Serving Yokosuka for 50 years

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CFC awards ceremony recognizes Yokosuka volunteers

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Command coordinators of the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) gathered in the Officers' Club aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) to be recognized for the hard work, sacrifice and commitment they demonstrated while getting the word out, collecting donations and helping Sailors, family members and civilians make meaningful contributions to some of the world's most important causes.

Combined Federal Campaign Overseas Pacific Region Coordinator Kitty Malcolm-Orr and CNFJ Capt. Pat Wylly present MUCS (SW) Dennis Garza, command coordinator for the 7th Fleet Band a gold unit plaque in recognition of the contributions the command made to the 2008 campaign. Gold plaques are awarded to units which contribute $120 per person and/or had 60 percent unit participation.

Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations, Plans and Training Capt. Pat Wylly served as the guest speaker for the ceremony and put the accomplishments of the 2008 volunteers in perspective.

"Today, in the midst of the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression, the national figure for giving is nearly stagnate and possibly even declining," said Wylly. "During that same time our Yokosuka Navy family has been able to give 20 percent higher than the previous year. The only conclusion I can attribute this to, is that it is a direct result of the hard work done by each and every one of you in this room."

The volunteers' hard work certainly paid off in 2008; the Yokosuka area donated nearly $750,000 during the campaign despite the poor economy.

Community Area Project Organizer Chief Quartermaster Henry Harris was more than satisfied with the results of the 2008 campaign. "We increased the participation numbers," said Harris. "That means we had more people this year fill [pledge forms] out, and give something."

The 2008 overseas campaign had more than 2,000 participating charities for individuals to choose from. The campaign also featured several convenient ways to contribute including online pledge assistance, credit card giving and the traditional paper pledge form, all of which contributed to making the year such a success.

However, the most important factors in the success of the campaign were the dedication and quality of the volunteers and the enthusiasm CFAY personnel demonstrated for doing whatever they could to make a positive difference in the world.

Although the mission of the military is primarily to deter war and protect the security of the country, service members know that there is more to serving than just performing their on-the-job duties. "We also have another mission, to project stability and show the world we care," said Harris. "You see it in the news, you hear about the difficulties back home and you want to make a difference."

Yokosuka Boy Scouts honor Kelly for lifetime of service

Story and photo by Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Recognizing a lifetime of service, the Far East Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) awarded Rear Adm. James Kelly with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award at a ceremony aboard Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Feb. 28.

According to BSA, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award is one of the Boy Scouts highest awards for volunteers and the only distinguished service recognition that is exclusively reserved for individuals who attained the rank of Eagle Scout as a youth.

In order to be eligible for the award, you are required to have been an Eagle Scout for a minimum of 25 years before that person can be nominated for the award. In addition, the nominee must demonstrate a significant accomplishment in their career and have a solid record of continued community volunteer involvement.

As a rear admiral in the United States Navy and as Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan, it is clear that Kelly has demonstrated an accomplished career.

But it was his record of volunteerism that was highlighted for this award. Kelly is a respected role model in the Far East scouting community and has been an ardent supporter of the Boy Scouts in Japan.

Working to find time in his busy schedule, he regularly attends ceremonies such as court of honor celebrations in which young men receive their Eagle Scout award. He also has helped to facilitate scouting events within the military community.

Far East Council President and U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka Doctor Capt. Michael Brenyo explained that Kelly earned this award by becoming an Eagle Scout in 1966 and continuing to be an active supporter of BSA since that time.

"Admiral Kelly, by the nature of his position and helping the scouts in the Yokosuka community, has demonstrated that he is worthy of recognition above and beyond that of a normal Eagle Scout," said Brenyo.

Continuing his legacy of giving back to the scouts, Kelly used the ceremony in which he was the guest of honor to bestow an award on another scout. He surprised Boy Scout Nathan White by officially pinning the Eagle Scout Award on White at the ceremony. White had completed all the Eagle Scout requirements, but due to his father's permanent change of station, had not been officially given the award.

"I was very surprised I was getting the award," said White. "I'm so happy that somebody as great as Rear Admiral Kelly could give [the Eagle Scout Award] to me and share this day with me."

Kelly shared White's honor in receiving an award.

"It's a pretty humbling experience to be recognized with something like this," said Kelly. "It's a great Navy day. It's a great scouting day."

CNFJ Rear Adm. James Kelly renders the Boy Scout salute after receiving the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Far East Council of the Boy Scouts of America aboard CFAY Feb. 28. Kelly, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1966, received the award in recognition of his more than 25 years of service to his community and to the scouts.