CFAY wins 2008 CNFJ Installation Excellence Award

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) was unanimously selected for the prestigious Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) Installation Excellence Award for 2008.

CNFJ Rear Adm. James Kelly congratulated CFAY in an official message sent out Dec. 8 that read, "This selection is an indication of your team's sustained superior performance and their continued commitment to providing first rate services and quality of life for our Sailors and those who support our mission. Thanks for what you do every day and 'Bravo Zulu' for your continuously extraordinary efforts."

The award is the first stage of the Navywide Chief of Naval Installation Command (CNIC) Installation Excellence Award established in 1984 to recognize the outstanding efforts of personnel in the operation and maintenance of U.S. military installations.

The award is given to one installation from each service and the Defense Logistics Agency that has made the best use of resources to accomplish its assigned mission and has focused on innovative management actions to increase the productivity of its work force as well as enhance the quality of life for personnel.

The award is based on the following criteria: business process enhancements; improvements to work environment; quality of life initiatives or improvements; customer service; team-building, communication, and unit cohesiveness initiatives; community relations and participation; occupational safety and health programs; environmental stewardship and other significant accomplishments.

CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed announced the results of the 2008 competition in an e-mail message sent to all CFAY personnel.

"All credit for this award is due to the hard work, blood, sweat, tears and enthusiasm you have all shown this year and throughout my command tour," said Weed. "You should be proud of your noteworthy accomplishment and look forward to our competition for the best Navy installation command throughout the Navy."

Prestige and bragging rights are not the only benefits of winning the CNIC Installation Excellence Award. The top three submissions will also receive a monetary award to be used as the base commander sees fit.

The winner of the CNIC award will likely be announced in April.

CFAY will be going up against intense competition from commands in 13 other regions, but is certainly no stranger to performing at the high level required for recognition.

CFAY previously won the overall award in 1998, 1999 and 2001.

Yokoska Sailors, local children celebrate holidays together

By SK1(SW) Melvin Tanio, Navy Munitions Command Det., Yokosuka

Recently, Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division (NMC EAD) Detachment Yokosuka Sailors took time out of their busy schedule to celebrate a combined Thanksgiving and early Christmas with the children of Kobo Children's Home during a community relations project (COMREL) in Hayama, Japan.

More than 30 Sailors, under the leadership of NMC EAD Officer-In-Charge Lt. David Hamilton, along with some family members attended the celebration.

The NMC EAD First Class Association in conjunction with the Yokosuka Officers' Spouse's Club (YOSC) co-sponsored the event.

"It was a great demonstration of unity among our command and our host community," said, Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW) Mary Williams. "I always appreciate a day full of smiles and laughter; it really warms my heart."

This is the second consecutive, year that NMC EAD sponsored the Kobo CHildren's Home Holiday Party.

The party is just one of the many ways of fostering good relations with the local Japanese community, demonstrating the pride and goodwill as Navy ambassadors.

The Kobo Children's Home provided some lively entertainment by showing their talents in a variety of Thanksgiving and Christmas presentations. Sailors, children and Kobo staff members enjoyed games such as musical chairs. A big hit of the day was watching the children enjoy the Pinata breaking.

Navy Munition Command Sailors and Yokosuka Officers' Spouse's Club members pose with staff and children of Kobo Cottage during a recent community relations project at Kobo Cottage Children's Home in Hayama, Japan.
U.S. Navy photo by GM3 Daniel Camp

"It is a blessing for us to be able to support this event and the Kobo Cottage Children's Home," said Hamilton. "The excitement and smiles of the children fill our hearts with the holiday spirit."

Kobo Director Esther Kaneko said, "Your love has touched us in many ways that has encouraged all of our children and staff."

Pastor Raymond Mercer of the Yokosuka Grace Bible Church delivered an inspirational message about Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Mercer emphasized the value of sharing and giving.

"Having new friends and sharing to others what we have is something to be thankful for," said Mercer.

"Christmas is love and God gave us a big present that we did not even deserve," he said. "That is why we give presents at Christmas time to remind us of the big present that God gave us."

During the event, NMC Sailors and YOSC members provided pizza, turkey, ham and a variety of side dishes for lunch.

"I was happy to play Santa Claus especially for the less fortunate children," said Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW) Arthur Donehower "To see the smiles on their little faces made me feel great. Faces of the kids lit up like Christmas trees, and everyone had a great time!"

The Thanksgiving and Christmas program ended with the presentation of Christmas gifts and a picture session with Santa Claus.

Cowpens Sailors help spread holiday cheer

Story and photo by Ensign Alison Derr, *USS Cowpens* Public Affairs

Approximately 20 Sailors and their families from the *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) spent the day with the children of the Misano Children's Home druing a community relations project in Fujisawa, Japan, Dec. 6.

Led by Command Chaplain Lt. David Bradley and his family, the "thundering herd" helped foster the holiday spirit by making snowflakes, Christmas tree ornaments and other holiday crafts with the children and gave more than 150 Christmas presents.

***USS Cowpens* (CG 63) Sailors assist "Santa" in passing out gifts during a community relations project at the Misano Children's Home in Fujisawa, Japan Dec. 6.**

"It was so wonderful to see how the children, from toddler to young adult, interacted with our Sailors," said Bradley. "Although not all of the children spoke English, the language barrier was broken with the universal affinity for the Christmas season."

Once the children and the Sailors finished their crafts, Santa Claus, played by Boatswain Mate Seaman Stephen Hunter, and his elf, Ensign Michelle Czarniak, paid a visit to the home, passing out multitudes of presents donated by *Cowpens* Sailors.

"Seeing their faces light up as they opened their gifts and squeal with delight was a heartwarming experience that I don't think I will forget," said *Cowpens* Strike Officer Ensign Ryan Doyle.

Later that afternoon, the Sailors and family members said goodbye to the Misano Children's Home, but they left with full hearts knowing that they had made this year's Christmas memorable for those children.

"*Cowpens* Sailors visit to the Misano Children's Home has become a tradition that I hope we will continue because of the joy of sharing the Christmas spirit," said Bradley. "Additionally, the relationship which we have developed with our Japanese neighbors is vital to the mission of *USS Cowpens*."

AOB/ICR program now five days

By Fleet and Family Support Center

The weekly Area Orientation Briefings and Intercultural Relations class (AOB/ICR) is now a five-day program. Classes start on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday walk-ins will be turned away and will have to attend at a later date.

Attendance at AOB/ICR is a prerequisite to attending the Driving Safety Lecture and Test (DSL) on Friday. AOB/ICR is facilitated by Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). The DSL is facilitated by the CFAY Safety Office.

At present, both the AOB/ICR and DSL programs are conducted at the Benny Decker Theater. In the spring of 2009, AOB/ICR and the DSL will relocate to the 4th floor of the new Community Support Facility, Bldg. 3655, across from the commissary.

With the new five-day schedule in place, AOB/ICR and DSL will not be held in any week that has a national holiday.

If needed, child care vouchers are provided to attendees for the duration of the class.
For more information call FFSC at 243-3372.