Military working dogs help keep CFAY community safe

By MC3 Matthew Cole, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Master-at-Arms at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) patrol the installation with their trained K-9 partners the Military Working Dogs (MWD), providing assistance in specialized mission functions such as drug and explosive detection.

The German Sheppard and Belgian Malinois dogs that are stationed at CFAY are used to support combat operations, and to protect the installation and its personnel.

Each of the six dogs at CFAY are trained in a preliminary school at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio Texas, prior to being sent overseas to begin training with their handler / partner.

"The dogs are screened by the training squadron at Lackland for the type of jobs they will conduct before they arrive here," said Master-at-Arms 1st class Marcel Martinez, Kennel supervisor for CFAY. "If a dog is assigned to be a drug dog, he or she is always a drug dog same with explosives. When they are trained at Lackland this designation is determined early by how the dog reacts during training."

The MWD career-long designation, of being a drug detector adds to the search and seizures credibility concerning legal matters, knowing the MWD was trained reliably leaving out any confusion. The same goes for MWDs trained to locate explosives; the training they receive makes them an asset that is dependable, and one that has the potential to save lives.

The MWD handlers also go through an extensive 11 and a half weeks training before they can become part of the K-9 unit. This enables them to learn how to properly work with their partners and to understand how they will react to each command.

"It's a rewarding job, it is just that simple. You put in all that hard work with your dog and then the end result makes you so happy," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Roberto Aguilar. "All the hard work pays off when we conduct our missions successfully, all that time you put into training makes it worth while."

This is one of the few jobs in the Navy where your results are instantly shown, you have quantitative results right then and there that speak for themselves, and that makes you proud, stated Martinez.

Handlers will often work with the dog its entire career making them a cohesive team.

The MWDs are deployed through out the world aiding in various missions with their handlers.

Once the MWDs are not physically able to perform anymore or are medically disqualified from continuing service, some become adoption candidates, while others find a way to keep serving by becoming a training instrument back at Lackland for prospective dogs going through training.

CFAY Security Military working dog handlers pose for a group photo with their dogs. The German Sheppard and Belgian Malinois dogs that are stationed at CFAY are used to support combat operations, and to protect the installation and its personnel.

Photo by Yuji Kawabe

Detailers review projected rotation dates, make adjustments

By MCC (SW) Maria Yager,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Naval Personnel Command announced Aug. 17 that more than 60,000 Sailors will see their projected rotation date (PRD) adjusted as Navy Personnel Command (NPC) implements new Sea Shore Flow enlisted career paths.

"Detailers are currently reviewing Sailors records and making PRD adjustments as required," said Capt. Michael White, assistant commander, NPC for Career Management. "Once all of the PRD adjustments have been completed a formal notification will be issued and/commands can review their EDVR (enlisted distribution and verification report) for the changes."

Navy administrative messsage (NAVADMIN) 201/11, released July 2011 announced revisions to Sea Shore Flow reflecting the increasingly sea-centric nature of naval service.

Thirty-six ratings have increased sea time, and 18 ratings are now classified as sea intensive. Specific Sea Shore Flow timelines for individual ratings are listed by rating in the NAVADMIN, which can be found at www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMINS/NAV2011/NAV11201.txt.

"Since 2008, the number of sea duty billets has increased, while the number of shore duty billets has decreased," said White. "The updated career paths provide optimal balance between sea duty and shore duty, enhances stability and improves predictability of the career paths for every Sailor in a sea-centric Navy."

According to White, Sailors with PRDs prior to May 2012, will not have their current PRD adjusted under the new Sea Shore Flow calculations. Rating detailers at NPC will determine what PRD adjustments all other Sailors will face based on the new guidance and fleet readiness. White says the adjustments will impact 60,150 Sailors and expects adjustments will be complete Sept. 1.

Sea Shore Flow was first implemented in 2008 to replace pay-grade driven Sea Shore Rotation. Sea Shore Flow was made to help ensure proper manning of all sea duty and front line operational billets. At the same time, it helps to provide a more desirable work-life balance throughout a Sailor's career by working to offset the often arduous nature of sea duty with predictable periods of meaningful work ashore.

Online feedback tool asks Sailors ERB questions

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Navy Personnel Command launched an Enlisted Retention Board online feedback poll on its web site Aug. 19 that allows Sailors to learn more about the board.

The short, non-scientific, online poll features links to Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) information.

Participation is voluntary and confidential, and Navy Personnel Command (NPC) does not track or identify participants. The online feedback tool will run for two weeks and can be completed by any visitor to the Web site at www.npc.navy.mil.

The ERB convenes at Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Aug. 22. The quota-based board will review the records of approximately 16,000 Sailors from 31 overmanned rates who meet the eligibility criteria outlined in NAVADMIN 129/11. The ERB will identify about 13,000 Sailors for retention based on available quotas. An estimated 3,000 Sailors will not be retained on active duty.

The Navy is overmanned and must reduce the number of Sailors on active duty to meet the number required by law.

"We value every Sailor and family, so the decision to establish this board was made after careful consideration," said Quinn. "We simply had to face the reality of the situation. Unlike the drawdown nearly 10 years ago, we are providing the opportunity this time, on a level-playing field, for all to compete to stay."

Sailors who are not selected for retention can apply for the Selected Reserves or Individual Ready Reserves and will have access to the Navy's Transition Assistance Program for benefits and employment counseling.

NPC first implemented its online feedback service in 2008 and has had nearly 400,000 participants in more than 80 topics.