Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Students from The Sullivans School serve up juvenile justice

Story and photo by MC2(SW) Devon Dow, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Students from The Sullivans Elementary School were given the unique opportunity to hold a mock trial at the Western Pacific Judicial Circuit Court on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Jan. 12.

The event was held by the Naval Legal Service Office Pacific and focused on familiarizing students with the process and procedures of the military justice system.

Students assumed the roles of judge, prosecutors, defendants, bailiffs, jury and witnesses during the trial which centered on the classic fairytale of "*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*."

The students were assigned Judge Advocate Generals (JAG) officers and staff members who helped facilitate the proceedings while teaching the students the fundamentals and routine procedures of working in an actual courtroom.

Following the trial, students had a question and answer session with the judge and military legal personnel who participated in the mock trial. Students were then treated to refreshments and received a command coin from the legal office's executive officer.

"I think it is a great opportunity for them to get some insight on the military justice system and the criminal justice system," said Capt. David Berger, Circuit Military Judge. "It's a great teaching and learning opportunity, we were very happy to have them here with us today."

Teachers and parents who were on hand at the event said that the experience is something they believe the children will never forget.

"Today was a great event for the children, they really enjoyed themselves," said Steve Parker, fourth-grade teacher at The Sullivans School. "There is no way we could reproduce this type of experience for the students in the classroom. This opportunity to see the court in action and to learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship is invaluable for these children. We are grateful for the legal office to have us over and to give the children the opportunity to see the inner workings of our legal system."

Lt. Cmdr. Dave Norkin, a judge advocate general, gives closing arguments during a mock trial hosted for students from The Sullivans Elementary School Jan. 12. The mock trial was an event held by the legal office and aimed at familiarizing students with the process and procedures of the military justice system.

From taking the witness stand to calling for order in the courtroom, the children were all smiles.

"It was a lot of fun today," said fourth-grade student Tanisha McCullough, who served as a judge during the mock trial. "Before we arrived today, I thought the court room was going to be a really big place, but it wasn't. After today, I feel like I want to be a judge."

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Navy workforce programs gain national recognition in 2010

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Competing against Fortune 500 companies, the U.S. Navy earned 15 national awards in 2010 for workforce management, training, diversity and life-work balance.

Representing a significant increase in the second year of efforts to showcase the Navy as an employer of choice, this year's award winners come from both large and small commands, as well as units in the United States and overseas.

"These awards confirm something I have known throughout my 29 years of service - that our Navy is dedicated to improving the lives of our Sailors," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel. "The commands and programs receiving these awards highlight a small fraction of the policies and programs Navy employs to attract, train and retain the nation's best and brightest."

Fiscal year 2010 began with the Navy winning Workforce Management Magazine's Optimas Award in "General Excellence." As the first in the Department of Defense and the second government agency to win the award in 19 years, the Navy joined past winners such as Google, Hewlett-Packard and AT&T. By providing competitive pay, flexible career options and innovative programs such as Credentialing Opportunities Online and assignment incentive pay, the Navy has established itself as a leader in workforce management.

In the area of training, the Navy took home eight separate awards in 2010, including entering Training Magazine's "Top 125" list at number 17, the second highest initial entry in that award's history. Some of the Navy training programs nationally recognized in 2010 include Professional Apprenticeship Career Tracks, Voluntary Education and Language Skills, Regional Expertise and Cultural Awareness. Each of these programs represent Navy's goal of providing Sailors with the training and skills needed to be successful during their careers and beyond.

CNO Adm. Gary Roughead thanks Sailors and civilians in the personnel community for being an integral part of the Navy being awarded the Optimas Award in General Excellence. Competing against Fortune 500 companies, the Navy earned 15 national awards in 2010 for workforce management, training, diversity and life-work balance.
U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

"Education and training opportunities are some of the most important factors Sailors take into account when deciding to join the Navy," explained Scott Lutterloh, director, Training and Education Division. "Our goal is to provide the best and most flexible opportunities for our workforce to gain the expertise needed to prepare them for the challenges of today and tomorrow."

The Navy was also honored in 2010 as an organization that is dedicated to diversity. Diversity Inc. Magazine recognized the Navy in March 2010 as a top federal agency for excellence in leadership commitment, human capital, communications and diversity.

Also in March 2010, the Association of Diversity Councils selected the Navy as the eighth Best Diversity Council in the United States. In April 2010, Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology Magazine described the Navy as a forward- looking company that values and supports diversity in the technical workforce. Finally, in May 2010, BDPA.com and WorkplaceDiversity.com declared the Navy was one of 14 companies excelling in community outreach, diversity recruiting programs and for promoting significant numbers of African Americans into the information technology management ranks.

"The awards reflect Navy's goal of providing the fleet with the best training, flexible work environments and a talented and diverse workforce. Looking to the future, we must continue to excel in these areas in order to be an employer of choice and compete with the civilian market for the nation's best talent," said Ferguson.

INSIDE

High retention prompts officer early retirement board

To help offset high retention and low attrition among active duty captains and commanders, the Navy will conduct a selective early retirement board in July.

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Visiting mixed martial arts fighters mix-it-up with Sailors

Mixed martial arts (MMA) fighters visited CFAY Jan. 13 as part of the Fighters for Fighters Tour, to entertain forward-deployed Sailors and their families.

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