SPAWAR instructors bring expertise to forward-deployed Sailors

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

A team of reservists from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) brought their expertise to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Jan. 11 to provide a week-long training course.

The course is intended to teach updated software and systems to forward-deployed information systems technicians (IT) and electronics technicians (ET).

"Technology is constantly changing and what the ITs need to know is constantly changing," said Cmdr. Paul Costello, officer-in-charge of the SPAWAR training team. "Being out here with forward-deployed naval forces, you don't always have the ability to walk in to a classroom or an 'A' school, so we bring that knowledge out here and bring Sailors up-to-date."

The Navy's Chief Information Officer, Rob Carey stated that in today's information age, those who defend our country must keep up-to-date with modern systems and technologies to meet any and all challenges they may encounter.

"We have a formalized training program where we cover networking issues, information assurance and technical issues," said Costello. "What we really want to do is get these Sailors in the classroom and teach subjects they may not have been exposed to. What we want them to do is raise their hand and say, 'We also need help with this.' What we don't want is for them to walk out of the class room and say, 'I wish they had covered this.'"

"The level of expertise they bring to all these classes is outstanding," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Doug Nicholson, assigned to *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19). "They have subject matter experts in each area of the course."

The training provided by the SPAWAR instructors is funded by SPAWAR, so their classes have no financial impact on the ships and units they train. As a deployable unit that travels to forward-deployed bases, they are one of the only groups who train forward-deployed Sailors.

"The relationships we build here in the classroom continue after we leave; if a guy has a question three months from now and he feels comfortable e-mailing the instructor, our instructor will find the answer for him," said Costello.

"I look forward to the next two days to see what I can learn and take away and I appreciate those guys coming out," Nicholson said.

Cmdr. Paul Costello, officer-in-charge of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, instructs a class Jan. 12 at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka during a week-long training course intended to teach updated software and systems to forward-deployed Sailors.

Japan-America Society of Yokosuka visits *USS Lassen*

By Lt. j.g. Douglas W. Gates,
***USS Lassen* Public Affairs**

Board members of the Japan-America Society of Yokosuka were given a tour of the Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) Jan. 13 at its forward-deployed port of Yokosuka, Japan.

During the tour, led by *Lassen* Commanding Officer Cmdr. H.B. Le, society members learned about the history of *USS Lassen* and its namesake, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Cmdr. Clyde Lassen.

Lassen crew members explained several of the ship's combat systems, including the Aegis combat suite, SPY-1D RADAR, the Phalanx Close-in Weapon System and the Vertical Launching System. Additionally, guests experienced the life of watch teams in both the pilothouse and Combat Information Center. Finally, visitors received an explanation of flight operations and learned about the versatility of the various SH-60 Seahawk helicopter variants.

The Japan-America Society of Yokosuka promotes friendship and strives to maintain the bond between the United States and Japan.

(Left) *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) Commanding Officer Cmdr. H.B. Le welcomes board members of the Japan-America Society of Yokosuka for a tour of the ship Jan. 13.
U.S. Navy photo by IT1 Benjamin Wooldridge

Free online tutoring available for service members, families

By Bruce Moody, CNIC FFSC Program Public Affairs

Free, unlimited tutoring in a variety of subjects from secondary education mathematics to resume writing is now available online for all service members and their families.

A new service provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) matches youths and adults with certified, professional tutors at http://www.tutor.com/military-programs.

Tutors can assist students in more than 16 subjects from kindergarten to college-level calculus, statistics and physics as well as state standardized tests and the Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Testing exams.

The web site always matches one student with one tutor, an individual certified in the student's subject and level of education. Students and tutors will meet in an interactive workspace through a chat session. An uploaded book report, for example, can be opened in the workspace, allowing both student and tutor to review the material. Specialized workspaces for subjects such as math or chemistry include toolbars with functions for creating equations, charts and graphs.

All of the sessions are anonymous and conducted by screened, certified tutors and career specialists who have all completed a third-party background check.

The service is free for all U.S. active duty service members, U.S. military reservists, U.S. National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status, U.S. military retirees, Wounded Warriors, DoD civilians assigned to DoD installations and their dependents.

Tutors are available globally 24-hours daily at http://www.tutor.com/navy. To access the site, eligible personnel must first sign in to Navy Knowledge Online at https://wwwa.nko.navy.mil/portal/home/ and click on the "Reference" tab, found on the right side of the page. Here, there are links for the tutoring site.

Tutor.com has a network of more than 1,800 expert tutors that have conducted more than five million sessions in math, science, social studies and English.

Tutor.com is an American Association of School Administrators partner and has been awarded the Parent's Choice Gold Award in 2008 and 2009.