afloat and ashore command programs from one location and the first overseas dosimetry hub for Department of Defense personnel in Japan. The program monitored personnel for external radiation exposure while working in support of Operation Tomodachi .

Ordinario said "Looking at the big picture, we were a small part of the overall Operation Tomodachi mission, but since external dosimetry was required for all personnel entering the radiological warm zone for humanitarian assistance, the USNH Yokosuka radiation health team took on the monumental challenge of ensuring personnel were appropriately monitored."

Ordinario was aided by a team of radiation health staff which included deployed technicians deployed from stateside commands to support Operation Tomodachi. "The augmented staff from different Navy Medicine commands was a vital part of being able to carry out our mission." said Ordinario. "Being recognized for the efforts the radiation health team did during Operation Tomodachi is an honor and a testament to the hard work that was put in by all involved."

Lt. Donald Ordinario, Radiation Health Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka displays Thermo-Luminescent Dosimeters (TLDs) similar to ones used by personnel entering the "warm zone" and participating in decontamination of equipment during Operation Tomodachi.

The Capt. Ernest W. Brown award, established in 1986 is presented in memory of the late Capt. Ernest "EW" Brown and recognizes an individual for excellence in Navy Occupational Health, Preventive Medicine, and/or Health Promotion programs at the activity level. Brown was a renowned researcher in the field of biochemical warfare, submarine medicine, and occupational medicine. In 1941, he successfully implemented the ambitious industrial hygiene and occupational medicine program, and is considered the forerunner of our Navy program today.

CNIC trains CFAY EOC team members for disasters

By MC2(SW/AW) John S. Smolinski, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Naval Installations Command (CNIC) Mobile Training Team held an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Incident Management Team (IMT) course at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, June 26-29.

EOC IMT course lessons cover EOC team member's roles and responsibilities, information management and communications. The course consists of a number of practical classroom exercises that allow team members to work in groups to apply knowledge learned in lectures.

"Training of this nature is an insurance policy in readiness," said Michael Crockett, CNIC N7 shore operations training group chief. "My job is to train EOCs to bring order out of chaos, utilizing national response framework and standard terminology that is used back in the United States. "Our hope is after the three and a half day course, every installation we visit is more ready for the next disaster."

Some CFAY watch standers were required to attend the training to further their skills in emergency management responses.

"As a Command Duty Officer (CDO), we are responsible for standing up the EOC [in an emergency situation], said Lt. Asa Kim, from CFAY N5 strategy and future requirements. "Not having this class would not set us up for a future emergency such as another earthquake. "This course helps to further develop our plan and implement the lessons learned from previous disasters into the next future situation: typhoon, earthquake or active shooter."

CNIC Mobile Training Team poses with EOC IMT course students in front of the CFAY sign during a break June 27. EOC IMT course teaches EOC team members the roles and responsiblities in the event of an emergency. Photo by Yuji Kawabe

For Petty Officer Jason Frey, assistant officer-in-charge of Negishi Housing Detachment, the knowledge he learns here will be useful in the future. He plans on retiring from the Navy in 18 months and will move back to his home in Florida.

Frey said that there might not be disasters at the level that they are learning here in Florida, but to be able to walk into his community and help out in a stressful situation is exactly why he wanted to take this class and is why he earned his degree in homeland security.

"I knew the role of the EOC before this class, but this course took it deeper, especially being able to learn lessons from real-world situations like *Tomodachi,* Millington and other critical situations," said Frey.

This course shows how situations can get out of hand and teaches what needs to happen to bring it back under control and manage the disaster, said Frey.

Since its inception, CNIC has been involved with innovative anti-terrorism and emergency preparedness training, an initiative driven in response to the lessons learned from previous natural and man-made disasters and the Presidential Report on the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina which reads, "An investment in the continued training and exercises of our command and control is a top priority."