Serving Yokosuka for 50 years

Seahawk 海鷹 Umitaka

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JANAFA honors forward-deployed Sailors for community excellence

Story and photo by MCSN Dominique Pineiro, CNFJ Public Affairs

The Japan-U.S. Navy Friendship Association (JANAFA) honored four Sailors from the U.S. Navy for their efforts in promoting friendship between the U.S. Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) during an awards ceremony Nov. 25.

The main goal of JANAFA is to "promote friendship and understanding between the JMSDF and the U.S. Navy by recognizing members of both navies who have contributed to enhancing the growth of the U.S. – Japan alliance during their on duty and off duty hours," according to the official awards solicitation.

Sailors who received an award are: Chief Electronics Technician Charles M. Gauntt, assigned to Reconnaissance Force 7th Fleet, Misawa; Master-at-Arms 1st Class Daemain Scott, assigned to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka; Operations Specialist 2nd Class Joshua Eddy, assigned to *USS Lassen* (DDG 82); and Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Nicholas Martinez assigned to Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo.

Each Sailor received a plaque and a letter of appreciation from JANAFA President and retired JMSDF Admiral Toru Ishikawa.

Gauntt, who was recognized for coordinating events between the U.S. Navy and the JMSDF chief petty officer mess, said the award was unexpected but a pleasant surprise.

"I had no idea I was put in for this award and to be selected for this prestigious award is an honor," said Gauntt. "I was extremely surprised to find out that I was a finalist and I am very honored to receive this award."

Scott was recognized for his effort to organize and participate in many base and community festivals. He said the award not only recognizes an individual but it also illustrates the Navy effort to reach out to the Japanese community.

"I'm not just the only one who's out there giving," said Scott. "It's a collective effort and everything we do honors the Navy as a whole. As a service member, I think it's our duty to go out there and contribute and bring us together with the community."

Martinez's efforts for promoting sportsmanship by scheduling and coordinating sporting events throughout the year between the U.S Navy and the JMSDF earned him his award.

"We've gotten to the point that [JMSDF Sailors] will just give me a call and ask me if I want to go out and play some sports," said Martinez. "We play basketball, football, soccer and baseball. We're out there every week with those guys just playing and hanging out."

Martinez said that his award is great proof that the efforts of U.S. Navy Sailors to strengthen bonds with the host nation do not go unnoticed.

(Right) JANAFA President and retired JMSDF Admiral Toru Ishikawa, addresses the award recipients and guests during the JANAFA awards ceremony Nov. 25. The goal of JANAFA is to promote friendship and understanding between the JMSDF and the U.S. Navy by recognizing members of both navies who have contributed to enhancing the growth of the United States and Japan alliance.

"This award shows that we're doing our job as ambassadors; showing the local community that we care and we're here to support," said Martinez.

Eddy's wife, Maki, accepted the award on his behalf. Eddy could not attend as he was underway with his ship.

After the ceremony, the recipients were honored with a reception attended by senior officials from both the U.S. Navy and the JMSDF.

"I congratulate our awardees for all their great work for supporting the relationship between the two navies," said Commander 7th Fleet Vice Adm. Jon Bird, during the reception. "You have been successful in experiencing more friendship in Japan and having a greater appreciation for Japanese culture."

CFAY ceremony celebrates Chaplain Corps 234 years of proud service

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) celebrated the 234th birthday of the Chaplains Corp at a ceremony held at the Chapel of Hope Dec. 2.

The ceremony looked back at the proud history of the corps and looked ahead to how the corps will adapt to the new demands and expectations the Sailors and Marines they serve will face in the future.

"Today's recognition ceremony showcases our pastoral passion and commitment to the Yokosuka community. [To] all chaplains in attendance today, thank you for your selfless devotion that we need in our lives everyday," said CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed, who was the guest speaker at the ceremony. "You set the high-principled standard we need through works and deeds as examples for us to follow in the course of our service. Our Yokosuka chaplains certainly stand out as some of the finest pastoral leaders in our military today. Tenacious and intrepid, our chaplains remain critically important to our Navy."

The Chaplain Corps was established during the American War of Independence in the second article of the Navy regulation of 1775 which read, "the commanders of the ships of the 13 united colonies are to take care that divine service be performed twice a day on board, and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent it." Reverend Benjamin Balch was the first chaplain known to have served in the Continental Navy, reporting aboard the frigate *Boston* in October, 1778.

"Since the Revolutionary War, Navy chaplains have been providing ministry to sea service personnel and their families with dedication and unwavering commitment; they have served Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine personnel ashore and afloat. Currently, Navy chaplains are forward-deployed on ships around the globe, on the ground with Sailors and Marines in theater alongside those who guard our shores, and at installations both at home and overseas," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead in a birthday message to the corps.

"In war and in peace, they support the free exercise of religion for those who serve our country, facilitating the religious practices of all. Navy chaplains advise commanders on moral, ethical and spiritual matters and extend spiritual matters and extend spiritual guidance and pastoral care whenever and wherever needed. Chaplains and religious program specialists contribute daily to the readiness and resilience of our people."

(Left) *USS Tortuga* (LSD 46) Chaplain Keith Carter and CFAY Chapel of Hope Chaplain Donald Moss, the youngest and oldest chaplains in attendance, cut the cake celebrating the 234th birthday of the Chaplain Corps in the Chapel of Hope Fellowship Hall Dec. 2.