Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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CPO Selectees grill burgers, raise money for induction

Story and photo by Joe Schmitt, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Chief Selects along with Chief selects from CFAY tenant commands and ships forward deployed to the region held a fund-raiser near the main gain on the night of August 14.

"This was their fund-raising day. They started this morning just before six a.m. and they have been doing fund-raising all day," said Chief Firecontrolman Phillip Ketsdever, fund-raising chairman for the 2011 chief selects. "They started the day by serving breakfast for all the chiefs over in one of the housing towers. Then we had some chief selects go and help clean up after the [Ship Repair Facility] Bon Odori and others we doing a bunch of tasks around the base."

The chief selects didn't set a price for the food and some people gave a few dollars while others happily donated ten or twenty dollars without asking for change.

"During induction season the chief selects have a number events they participate in and that means they need raise enough funds to meet a certain monetary goal so they can go on those events," said Ketsdever.

The night taught the chief selects teamwork as part of the group was taking orders and adding condiments to the cooked food while others were working the grill on a night where the temperature was still above 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

"I remember the camaraderie and all the hard lessons that had to be learned. You know, being a chief isn't easy and there is only one way to learn how to take on that responsibility and that's why we make these guys go through this process," said Ketsdever.

The induction season is six weeks long and the chief selects were on their second week. They had got some of their training done but still had a long ways to go before they could put on their chief anchors.

"Right now we are receiving training from all the master chiefs, all the senior chiefs out there and all the other chiefs. They instill a lot of pride in us while they are teaching us to be the best chiefs possible," said Yeoman Chief Select Antoine Curry. "We all come together, different rates, different work places, different races but we are all Chief Selectees so we come together to get things done."

ITC Select Ryan Broyles grills a hamburger during a chief select fundraiser held near the main gate August 13. The fundraiser helps the chief selects pay for the events that they participate in during the induction season.

The group sung Navy songs through out the night but only "Anchors Away" got those passing by to join in while holding their burgers and hotdogs. Curry said that just singing and serving food can provide a good example of leadership to the community.

"For one thing they see how tight knit and close we are and through our community we can show that if you see or ask something of one chief you know that all the chiefs are out there and will help out," said Curry.

As the rate of customers slowed down, the chiefs selects closed the stand for the night around 2 a.m.

Yokosuka Sailors receive suicide intervention training

Story and photo by MC3 Matthew Cole, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Suicide prevention trainers from Living Works, a suicide intervention training company, is providing a week long training session to Navy leadership at Fleet Activities Yokosuka's (CFAY) Community Readiness Center Aug. 22-26.

The five day workshop is designed to give 15 Navy personnel the tools to work within their communities so they can provide future training on suicide intervention to their Sailors based on techniques they learned in the course.

"This group of 15 people really represents the diversity of people in the Navy, so rather than having one job or one discipline here, we have people from a broad scale," said Devon Tayler, Living Works team leader. "There will be trainers here who are able to take the lessons learned at this work shop back to their own people, rather then having someone from the outside who've never met them try to talk to them. Sailors will have a diverse group of people they know that they can talk to."

Suicide prevention team leader, Devon Taylor, of "Living Works" a suicide intervention company, speaks about the importance of listening during a trainer workshop at the Commander Fleet Activities community center, for service members. The Living Works trainer-training program is a weeklong workshop, instructing Navy leadership on how to identify and address the signs of suicide within the community they work and live in.

Suicide prevention awareness is a top priority in the Navy to ensure the safety and stability of its Sailors. The Navy stresses the importance of intervention and response.

The Navy has specific guidelines that all commands throughout the fleet follow to better prepare and identify the warning signs of Sailors at risk.

"This has great meaning for me to be able to help people who are in that place," said Lt. Robert Mill, deputy command chaplain of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. "Suicide is such a pervasive part of the military climate right now, we are doing everything we can to reach out and help people who are having thoughts of suicide."

According to some participants in the training, for service members, who have felt the affects of suicide in their military career, the training provided by Living Works is one of vital importance.

"I have about 20 years experience in the Navy dealing with health issues medical care, but my passion has always been suicide prevention," said Master Chief Hospital Corpsman, David Andrew Peterson of Submarine Group 7. "I've been exposed to different courses, and this one is more realistic and practical for leaders and those who are more likely to come in contact with people that are having suicidal ideations."

The reason for this training is so that each of us can help somebody who's thinking about suicide decide to stay alive, it just that straight forward, stated Tayler.

"The biggest question has always been why, why didn't someone help, why couldn't I help? That's the reason I do this, even if it only saves one person it's worth it," said Peterson.

For more information about Living Works vist http://www.livingworks.net.

INSIDE

Junior handler enjoys job, rare responsibility

Master-at-Arms Seaman Apprentice Michael Bordner is the junior handler at the CFAY Military Work Dog (MWD) kennel, which is usually staffed with E5 and above Sailors.

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USNH Yokosuka to offer influenza vaccines soon

With flu season right around the corner, U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka is urging the community to take precautions and get vaccinated to prevent the spread of influenza this year.

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