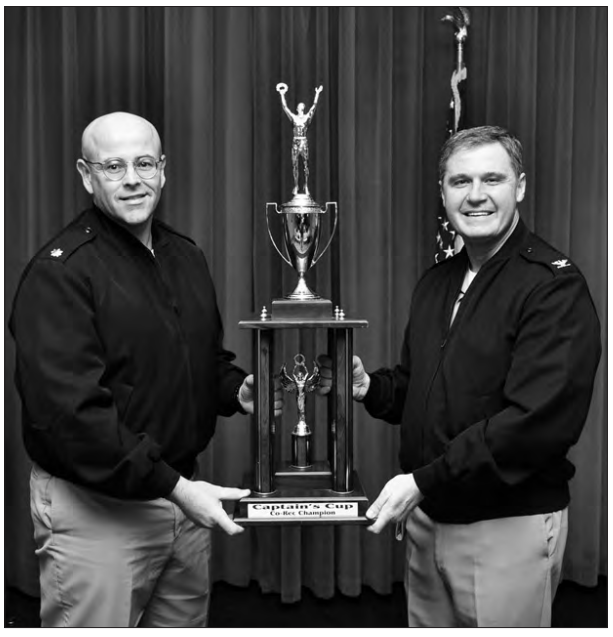
Submarine Group Seven, *Curtis Wilbur* take Captain's Cup top honors

By Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Ending a year of fierce competition, Sailors and civilians gathered at the Chief Petty Officer's Club on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) for the annual Captain's Cup trophy presentation ceremony Dec. 9.

In its eighth year, the CFAY Captain's Cup brings local commands together to compete against one another in a variety of athletic competitions throughout the year. This year, 39 different commands competed in more than 30 different events with Commander Submarine Group Seven (SUBGRU 7) winning both the Co-Recreation and Men's divisions while *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) took home the top honors in the Women's division.



COMSUBGRU 7 Command Sports Coordinator Lt. Cmdr. Scott Kight and CFAY Commanding Office Capt. Daniel Weed pose with the 2009 Captain's Cup Co-Recreation division champion trophy Dec. 9. SUBGRU 7 brought home the men's division championship as well, while *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) won the Women's division championship.

Photo by John Sullivan

But, according to CFAY Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Athletic Director Kyle Rhodus, whose department oversees the competition, the Captain's Cup is about more than just sports.

"The biggest benefit for Captain's Cup is we have multiple games each season and it gets people from a command who might not spend much time together on the job, they get to spend time together on the field," said Rhodus. "When it comes to something at work, you have that friendship from the field, and that will help."

CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed echoed Rhodus's remarks in his speech prior to presenting trophies to command representatives.

"We want to be physically fit, but this is about teamwork, esprit de corps and camaraderie," said Weed. "That's what this is really about."

Weed went on to recognize and thank those who participated in the tournament and show his respect for their work and talent.

"Those teams that are out there participating in every event, considering the incredibly demanding schedule of 7th Fleet, show that they are not just average Sailors, they're not above average Sailors, they're exceptional Sailors, and I want to thank all of you for that."

Lt. Cmdr. Scott Kight, who represented SUBGRU 7 at the ceremony and was the command sports coordinator, said his command has had a great time competing and eventually winning two divisions.

"The co-rec events are great, its kickball and dodge ball, where you only get to play them in grade school," said Kight. "It's been a blast."

CFAY Captain's Cup 2009 Winners

Co-Recreation Division
1st – Commander Submarine Group Seven
2nd – Physical Security Engineering Field Activity
3rd – *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19)
Most Improved – Physical Security Engineering Field Activity

Women's Division
1st – *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54)
2nd – U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka
3rd – Afloat Training Group Western Pacific
Most Improved – *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54)

Men's Division
1st – Commander Submarine Group Seven
2nd – Afloat Training Group Western Pacific
3rd – Physical Security Engineering Field Activity
Most Improved – Navy Munitions Command

According to Rhodus, Captain's Cup includes traditional major sports such as basketball, softball, soccer and volleyball; but also includes non-traditional events such as paintball and tug-of-war. Commands earn points for each competition in which they place or participate. The commands with the highest point totals at the end of the year are awarded first, second and third place trophies in each division. There is an additional trophy for the command who has most improved over the prior season.

For more information about the Captain's Cup, contact MWR Sports Director Jessie Ecklund at 241-2955 or e-mail to Jessie.Ecklund@fe.navy.mil.

Navy College Office goes digital, takes tuition assistance program online

By MC3 Devon Dow,
Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

To give Sailors more control over their education and related benefits, the Tuition Assistance (TA) program operated by Navy College is going digital.

As of Jan. 1, 2010, Sailors are required to create and submit an application for Web Electronic Tuition Assistance (Web ETA).

"This new option benefits Sailors because it is easier for them to log in online, track and process their individual Web ETA requests," said Yokosuka Navy College Program Director Dean Moore. "It saves Sailor's time, the department's time and their ship's time."

The new paper-saving option provides Sailors with the ability to manage their TA by the click of a mouse.

After Sailors fill out an application request online and their command approves the application, an electronic copy is sent to the servicing Navy College Office, who will approve the application and e-mail a voucher to the Sailor for printing and verification.

Once an account is created, Sailors can track the money they are spending and how many classes they are taking, giving the individual more responsibility and control of their pursuit of a higher education.

For the past two years, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class David Meaders has taken advantage of the TA program, enrolling in at least two online courses per semester. He said the Web ETA option will save him time and put greater emphasis on the education process.

"The training and information they give about Web ETA is beneficial to all of us," Meaders said. "I've done paper-based versions for the past few years. It was a hassle at times having to walk over to the Navy College Office. I think Web ETA will be easier because when you're underway and have a chance to get online you can track and update things you need to."

According to Lt. Kermit Jones, who recently received training on Web ETA, Sailors who don't take advantage of this program are literally taking free money and throwing it away.

"The training and the opportunities that Navy College offer are excellent," Jones said. "From the standpoint of the Web ETA, it makes it a lot easier and more convenient for Sailors, so they are more likely to use it. If we are trying to provide a benefit for our Sailors we should do it in the best way possible and less paper is always good."

"The bottom-line is to help Sailors achieve their goal of getting a degree or certification in their area of choice," Moore said. "Here at the Navy College Office we are here to cater to the educational needs of our country's Sailors and getting them on the right path."

Go to https://myeducation.netc.navy.mil or https://eta.cnet.navy.mil to begin the application process for your Web ETA.

If you have any questions regarding the Web ETA program you can call the Navy College Office Yokosuka at 243-8131. Their office is located on the third deck of the fleet recreation center in room 347.