Yokosuka City Hall, police train CFAY school bus drivers on disaster plan

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

Yokosuka City Hall officials and Yokosuka police officers held a training class for 30 Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) school bus drivers assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East Aug. 24.

Drivers were instructed about procedures in case of an emergency or disaster while driving in the Yokosuka area. The training covered Yokosuka City's basic disaster plan including evacuation routes and locations.

"The role of the school bus driver in ensuring the safe transportation of children to and from school and school-related activities is as important as any other link in the school transportation safety chain," said Michael Frechette, a certified director of pupil transportation at Department of Defense Education Activity Transportation, Yokosuka. "School buses are the safest vehicles on the road. This safety record is the result of the interaction among several items: the design and construction of the school bus, the operating condition of the bus, the planning of the school bus route, the location of the loading zones and the school bus driver."

Training sessions such as the one conducted here plays an important role in ensuring the success of the DoDEA transportation system.

"A modern, safe, well-maintained school bus operating on the best possible terrain with ideal loading zones cannot compensate for an ill-trained school bus driver," said Frechette. "Likewise, today's highly-trained school bus drivers cannot provide the safest possible transportation to students with out-of-date, poorly-maintained school buses traveling over illogical routes, and stopping at undesirable loading zones."

The Sullivans Elementary School students are escorted to their proper bus after school dismissal Sept. 19.

USO Japan salutes American , Japanese service members

Story and Photo by Paul Long, CFAY Public Affairs

TOKYO - Chief (Sel) Navy Counselor (SW) Antonia T. Brown, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's (CFAY) Command Career Counselor, and Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW/AW) Sandra L. Lewis of the *USS Lassen* (DDG 82), were among 14 American and Japanese service members honored by the United Serviceman's Organization (USO) during their 5th Annual Service Salute Sept.8.

The service members were recognized during a formal reception and dinner banquet at the New Sanno Hotel.

According to USO Japan, the Service Salute recognizes select service members from the U.S. and Japan for their outstanding professionalism, leadership, and service to their respective countries. The event is also the organization's premier fundraising event, which supports uniquely-tailored programs and services designed to meet the needs of the troops and their families forward deployed troops in Japan.

Brown and Lewis both said that they were nominated for this award via their respective chain of commands that recognized the outstanding volunteer work that they were doing. Brown said her command master chief asked her for her Sailor of the year package and she was told it was for "just something that (her command) was putting her in for and not to worry about it. "It's an honor to be selected. I'm very grateful to be recognized but at the same time, there were a lot of other people right there with me (doing the job)," said Brown.

Eleven of the 14 United Service Organization (USO) Japan's Service Member of the Year Award winners.

"It feels great," Lewis said. "It's great to represent my command and I have their full trust and support and that of my family".

The other American service members honored were: USO Japan Volunteer of the Year, BM2 (SW) Markeith Spikes, from Commander, Fleet Activities, Sasebo; U.S. Marine Cpl. Robert L. Sigars, III, from Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji; U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Joel Campos, from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni; U.S. Army Sgt. Steve C. Garcia, from Camp Zama, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lakeisha A. Jones, from Yokota Air Base; PS2 Sibei He, from Naval Air Facility Atsugi; AT1 (AW) Daniel E. Shrum, from Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, Misawa; and OS2 (SW) Harshul Makin, from *USS Denver* (LPD-9), Sasebo.

Also honored from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces were: Air Traffic Controller Second Class Yuko Naito, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Liaison Office Yokosuka, Maritime Staff Office; Master Sgt. Yasunari Shikama, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF); and Sgt. Masahiro Matsumoto, (JGSDF).

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