



CFAY earns prestigious CNO environmental awards

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka has been named the winner in the Environmental Quality Overseas Installation and Cultural Resources Management Installation categories of the 2008 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards competition sponsored by the CNO Environmental Readiness Division.

The CNO Environmental Awards program recognizes Navy ships, installations and individuals or teams for exceptional environmental stewardship. CFAY previously won the Cultural Resources Management award in 2002, but according to CFAY Public Works Department (PWD) Environmental Division Director Ron Rossetti, this is the first time CFAY has won the environmental quality award.

CFAY works closely with U.S. and Japanese officials as well as the local community to ensure that it meets and exceeds environmental protection standards and to preserve, renovate and protect the historical and cultural resources located on the base. Through education and training, CFAY has helped the community get involved and do its part to maintain a high level of environmental stewardship and responsibility.

"We [PWD] don't make it happen," said Rossetti. "You need the community's buy-in to make it happen."

The Environmental Department has implemented several programs that have enabled the command to not only keep the installation more environmentally sound; but also, save money in the process. The department works closely with the commands operating on CFAY to "divert

waste at the source" by implementing curb-side pick-up of recyclable materials and motivating base residents to become actively involved in the recycling program.

In 2007, the CFAY recycling program was primarily limited to scrap metal and paper products, however; the program has expanded to include a wide range of items, including bicycles, vehicles, a variety of plastics, cooking oil and more.

One example of a program that is keeping the base clean and money in resident's pockets is the collection of household hazardous waste at the Yokosuka, Negishi and Ikego Housing Self-Help Centers. The centers maintain lockers stocked with partially used kitchen cleaners, floor polishes and other products that can't be disposed of in regular trash.

"If people need a half-bottle of floor polish, Windex or something, they don't need to go buy it, they can go to the locker and get what they need free-of-charge," said Rossetti.

Another great program that impacts Sailors' wallets and their environment is the pilot program for junking vehicles. Base personnel and dependents can now junk their vehicles at no cost. CFAY was able to save \$65,000 and over 400 administrative hours as a result of the program in 2008.

(Left) Kouichi Tatsuta and Katsuhiko Suzuki of CFAY Public Works Department check an inventory list during a hazardous waste pickup March 10. CFAY's proactive waste disposal and recycling programs earned the base two CNO environmental awards for fiscal year 2008.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Derek J. Hurder



Dreams come true; new citizens take naturalization oath

Story and photo by Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Service members and dependants raised their hands and took an oath of United States citizenship during a naturalization ceremony held at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Chapel of Hope Feb. 27.

The 72 new citizens come from various countries such as China, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, France, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Romania and Vietnam.

Naturalization ceremonies are held two to three times a year and are a coordinated effort between various organizations.

"Naturalization has to be done by [the] U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service. However, CFAY is providing a lot of the logistical support," said U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services-Seoul Korea Field Office Director Kenneth J. Sherman. "I come here and they provide me interview rooms; they give me supplies; they give me support staff; they prepared and ran this entire ceremony here today. Then you have the keynote speaker from the U.S. Embassy Tokyo and [representatives from] U.S. Embassy Tokyo are here to provide passport support."

Though naturalization ceremonies usually take place aboard CFAY twice a year, the Feb. 27 ceremony was significant because it was the first time that it involved a child.

"It's always significant when you naturalize 72 members, but it was naturalizing the

first dependant military child abroad," said Sherman. "[It's] the first time it's happened anywhere in the world since the law was enacted January 28, 2008."

"The law" is the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2008 which permits children of U.S. service members to receive citizenship overseas where their parent is stationed even if the child has never been in the United States.

Previously, the immigration law required these children to be physically present within the U.S. to naturalize. Having his son take part in the ceremony was a dream come true for Storekeeper 2nd Class (SW) Caesar Ulsano.

"When he was born, I was not a U.S. citizen, so... he was a Filipino citizen," said Ulsano. "It's always been a dream, of my parents, for [us] to go to the states and become U.S. citizens," said Ulsano, whose son, Martin, is the child who participated in the ceremony.

U.S. citizenship offers people more chances to succeed in life that they might not have had in their countries of origin.

"If you want to live in America and get a better job... if you become an American citizen, more opportunities will open up for you," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Kim Sung, who was formally a citizen of South Korea.

Serving in the military gives some of the new citizens added pride towards citizenship.

"I've been looking forward to this opportunity for a while, since I've served the military; I've served the country," said Sung. "I'm really proud to be an American, now."



(Right) Martin Ulsano receives his certificate of citizenship from U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services Seoul Korea Field Office Director Kenneth J. Sherman during a naturalization ceremony held aboard CFAY at the Chapel of Hope Feb. 27. Ulsano became the first military dependant child to become naturalized abroad.