Visiting mixed martial arts fighters mix it up with Yokosuka Sailors

Story and photo by MC3 Andrew Ryan Smith, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Mixed martial arts (MMA) fighters visited Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Jan. 13, to entertain forward-deployed Sailors and their families.

The clinic was part of the Fighters for Fighters Tour, which has brought numerous MMA stars to military installations across the Pacific.

During their visit, the six fighters put on a clinic to demonstrate skills to Sailors in attendance, as well as sign autographs and pose for photos with fans of the sport.

Fans were given hands-on training by popular fighters including Nate "Rock" Quarry, Tom Lawlor, Dustin Poirier, Joao Assis, Eben Kaneshiro and coach Eddie Dahlen.

Many of the Sailors who attended the clinic also brought their family members to the event. One such pair was U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility-Japan Regional Maintenance Center Command Master Chief Shane Lazio, and his nine-year-old son Talon.

"I was excited the MMA fighters came out here to support the troops," said Lazio. "I have spent a lot of time deployed over the past few years so it's nice to have an opportunity to spend time with my son."

Talon was eager to participate and get an autograph from his favorite fighter, Nate "Rock" Quarry.

Talon stated he likes every thing about MMA, and was excited to get the chance to participate in the event.

"This is a way for us to give back to the troops that defend out nation," said MMA fighter Kurt Shrout. "I love being around service members, especially Navy, they are some of our biggest fans."

Armed Forces Entertainment sponsored the tour to entertain forward-deployed Sailors to bring them a taste of home.

Mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter Joao Assis demonstrates a blocking move at an MMA event held at CFAY Jan. 13. The Morale Welfare and Recreation event was organized to entertain forward-deployed service members and their families.

Yokosuka was the third stop on the tour, after Hawaii and Guam. The next stop the fighters plan to make is to Misawa Air base.

Nippon Zenkokai Association accepting nominations for 2011 award

By CNFJ Public Affairs

The Nippon Zenkokai Association (or the Good Conduct Association of Japan), an independent non-profit organization under the control of the Japanese government, annually recognizes individuals or groups for significant contributions to the community and presents them with a Zenkokai Good Conduct Award. The association is now soliciting nominations for 2011.

Eligible nominees: U.S. military, Department of Defense civilian employees and their family members who have made significant contributions to the Japanese community. Emphasis is placed on continued efforts over the period of a year or more, but significant episodic contributions will also be considered such as lifesaving. Those who have previously received this award are not eligible. Job related activities are not eligible either.

Significant contributions to the community are defined by the association as follows:

• Contribution to public life: Deeds that have contributed to the Japanese community (general public) through preservation of public property and propagation and practice of public morality.

• Accident prevention: Traffic control, prevention of water casualty, et cetera.

• Environment beautification: Deeds that have contributed to the environment through beautification.

• Guidance of youths and children: Guidance of children's groups, protection of young people, proper leadership of juvenile delinquents, et cetera.

• Social welfare support: Acts of giving comfort such as consolidation, encouragement, money or other articles to the residents of social welfare institutions or other people living in adverse circumstances.

Sailors and DoD civilians receive the 2010 Nippon Zenkokai Association Good Conduct Award during an awards ceremony in Tokyo. The association is now soliciting nominations for 2011. U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Mike R. Mulcare

• Good neighborhood: Giving assistance or other virtuous conduct toward a neighbor or friend.

• Cooperation with police or fire department: Noteworthy conduct contributing to the arrest of a criminal or the notification or prevention of the outbreak of a fire, et cetera.

• Life saving: Noteworthy conduct such as the rendering of first aid that resulted in the saving of a life.

• Other: Contributions not falling within the preceding categories that are deemed worthy of special recognition. Acts may be of a continuing nature, such as support to a social institution. Deeds of longer duration or periodical recurrence will be given higher priority.

Awardees will be notified by message in April or May. If selected for an award, awardees are encouraged to travel to Tokyo to attend an awards ceremony May 14. Nominating commands will be required to fund travel and, or per diem costs for awardees.

To obtain an electronic form, submit a nomination package, or for more information, contact Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan Public Affairs Office Community Relations Specialist Yoko Kato by e-mail to yoko.kato.ja@fe.navy.mil or call 243-3057.

Complete nomination packages must be forwarded no later than close of business Jan. 31.

Nomination packages with Japanese translation are highly encouraged.