CFAY public works specialist deploys to Haiti

By NAVFAC Far East Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Public Works Department's (PWD) Supervisory Contract Specialist Damon Lilly departed Feb. 8 for a 90-day deployment to Haiti in support of the Joint Task Force established to begin rebuilding efforts after a devastating earthquake struck Jan. 12.

"This is an opportunity to help in a difficult situation, go down, and help as much as I can," said Lilly just prior to his departure from Yokosuka. "I appreciate the support from everyone here that can make this happen. I hope it is good, meaningful work, and I'll be able to help some people."

Lilly arrived at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) compound Feb. 10, and has been supporting NAVFAC contract work ever since.

"One of the NAVFAC key recovery efforts is conducting assessments of buildings out in town for earthquake damage, with the hope being that if there are undamaged homes, we can get people back into them and out of the tent camps," Lilly said. "The assessments seem to be well-received and [we] are making good progress. There is also significant engineering effort on project development for road repairs and debris removal."

As a supervisory contract specialist, Lilly is focused on those efforts, as well as life support for the NAVFAC compound.

"Contracting efforts on the ground here consist of daily coordination of work, scheduling, tracking cost accruals on each task order and working contract modifications as requirements evolve," Lilly said. "Additionally, we are providing input on potential contract execution options for the recovery projects being developed."

CFAY Public Works Department Supervisory Contract Specialist Damon Lilly (fourth from left), poses with fellow NAVFAC personnel in Haiti while there to support the Joint Task Force established to begin rebuilding efforts.

Photo courtesy of NAVFAC Atlantic Public Affairs

With building assessments of earthquake damage continuing, Lilly expressed a growing concern for what may come next for the region when the rainy season begins in April.

"Living conditions are unchanged, still living in semi-trailers with cots and air conditioning," Lilly wrote in a recent e-mail. "Weather continues to be hot and dry, with only a small (rain) shower once a week. "The rainy season is around the corner, so not sure what the rains will bring with respect to living conditions out in town. There is an expectation that once the rainy season comes, conditions out in town may get worse as localized flooding typically occurs and there are still may people without proper shelter. USAID (United States Agency for International Development), the UN (United Nations), and some other entities are working to improve shelters out in town before the rains come."

CFAY Public Works Department Officer Cmdr. Tim DeWitt expressed his appreciation for the work Lilly is doing in support of the rebuilding effort in Haiti.

"I thank Damon and his family for stepping up for this noteworthy cause and look forward to his safe return and hearing of his experiences," DeWitt said.

Navy reaches out with survey

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Approximately 45,000 Navy personnel will be randomly selected to participate in an online survey designed to determine how professionally and personally rewarding the Navy workplace is.

This survey is the first of its kind, reaching all three components of the Navy's workforce – active duty, reserve and civilian employees - and directly supports the recently released Navy Total Force Vision for the 21st Century (NTF 21).

Navy leadership believes it is a top 50 organization and strives to remain competitive for the best talent.

In order to develop a baseline upon which to meet future goals and align to this vision, survey questions will examine areas of job satisfaction, organizational commitment, career intentions, tone and communication.

By addressing issues regularly surveyed in corporate America, the Navy continues to provide a personally and professionally rewarding workplace climate.

Results of the survey will allow Navy leadership to identify and address possible gaps in order to provide the tools needed for personnel to execute the Navy's mission, succeed in their professional goals and strengthen Navy's standing as an employer of choice.