Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

SEAHAWK 海鷹 UMITAKA

Serving Yokosuka Base for more than 50 years

Vol. LXI, No. 43 www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka Oct. 29, 2010

Transition counselor forum trains education professionals

Story and photo by Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

Representatives of the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) held a two-day Transition Counselor Institute (TCI) forum in the Arleigh A. Burke Officer's Club Sakura Room Oct. 20.

According to the website www.militarychild.org, The MCEC is a nonprofit, worldwide organization. A model of leadership and advocacy, MCEC work is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, family separation and transition. The MCEC performs research, develops resources, conducts professional institutes and conferences, and publishes resources for all constituencies.

"Our focus is on transition, and we have three parts of the transition that we look at," said MCEC Trainer Zoe Trautman. "We look at forming relationships, sort of fitting in socially; we look at the academic transition, how do records transfer, how credits transfer, what are the graduation requirements. And then the third part is finding their way in their new school, and that is the logistics of where you are, orientation and understanding the culture of the new school."

According to Trautman, the training is given on an as needed basis. MCEC was invited by the Navy and DoDEA to come to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) and provide the training.

Guidance counselors, principals and assistant principles from all over DoDEA Japan district traveled to CFAY for the training.

However, not all of the attendees were DoDEA employees. CFAY Fleet and Family Support Center, Family Life and Education Specialist Steve Ancheta attended the TCI to learn the information taught in the course so that he can use it to educate parents so that they, in turn, can better help their children with their transitions.

"We use this education when we do our life skills and elements of successful parenting classes," said Ancheta.

Military Child Education Coalition Trainer Zoe Trautman facilitates the Transition Counselor Institute forum held here in the Officer's Club Sakura Room Oct. 20. The forum focused on the associated challenges DoDEA students may experience as they transition from school to school.

Though the course is free for the attendees, they also had the opportunity to receive accredited graduate-level college credits the course also provided, for a fee, upon successful completion from Texas A&M University or Central Texas University.

For more information about MCEC, visit the website www.militarychild.org.

Hometown Heroes program puts spotlight on *GW* Sailors

Story and photo by MC3 Charles Oki, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

USS George Washington (CVN 73) (*GW*) Culinary Specialist Seaman Roibrenn Arlante isn't always all smiles, but today he's grinning from ear to ear. That's because in the past week, his e-mail inbox has seen a jump in messages from his friends and family back home. Arlante was recently featured in two Los Angeles newspapers and one radio program as a "Hometown Hero."

"It was an amazing experience just being able to tell my story," said the Glendale, Calif., native Arlante. "My family, friends and old schoolmates got to see my story too. My dad told me that some of my friends asked him how to get a hold of me. Since then, it's been great to hear from people back home."

The Hometown Hero program is coordinated through the ship's public affairs office and has coordinated interviews with such publications as the New York Daily News, Chicago Tribune and numerous local television stations and radio talk shows.

Almost 100 Sailors have taken part in the program and have had their stories printed, broadcasted and aired in cities big and small, from Butte, Mont. and Reno, Nev. to New York City, Los Angeles and Dallas. According to *GW* Public Affairs Officer Lt.Cmdr. Dave Hecht, the audience that has seen and heard about *GW* since the program began in May is well into the millions.

"I think we're close to 100 million people," said Hecht. "We've had Sailors on the radio and television from coast to coast but I really try to get them in the newspaper. Newspapers have a shelf life of a few days as opposed to a TV story which is on the air for a couple minutes and then it's gone forever."

(Left) *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Hometown Heroes, CSSN Cory Bausman from Chillicothe, Ill., and YNSN Christopher Vega from Staten Island, N.Y., conduct interviews over the phone with their respective hometown media from the ship's public affairs office.

In order to go live across the airwaves, the interviews normally take place in the middle of the night when the majority of the ship's day shift is sleeping. Galveston, Texas native Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Stacie Lopez is one of those Sailors who pulled a late night interview with a hometown reporter.

Since Lopez isn't able to bring her family to *GW*, by being a hometown hero, she was able to bring *GW* to her local paper.

"I was kind of hesitant because I'm only a cook and not doing some amazing or dangerous job but I felt that I had to do it because my mom is always asking me about what I do and what life is like," Lopez said. "When my mother saw the article in our local newspaper she freaked out. She was screaming things like 'My baby is in the paper!' and how everybody bought it and hung it up. She told me how proud she was and it made me really happy to know that she was able to see what I do."

After five months at sea, four port visits and two high profile exercises, the crew of *GW* has plenty of stories to share with their hometown media. While *GW* is an impressive ship, Hecht said it's the crew that makes the aircraft carrier special. He's dedicated to getting as many of the 5,500 crew members "in the spotlight."

"When most people think of *GW*, they think of the ship," said Hecht. "We're doing this to let people know that it's more than that, it's a floating city run by a group of people whose average age is 20 years old. Considering this is one of the most advanced ships in the world, I think that it is truly amazing knowing that it's run by a large group of Sailors only a few years out of high school. Everyone has their story and we're doing our part to tell it."

INSIDE

Online ballots can help overseas votes count

FVAP has a solution for service members and other U.S. citizens living overseas who haven't received an election ballot: get it online.

Pg. 9

Everything you always wanted to know about fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers can be one of the most confusing things we find in our workplace and home. Let's try to make things a little clearer for something we tend to take for granted.

Pg. 10