Yokosuka CPO selects one step closer to looking like a chief

Story and photo by MCSN Wilbert D. Dow, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan

Chief petty officer (CPO) selectees in Yokosuka took one step closer to looking and feeling the part, as they were joined by their sponsors, family and friends to try on their coveted khaki uniforms and combination covers at the Navy Exchange (NEX) Uniform Night Aug. 18.

The event, coordinated by the Yokosuka NEX and the Far East CPO Mess, is one of the lighter moments of each selectee's induction season. Each CPO select, with the help of a genuine CPO sponsor, try on and pick out the necessary seabag items for transitioning into the CPO Mess.

"After the two and a half weeks of training we have been going through, it is easy to forget that we are actually being promoted," said Chief Intelligence Specialist (select) David Williams. "Tonight, we come here and put the uniform on and it's like, 'Wow, I'm a chief now, or am going to be.'"

Besides selecting, fitting and purchasing their uniforms, the selectees were treated to a healthy array of appetizers and prizes, awarded to those who were able to answer Navy-specific trivia questions.

One future chief said the best treat of the night for him, was the assistance he received from his sponsor.

"I think this is the best night ever," said Chief Boatswain's Mate (select) Rhoniel Suarez. "Tonight was a great night for all us. The sponsors were a great help to all of us, especially my sponsor; he is awesome."

While donning the coveted khaki uniform and combination cover of a CPO for the first time left its mark, obvious through large smiles stretching across the faces of more than 30 CPO selectees, the pride and happiness associated with the event was equally noticeable on the faces of the genuine chiefs in attendance.

"The process of helping the selectees get the right items they need for their uniforms and trying them on for the first time means a lot not only to them, but to us old guys as well," said Chief Musician Scott Lotz of the 7th Fleet Band. "This night is fantastic."

While the selectees and their sponsors checked measurements for shirt sizes and walked in and out of dressing rooms, family members stood by and offered support. One of the selectee's wives said she could not be prouder of the accomplished Sailors.

"This is a nice event for them," said Kimberly Allen, wife of Chief Postal Clerk (select) De'Andre Allen. "It gets them into the swing of things, switching into their khaki uniforms. For my husband, it's been a long road and we are finally here. I am so happy and very proud of him and what he has accomplished. I am looking forward to the continuation of his career in the U.S. Navy."

(Right) CSC (select) Peter Dennis Ramos searches through the chief petty officer dress white jackets for his size, while his sponsor, CSC Ariel Gonzales helps during the Navy Exchange (NEX) Uniform Night event Aug. 18. The Yokosuka NEX Uniform Shop closed its doors to the public to offer area chief selectees a chance to shop for their new uniform items.

Once the selectees complete their induction training, which is designed to prepare them to effectively lead Sailors on the deckplates, they will wear the new uniforms and CPO anchors of gold.

"We discuss a lot with the chief selects in regards to leadership," Lotz said. "Once Sept. 16 and Sept. 17 rolls around and they walk out the door with that chief uniform on, junior Sailors don't know that they just got pinned, they just see a CPO. The idea of putting on the khakis, going out and being a leader is essential to our Navy mission."

CFAY Staff Judge Advocate wins Navywide NLSO legal award

By Ben Avey, CFAY Public Affairs

Honor and surprise were the words of the day as Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Staff Judge Advocate Lt. Jonathan Flynn was named Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) Navy Legal Service Office (NLSO) Command Junior Officer of the Year.

"I didn't expect that I would win this," said Flynn. "I'm honored to receive this award."

Flynn, who received the Regional Legal Service Office (RLSO) Japan Junior Officer of the Year award this past spring, was awarded for his individual performance as well as leading a team of 10 military, civilian and master labor contract employees.

"When you have a great team around you, you're able to do great things," said Flynn. "There are so many stellar people in this office. I think that anybody who sits in the position that I have right now, with the staff that I have right now, they would look great, because I have so many people, who in their particular areas, are masters of what they do."

According to the RLSO award citation, which put him in the running for the NLSO award, Flynn excelled in a multitude of areas. Chief among them was the groundwork of legal advice that he laid for the historic forward-deployment of *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) to CFAY. His preventative law brief was cited as a key component in successfully reducing liberty incidents after the carrier arrived.

In addition, the award states that his office greatly reduced backlogs in legal correspondence, Freedom of Information Act responses and reviews of Department of Defense and Department of the Navy private organizations that operate aboard CFAY.

All this, while operating in a foreign country where his office must continuously evaluate changing Japanese laws to assess their impact on the Sailors and civilians who are governed by the Status of Forces Agreement between the governments of the United States and Japan.

"You deal with a lot of unique issues when you are overseas. Particularly the interface with the foreign governments," said Flynn. "It tends to be more complex overseas, in general."

Prior to serving at CFAY, Flynn served at NLSO Central Branch in Texas and with Task Force 134 as a liaison with the Central Criminal Court of Iraq.

Flynn received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina, his Jurist Doctor from Brooklyn Law School and is a member of the New York State Bar Association.

(Left) Lt. Jonathan T. Flynn receives the Junior Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) of the Year award from then RLSO Japan Commanding Officer Capt. Stuart Belt Feb. 10, which was a stepping stone to Flynn recently being named NLSO Junior Officer of the Year. Photo by ABE1 Steven J. Rabney

JAG launches redesigned Web site

By Navy Judge Advocate General Public Affairs

The Navy Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps revamped its Web site (www.jag.navy.mil) to provide easily accessible and important information to its members, clients and the public.

The site features quick links to access various functions. Service members and their families can easily link to legal service information; lawyers and paralegals can find research material and court information; and general visitors can browse the latest news as well as delve into the history of the corps.

"We have a broad range of visitors to our Web site, from students working on a report for school to military family members who need help with a will," said Jennifer Zeldis, the JAG Corps' public affairs officer. "We wanted to make sure each visitor was able to find what they were looking for easily and quickly."

The Web site retained, but updated, many of its features and continues to provide information about the headquarters, trial judiciary, Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals and naval legal service command offices and careers. It also prominently displays links to multimedia features, including JAG Corps videos, podcasts and the JAG magazine.