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CFAY engineers receive top honors from NAVFAC Far East

Story and photo by Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East announced the names of two engineers from Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) who will be presented with the prestigious Engineer of the Year Award in February.

The award winners include CFAY Deputy Public Works Officer Eric Rankin, who will receive the United States Civil Services Engineer of the Year award, and CFAY Facilities Management Officer Lt. Cmdr. Brian Nottingham, who will receive the Military Engineer of the Year award.

Surprised and honored to receive such recognition, Rankin and Nottingham noted that they could not have been successful without their team and will accept the award on behalf of the teams they represent.

"I don't see this award as my award, my name will be on the plaque, but this is a tribute to the entire [CFAY] Public Works Department," said Rankin. "Without all of their effort, we wouldn't have met the mission that we did."

According to the announcement by NAVFAC Far East Commanding Officer Captain Christopher Kiwus, both men played a major role in providing the *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) (*GW*) with the facilities necessary to successfully pull into port this past September.

(Left) CFAY Deputy Public Works Officer Eric Rankin and CFAY Facilities Management Officer Lt. Cmdr. Brian Nottingham review plans for future facilities projects at Berth 13 onboard CFAY Jan. 8. Rankin and Nottingham have been selected to receive Facilities Engineering Command Far East Engineer of the Year award in the United States civil service and military categories.

Specific accomplishments included the integration of a new $100 million co-generation plant into the CFAY electrical grid and management of more than $300 million in facilities improvement projects to support the 7th Fleet's forward-deployed naval ships.

While both men recognized these projects as major accomplishments for the year, they also reflected on the multitude of milestones and goals that the team met along the way.

Almost like quizzes before a major exam, each milestone tested their ability while pushing them for continued success.

"The obvious highlight is the *GW* arriving, but so much happened [to facilitate the *GW*] last summer in June and July" said Nottingham. "The completion of the dredging project, testing of the utility system, those were certainly some big highlights. Those are some milestones that happened and you think 'ok, we're getting there.'"

In addition to Military Engineer of the Year and United States Civil Service Engineer of the Year, NAVAC Far East announced that Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa Planning Engineer Tomoe Wakida would receive the Host Nation Engineer of the Year award.

The official awards will be presented to all at a ceremony during Engineer Week in February.

Selective Reenlistment Bonus policy changes announced

By Sharon Anderson, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Sailors will have the opportunity to reenlist with a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) up to 90 days before the expiration of their active obligated service (EAOS) under a new policy set forth in NAVADMIN 006/09 released Jan. 9.

Sailors may have less than 90 days to reenlist for the bonus to keep the SRB reenlistment in the same fiscal year.

"Under the old policy, a Sailor could reenlist anytime in the same fiscal year as their EAOS," explained Jeri Busch, head, military pay and compensation policy branch for the chief of naval personnel. Sailors need to carefully read NAVADMIN 006/09 to understand the many rule changes and exceptions and how this policy will affect any possible SRB awarded for reenlisting. By reducing the time frame for SRB reenlistment the Navy can better project and manage end strength while continuing to provide incentive to Sailors with critical skills and valuable experience to stay Navy."

The policy change is part of an overall effort to stabilize the force at about 329,000 active duty Sailors by the end of this fiscal year. SRB is a targeted market-based incentive which allows enlisted community managers to strategically adjust award levels as retention needs dictate.

Any Sailor whose request to reenlist has been received before the release of NAVADMIN 006/09 will have their reenlistment processed under the old policy. Reenlistment requests received after the NAVADMIN's release will fall under the new policy. Selected Navy Enlisted Classifications (NEC) will be allowed to reenlist anytime in the fiscal year and are listed in the NAVADMIN.

Some other requirements under the new policy include:

• All SRB reenlistment requests must to be submitted 35-120 days prior to the requested reenlistment date.

• SRB requests submitted less than 35 days in advance of the requested date of reenlistment may be rejected. Sailors who are eligible for combat zone tax exclusion (CZTE) and have an EAOS that falls in the most current fiscal year are authorized to reenlist anytime within the fiscal year. These Sailors along with command career counselors must annotate in the remarks section of the pre-certification request whether they are currently CZTE eligible. All Sailors are encouraged to read the complete NAVADMIN and the frequently asked questions available at www.npc.navy.mil.

Sailors recite the oath of enlistment during a mass reenlistment ceremony aboard *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76). Sailors will have the opportunity to reenlist with a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) up to 90 days before the expiration of their active obligated service (EAOS) under a new policy set forth in NAVADMIN 006/09 released Jan. 9.

Official U.S. Navy file photo