

WIND

COVERING THE NAVY ON OKINAWA

JAMMER

October to December 2014



Pigs

from
the

Sea

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CO Holiday Message



Shipmates, friends and relatives of CFAO, I just want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. During this wonderful holiday period it is always worthwhile to take a moment and reflect on what you are proud of, what you are thankful for, and what you hope to accomplish in the upcoming year.

I am proud of all of you. I have told you before and I will tell you again the Sailors and Civilians and our Japanese partners are one of the best, most talented groups of men and women I have ever worked with. Every day I have come to work and been more impressed than the day before by all of your professionalism, hard work, and commitment to our mission. Whether you are guarding one of our installations, securing a ship to one of our piers, supporting 7th Fleet with target drones, taking care of our facilities, or supporting our morale and welfare...you all do each and every job with class.

I am thankful that I get to serve every day with such an amazing group of caring individuals. While most of us are thousands of miles and multiple time zones from our extended families and friends, every member of CFAO

has made it their own personal mission to take care of each other, whether at work or on liberty. Over the past year I have seen this caring attitude grow and I have seen many of you develop close friendships with your fellow shipmates and coworkers. Some of these friendships may just last through your tour here in Okinawa, but others may last a lifetime. Okinawa may be far away from each of our real homes, but the island has made me realize how lucky I am to work so close with each of you.

Each and every one of you has been instrumental in all of the Commands accomplishments over the past year. Your hard work and commitment contributed to CFAO being picked as Region Japan's Best Small Base for 2014 sort of like winning the Battle E for shore installations! However, our biggest accomplishment is that we did all missions assigned safely and effectively, without having anyone hurt or breaking any equipment. And at the end of the day, that is what I am most thankful for, that each and every one of you was able to get the job done and you were able to go home to your loved ones. Next year I know we will do the same - support the fleet and take care of our shipmates, coworkers and families. And I know we will do it all just like this year better than anyone else can do it!

Capt. Micheal D. Michel "Skipper"

CMC Holiday Message



Happy Holidays Shipmates!!! As we prepare to welcome the New Year, it gives us a chance to reflect on the accomplishments we made during the past year, together or individually. Whether those accomplishments are as a Command like being nominated to represent Navy Regional Japan for the 2015 Installation (Small)

Excellence Award, or earning the Gold Safety Award for the 15th straight year; or individual accomplishments such as promotions, degrees, saving money or helping those less fortunate, rest assured we are doing our part to make this place better every day. All these things are something to be thankful for. As we move from 2014 to 2015, I want each of you to remember to continue to be responsible Sailors and ambassadors and look out for each other; at work and during liberty. Bystander intervention is truly a helpful tool we have to stop any situation that does not look right or can potentially result in destructive behavior.

Statistically at CFAO, our March advancement cycle promotions are significantly lower than the September cycle, so if you are eligible to take the March exam, start studying now. March will be here before you know it and you may not be prepared and miss an opportunity to advance. The advancement exam is the one part you have total control; so study! Getting involved in the Command and the community is another important aspect in our jobs. If you are not involved, there are plenty of opportunities for you to do so, like community relations, seasonal events and committees. Ask the Chief if you are interested in making an impact in the Command and the community. Shipmates, I am proud of every one of you. Though you may not think we are on the war front, we have a vital role in the stability of the region and the Navy, so remember we ALL do matter! Hooyah and see you on the Deckplates.

CMDCM(AW/SW) Daniel J. Irwin
"Sustained Superior Performance"



Command Career Counselors Corner

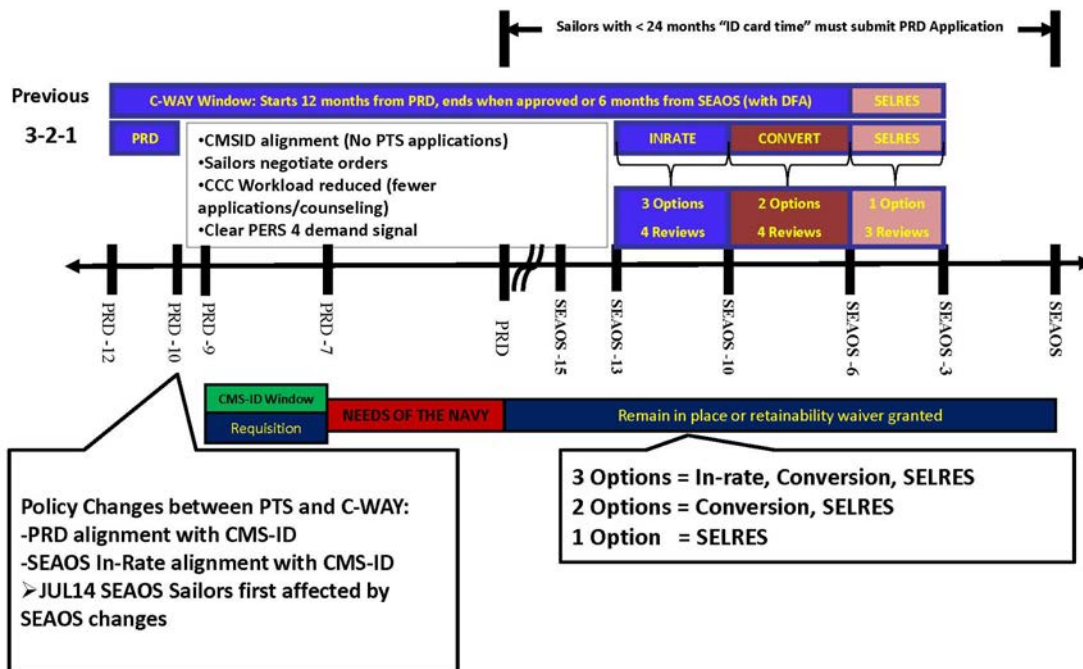


The primary goal of the Navy Career Information Program is to ensure each Sailor at Fleet Activities Okinawa, be provided with a sufficient quantity and quality of career information, in a timely manner, to allow you to make sound career decisions in your life.

While this program forms the foundation of a successful career, its true success rest on the commitment of the chain of command. Our chain of command ensures every sailor is provided the guidance and opportunity to succeed in any endeavor. We, at Fleet Activities Okinawa are the finest Sailors in the Fleet and have the best Chain of Command as well. If you ever have any career related questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at: Christopher. wycoff@fe.navy.mil ; 634-8245 or 080-3369-5191.

Below is some information to explain the Career Waypoints process/timeline. Enjoy!

Career Waypoints Application Time Lines (PRD / SEAOS – 3-2-1)



SEAOS Application: Sailors will have 4 In Rate reviews starting 13 months from SEAOS followed by 4 Conversion reviews, followed by 3 SELRES Only reviews. SEAOS applications are submitted as follows:
15 months prior to SEAOS, applications are auto-generated in C-WAY;
13 – 10 months prior to SEAOS, applications are racked and stacked for In-Rate, Conversion, or SELRES;
Only period racked and stacked for In-Rate;
9 – 6 months prior to SEAOS, applications are racked and stacked for Conversion or SELRES; last active looks available;
5 – 3 months prior to SEAOS, applications are racked and stacked for SELRES Only.

PRD Applications: 12 – 10 months prior to PRD, applications are racked and stacked for In-Rate and Conversion quotas for OBLISERVE purposes.

SELRES applications are not an option under PRD application window.

Sailors who do not receive a Special Circumstances - PRD approval will contact their respective detailer. Based on the amount of contract time remaining, detailers will determine if the Sailor will remain in place at current command or if orders will be issued IAW sea/shore flow. Sailors left in place will have their PRDs adjusted to match SEAOS.

INTERACT

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Story by: Robert Purdy Photos by: MC2 Benjamin Stevens



Have you ever found yourself dreading command training for fear of being bored out of your mind with an onslaught of power point slides, a naptime-friendly dimly lit classroom and an instructor with a monotone voice that could put a crying baby to sleep? Well the Sailors and civilians assigned to Fleet Activities Okinawa didn't get a chance to bat an eye when they attended CFAO's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training featuring "InterACT", a nationally renowned social justice performance troupe that began at California State University, Long Beach in 2000.

InterACT, known for their collaborative awareness and intervention programs, held two performances at the Crow's Nest Club on Camp Shields, transforming the ballroom into a theater style training room. They performed a number of complicated scenario's covering sexual assault and domestic violence, stopping the scenario at various stages in the storyline, asking how Sailors would respond to certain situations and then inviting them to reenact their responses as members of the cast on stage in front of their peers. The highly interactive training challenged the Sailors to participate intellectually as well as emotionally and helped trained them to feel comfortable and confident when responding to real life situations.

When asked, what sets InterACT apart from other types of training, Chief Tremayne Tuck, Fleet Activities Okinawa Sexual Assault and Response Coordinator said, "We all take in information differently and the InterACT group assists the audience with learning, by putting Sailors in situations that they might actually face. The style of the presentation is effective. With the changing times, The Department of the Navy is looking for different avenues of training."

InterACT Program Manager, Lori Zinck added, "We encourage all men and women in the military to go from passive to active and creatively intervene without using violence."

For more information on CFAO's sexual assault prevention program contact Chief Tremayne Tuck, Fleet Activities Okinawa's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator at 634-6438 or visit www.sapr.mil.

Pigs from the Sea

Story by Robert Purdy

Photos from Jon Itomura and the Uruma City Board of Education.

Letters sent to newspapers in Hawaii over 67 years ago by Taro Higa, an Okinawan born, American Soldier, triggered a movement that changed the course of history for the war torn island of Okinawa. His letters told of the disastrous circumstances that followed the war, reporting to the Okinawan communities in Hawaii, the hardships that their families, relatives and friends were facing. In particular, he reported on the shortage of livestock (pigs) that threatened their survival.

Pigs were a major staple in the Okinawan diet, and prior to the war, the numbers flourished. Records show that roughly 140,000 pigs were raised across the island leaving only 2,000 after the war, only to be met with an epidemic of pig cholera in 1946, which almost eradicated the entire population of pigs by 1947. It was during this time that Higa began continuously reporting to

newspapers in Hawaii, telling them of the hardships his homeland was facing. His stories resonated through the Okinawan communities on Hawaii, pulling them together for the common cause of purchasing 550 pigs from the United States and sending them to Okinawa to replenish the almost

Unfortunately the resources and capital needed were not easy to come by during these trying times, so the communities held plays, concerts and even sumo tournaments to raise funds to purchase the pigs. Six months later, their efforts were recognized as the community had raised over \$50,000

dollars to buy the pigs. The next step was to make the buy and ship them to Okinawa. A Japanese-American veterinarian, Dr. Yoshio Yamashiro was chosen to travel to Omaha to hand pick a breed of pig suitable for the Okinawan environment.

The money and the pigs were now ready, but they could not get approval to transport them to Okinawa. Countless appeals for help to the U.S. Government were sent to the Pentagon when their request was finally authorized by General Douglas MacArthur who approved the use



extinct pig population. The idea and project to send pigs to Okinawa was spearheaded by Kamesuke Kakazu, a pig farmer on Hawaii and Katsumi Hokama, a composer, writer and dance master. Both utilized their talents to raise capital to materialize their plan.

of a U.S. Army ship, USS Owen to undertake the task. Six men, Yasuo Uezu, Ryoshin Agena, Ushikichi Nakama, Shinei Shimabukuro, Heisho Miyasato and Genbi Tonaki were hand-picked by the project organizers to accompany Yamashiro to Okinawa. They were chosen because of their experiences in raising pigs, their ability to physically complete the long and dangerous voyage and their capability to relay messages from those in Hawaii to their families and friends on Okinawa.

In August of 1948 the seven men, 550 pigs, and the passengers and crew of the USS Owen left Portland and set sail for Okinawa. Their journey was not an easy one. They faced their first obstacle only two days after setting sail when they were met by a terrible storm, destroying the ships make-shift pigsties and threatening the survival of the pigs. Some of the pigs were washed to sea and the men risked life and limb to ensure that losses were kept to a minimum, at times tying themselves to the rails of the ship to catch an unlucky pig that was in danger of being washed overboard. The Owen had no choice but to return to Portland three days later. Devastated by the results of their first attempt, it was the U.S. Army that came to their aid, rebuilding the pigsties as the ship returned to port. On September 4, the pigsties were repaired and the ship set sail once again with a renewed sense of hope and determination. While at sea, the men put the pigs before themselves, caring for their precious cargo all while battling seasickness

and exhaustion. They were faced with many more hurdles to come. Countless storms and numerous fields of deadly mines stood between the ship and their destination. These



obstacles delayed their journey by two weeks journey and their food, water and pig feed were running short. The seven men actually drank seawater instead of fresh water to ration their resources. Four weeks

had passed since leaving Portland when the men finally caught glimpse of their homeland on the horizon. Okinawa was within reach. As they closed in to the island, they witnessed

the devastation of war, the land was barren and the landscape resembled nothing of the picturesque memories they had of their homeland. The Owen made its way slowly along the East Coast of the island and arrived at White Beach on September 27, 1948 at noon. There the ship unloaded its precious cargo while military officers, family, friends and relatives of the seven brave men watched. The pigs made their way down the ramp and finally set foot on Okinawa. Amidst the commotion, six pigs actually fell from the ramps into the ocean only to be rescued by young Okinawan boys and US military officers who were witnessing the event. There was no way that any of them would lose one pig after traveling so far, so long. Of the 550 pigs, 536 survived the 5,000 kilometer voyage to Okinawa. The pigs were then dispersed fairly across the mainland and to outlying islands and the repopulation of the pigs on Okinawa began changing forever, the course of history for the people of Okinawa. Not only were the pigs a lifesaving staple in the Okinawan diet, they were also a symbol of hope, love, humanity and a brighter future for the people of Okinawa.

Fast forward 67 years to 2014, one phone call to the Fleet Activities Okinawa Public Affairs Office sparks an idea and a plan to welcome the decedents of these seven brave men to White Beach Naval Facility. The

call consisted of a request for access by 15 visitors from Hawaii on a pilgrimage to Okinawa and whose one wish was to see with their own eyes, the pier their forefathers set sail for 67 years ago. The Public Affairs Office quickly moved to arrange access to the base, but did not stop there as they coordinated a welcome social for them on White Beach Naval Facility. Teaming up with the City of Uruma and Uruma City Board of Education, the Public Affairs Office requested assistance in locating anyone who might have witnessed the actual delivery of pigs that day in 1948. The Uruma City Board of Education found, Mr. Zensho Arakaki (85), who witnessed the arrival of the



precious livestock when he was only a young boy of 18. He spoke of his eyewitness accounts that day, and even cited the six pigs falling from the ramps only to be rescued by Okinawans and military officers. His eyes were filled with tears as he met with each guest from Hawaii, thank-



the Uruma City Board of Education, the Okinawa – Hawaii Association and many others at a social event hosted by Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa, Captain Michael Michel. There they spent that afternoon paying homage to those who took part in this historic event, sharing their legacy and ensuring that their efforts would live on in the hearts, minds and annals of Okinawa's history.



ing them for what their ancestors did for Okinawa 67 years ago. After visiting the pier, our guests made their way to a U.S. Navy Morale Welfare and Recreation club on White Beach, where they were welcomed by distinguished guests from the U.S. Military, Self Defense Forces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Okinawa Defense Bureau, Okinawa Prefectural government, the Mayor of Uruma City, members of the Uruma City Assembly,

the Uruma City Board of Education, the Okinawa – Hawaii Association and many others at a social event hosted by Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa, Captain Michael Michel. There they spent that afternoon paying homage to those who took part in this historic event, sharing their legacy and ensuring that their efforts would live on in the hearts, minds and annals of Okinawa's history.



Photo by MC2 Benjamin Stevens

HALLOWEEN WITH THE COMMUNITY

Service Members celebrate Halloween with the Heshikaya Community.

Story by: HM1(FMF) Leonor Casiano



More than 90 volunteer Sailors, Marines, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force partners, civilians and family members participated in the Annual Heshikiya Community Center Halloween Celebration held



on October 25th. The Okinawa First and Second Class Petty Officer Associations coordinated the event with support from the Fleet Activities Okinawa Community Relations Department.

This year's celebration helped deepen the strong relationship between the U.S. Navy and the Heshikiya community. Volunteers set up over 10 different booths displaying different Halloween themes. There were games, picture booths, a best costume competition

with prizes of course, plenty of candy for the children. Command Master Chief Shiida from the Sub Area Activity Okinawa, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force said "We were impressed with the creative costumes of the local children as well as the U.S. Navy volunteers. We were happy to be a part of this wonderful cultural exchange event and would like to join in next year as well."

Mr. Mitsuo Nishishinya, Heshikiya District Chief, was in attendance and noted how it was a perfect exchange opportunity to deepen the friendship between the U.S. Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and local community. He said, "As always, we are thankful for the U.S. Navy and Maritime Self Defense Force for organizing such an amazing event for the children of Heshikiya. The children were really excited about this event and they talked about it at home, so we are getting good feedback from their parents." This was the third year of hosting the Halloween party and more children are participating every year.

The Okinawa First and Second Class Petty Officers Association and all participants are proud of this



years success and will ensure that the Halloween tradition in Heshikiya continues for years to come.

Heshikiya is a fishing district located on the Katsuren Peninsula in Uruma City and is the host community



to White Beach U.S. Naval Facility and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, Sub Area Activity Okinawa. The community is well known for its friendly people, beautiful beaches, seaweed products "Mozuku" and traditional Okinawan Eisa Dancing.



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July

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Nov

Dec



CFAO Community Relations “A Force For Good on Okinawa”

Over nine hundred Sailors assigned to Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa served as role model Ambassadors and a “Force for Good” on Okinawa in 2014 by participating in over seventy-two community relations outreach projects volunteering over two thousand hours of their time to support our host nation community in a myriad of projects ranging from school tours, to beach clean ups, holiday parties to teaching English. With support and coordination by Hiroe Shiroma, CFAO Community Relations Specialist, our Sailors made many new friends and left long lasting positive impressions of the U.S. Navy on our host communities. You are all truly, “A Force For Good!”



School Tours



Working with Community Leaders



Working with our Partners



Open Base Events



Playing with the Young



and the Young at Heart



At Halloween



At Christmas



Or for any Occasion



For the Community



For the Environment



For a Smile