Combined Federal Campaign - Overseas campaign set to kickoff

Story and Photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Chief Quartermaster Henry Harris, the Combined Federal Campaign - Overseas (CFC-O) Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Community Area Project Officer, joined Pacific CFC-O coordinator Kitty Malcolm to ensure local unit coordinators and volunteers were ready for the 2009 campaign by conducting a training session at the CFAY Community Readiness Center Sept. 10.

Each unit coordinator is responsible for providing every federal employee, both military and civilian, in his or her area of responsibility, the opportunity to give to their charity or charities of choice through the CFC-O.

The training provided both new and returning coordinators with the materials, planning and support they will need to succeed in the upcoming campaign.

The hour-long session covered everything from the basics of filling out forms to how to provide quality customer service to their co-workers.

Fleet Coordinating Group Fire Controlman 1st Class Adrien Memory, who is volunteering for the second time, was impressed with the training and feels he is ready to do a good job helping out the CFC-O.

"The training was informative; I learned a lot about what I need to do, how I need to do it and the history behind [the CFC-O], said Memory. "[Malcolm] covered everything I needed to know and [for] any questions I had, she [immediately] had a good answer for."

The focus of CFC-O training is to ensure everyone has a 100 percent informed opportunity to give.

This year, the area coordinators wanted to go more in more depth about the nuts and bolts of the giving process to help the unit coordinators achieve their goals more efficiently and effectively.

"We try to give volunteers a better idea every year of what to do and how to do it because obviously we want to make their campaign as successful as possible without interfering with their primary mission," said Malcolm. "We rely heavily on each and every volunteer and their efforts. Their efforts over the next few weeks and over the course of the campaign make such a huge difference for those in need."

The CFC-O will begin in October and continue through the end of December.

The annual kickoff event is scheduled for the end of September and will offer prizes and fun activities for all.

For those interested in attending the kickoff event or want more information about CFC-O, contact your command unit coordinator or visit www.cfcoverseas.org.

CFAY CFC-O Coordinator QMC Henry Harris looks on as Pacific CFC-O coordinator Kitty Malcolm trains unit coordinators and volunteers for the upcoming 2009 campaign at the CFAY Community Readiness Center Sept. 10. The CFC-O campaign officially begins Oct. 1.

CFAY celebrates contributions at Hispanic Heritage Celebration

By Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) honored the diverse contributions of Hispanic-Americans at a Hispanic Heritage Celebration held at the Chapel of Hope Sept. 17.

The celebration featured remarks by Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Santos, Master Chief Master-at-Arms (SW) David Aguilera and Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Ashleigh Dickey.

There were also musical performances; Erumi Kuwaori performed a stirring solo and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Rogerio Gomez entertained the crowd with a traditional accordion performance.

There was also a tribute to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic justice in the 220 years the court has existed.

The theme of Hispanic Heritage month this year is "Embracing the fierce urgency of now."

The month-long celebration, which began Sept. 15 and will last until Oct. 15, celebrates the influence of Hispanic culture reflected in every aspect of American life, from politics to education to music and television.

"What unites Hispanic Americans is a fundamental respect for the traditions and values of their native lands combined with a strong commitment to the American dream," said Santos. "Throughout the month we celebrate the Hispanic community and pause to reflect on Hispanic values: faith, family and patriotism. These values are American values, the Hispanic dream - the hope of a better future - is the American dream."

Today, more than ever, Hispanic Americans play an integral role in shaping the American experience.

According to www.america.gov, Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States.

The Hispanic population is projected to nearly triple, from almost 47 million to 133 million, from 2008 to 2050, and will jump from 15 percent to 30 percent of the population The celebration of Hispanic Heritage began in 1968 with Public Law 90-498. The law authorized an annual presidential proclamation making the week of September 15 and 16 Hispanic Heritage Week.

That week was selected to correspond with Independence Day celebrations in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua whose independence is celebrated on Sept. 15 and Mexico which celebrates its independence on the 16th.

"It (Hispanic Heritage month) brings us together," said Gomez. "No matter what race, religion, or culture you are, we are all on one team."

NC1 Antonia Brown, a Pensacola, Fla., native and career counselor on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, reads the biography of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at the Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and recognizes and celebrates the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans.

Photo by MC2 Byron C. Linder

The Chief says:

Did you know?

Athletic attire can be described in two categories, active wear and casual wear.

Running shorts, bicycle shorts are obviously active were. Sweat pants can be both active and casual. If the sweat pants were just worn while working out, then they are active wear. If they are clean and the wearer is going to go shopping in them, then they can be considered casual wear.

Active wear, and beach attire are prohibited in mess halls, retail stores, and clubs, restaurant and working spaces. This includes, but is not limited to, the NEX, commissary, theaters, libraries, snack bars, bowling alley, hospital, medical and dental clinics, or other similar establishments.

Casual wear is allowed as long as it is neat, clean and presentable.

Athletic wear can be worn on or off-base, outside your quarters, or residence, only when the wearer is engaged in an athletic event or sports, a physical training activity, or is en route directly to or from such an event or activity.

If you didn't know, Now you know.

– MCC(SW/AW) Eric Hannah, CFAY