LEADERSHIP CORNER
WITH THE NAVY COUNSELOR

For the March edition of Leadership Corner, I wanted to discuss a few of the Navy’s newly released or updated career incentives, policies and programs.

1. Updated SRBs – NAVADMIN 032/18 announced several updates to reenlistment bonuses, including adding lots of new rates that weren’t previously eligible for a re-up bonus. Take a look at this NAVADMIN, or come talk to me or your department/division career counselor to see if you’re eligible.

2. Detailing Marketplace – Later this year, the Navy will pilot a new way for Sailors to negotiate for orders. In this updated Marketplace, Sailors will be able to see available orders and the “market” will drive negotiations that can include monetary and non-monetary incentives, location preferences and even promotions. Best of all, the new marketplace will be available on a mobile app, 24/7. Keep an eye on the horizon for the rollout of 21st century detailing!

3. New Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP) rules – E-4 quotas can now be used to MAP E-1 & E-2 Sailors. The new E-6 MAP time in rate requirement is one year, with waivers for exceptional candidates. Commands can also submit multiple Map Certification letters during the MAP season.

As always, if you have any detailing or Career Counseling questions, give me a call at DSN: 264-4261 or shoot me an email at david.pruitt@fe.navy.mil

Navy Counselor 1st Class David Pruitt

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THIS MONTH IN NAVY HISTORY

MAR 5, 1942
The “Seabees” name and insignia are officially authorized. Rear Adm. Ben Moreell personally furnishes them with their official motto: Construimus, Batuimus – “We Build, We Fight.”

MAR 15, 1943
U.S. 7th Fleet is established in Brisbane, Australia during WWII, under the command of Adm. Arthur S. “Chips” Carpender.

MAR 17, 1962
USS Raleigh (LPD-1), the Navy’s first amphibious transport dock, is launched at New York Naval Shipyard.

MAR 20, 1922
USS Jupiter (Fuel Ship #3) is recommissioned as USS Langley (CV 1), the Navy’s first aircraft carrier.
And sandwiched between the glitz and glamour of Ginza, the peaceful tranquility of Hibiya Park and the grand stature of the Imperial Palace lies one of the few remaining remnants of post-war Japan in Tokyo, Yūrakuchō.

Yūrakuchō was established as a district of Chiyoda during the start of the Meiji era in Japan. The district was named after Sengoku samurai Oda Nagamasu, the younger brother of famed warlord, Oda Nobunaga. Nagamasu owned a residence in the area called “Yurakuhara” and was the major landmark in the city which was named in its honor when zoning the new district. In 1910 the Yamanote rail line was built and its train tracks extend across the district. Following World War II, Yūrakuchō was used as the headquarters of Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP), Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the American occupation of Japan. MacArthur chose the district as it was in close proximity to both the Imperial Palace and the Japanese Diet (congress).

Upon arriving at Yūrakuchō station, visitors will immediately notice that the station is still made of the original brickwork from when the train line was first built. While it is surrounded by neon signs and storefronts of Ginza, what truly makes the area worthwhile for travelers is the assorted restaurants underneath the tracks called “Gaado-shita” or beneath the girders. Amongst the many alleyways, or yokocho, are assorted izakayas, noodle shops and other shops designated by the red lanterns outside of their establishments. These areas are popular among people getting off work in the evening looking for a cheap bite to eat and to socialize with friends and coworkers.

Further down the tracks is Yakitori Alley, this area is comprised of various vendors grilling chicken, pork and vegetables outside allowing customers to eat in tents under the tracks. The air is thick with charcoal smoke and the smell of chicken grilling over open flames. Visitors walk along the narrow tunnels, greeted by the various vendors asking them to come in and eat.

At the center exit, the train station opens into a very large shopping plaza featuring camera shops, department stores and other various goods and souvenir shops. The 21-story Yurakucho Itocia is the largest building in the district and features everything from food courts to clothing stores to a movie theater.

On the edge of the district lies what is arguably the most iconic building in Yūrakuchō, DN Tower 21. What makes it unique is that the tower includes the Dai-Ichi Seimei building which was used as the headquarters of Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) by MacArthur. Construction was completed in 1938 and the building faces the moat around the Imperial Palace. In 2004 DN Tower 21 was named a historical landmark by the government of Japan.

While most visitors are quick to look over Yūrakuchō for the other attractions in the area, such as Ginza or the Imperial Gardens, the district has its own distinct presence that makes it stand out amongst the surrounding areas. From the post war architecture to the numerous food vendors underneath the train station, visitors will enjoy exploring a piece of Japan’s past in the present.
Fifth grade students from Terao Elementary School visited Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi to practice English with Sailors as part of a recurring community service project between the school and the base over the last 20 years.

“Volunteering for Terao Elementary School’s English conversation exchange, students also instructed the Sailors how to play traditional Japanese games and crafts like spinning a top and origami.

“The pupils at Terao Elementary school had a great time, said Sumie Maruyama, NAF Atsugi’s community relations specialist. “They said that the volunteers tried very hard to learn the games, some Sailors were very excited when they succeed in ‘kendama,’ just like the students.”

One of the students said “The Sailors are big, and at first I was nervous but they were very nice and eager to learn and I like them. I want to study English harder, so one day I can communicate with them more.”

Story and Photos by MC2 Matthew Duncker
seven years ago Japan experienced the worst earthquake in their recorded history that brought with it a tsunami with waves reported to be upwards of 100 feet and reaching inland six miles. The destruction caused a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Living in the Ring of Fire—the Pacific Rim—disasters are more prevalent. Contingency planning beforehand including training to build confidence with first responders, base personnel and neighboring communities is crucial when the time comes to aid those in need.

From the first brief for Sailors, their families, and civilians working here upon their arrival to Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, they are told of emergency management and how it plays into their daily lives.

“Preparedness mitigation is a very big chunk of what we put our efforts toward,” said NAF Atsugi’s Emergency Management Director Greg Wise. “We make sure that everybody on this base understands what emergency management is and what their role is in it.”

Training for such disasters doesn’t just happen within the fence line of the base as NAF Atsugi is surrounded by nine cities with more than 2.2 million people within a six mile radius. The base participates in multiple training scenarios such as the Kanagawa Big Rescue drill and mass casualty drills held throughout the year with the local communities. These opportunities to discuss and prepare for worst case scenarios of any natural or man-made disaster that could potentially affect Japan are essential, according to Wise.

“At the region level, we have initiated an emergency management symposium, which brings in the Kanagawa prefectural government, as well as our sister services and that will allow us to share information with each other,” said Wise. “You can’t avoid chaos. All you can do is approach it in the calmest mindset that you can. Your calmness comes from confidence and your confidence is built from the things we do prior.”

Confidence is not only built with the training received to respond to any disaster that may affect the community, but also from knowing that others are there to lend a helping hand during the ensuing chaos.

“With a mutual agreement between the nine cities surrounding NAF Atsugi, we continue to be a key player in case of any disaster or similar situation,” said Host Nation Relations Officer Masako Takakura. “We need to support each other in times of need as friends.”

The need to partner with local cities in times of need as friends was tried and tested in 2011. NAF Atsugi played a vital role as a hub for support in operations providing aid to the citizens of Japan during the relief efforts.

NAF Atsugi Executive Officer Cmdr. Matthew A. Szoka was stationed in Atsugi as a pilot for the “Chargers” of Helicopter
Anti-Submarine Squadron 14 during the earthquake. Before communication was open and the active request to help was sent, NAF Atsugi was already planning the response to such a disaster.

“The earthquake was huge,” said Szoka. “I have never seen the ground move like that before. We were sure that people would need our help and immediately began planning to fly wherever we would be needed.”

It was not long after the planning that NAF Atsugi began sending out personnel to help.

“I flew the first sortie of the Operation from Atsugi to Sendai,” said Szoka. “We carried relief supplies and also conducted search and rescue operations. We flew out of Atsugi for about a week until we had to evacuate the base. I took a detachment on USS Shiloh and continued to provide support from the sea.”

During the disaster NAF Atsugi worked with emergency services and local governments to alleviate the pressure of limited responders and resources.

“Cooperation is critical and having those relationships in place before an emergency will allow for a more timely response,” said Szoka. “If those relationships are not in place, it could delay our response.”

Disasters wait for no one to be prepared and only with the proper mindset built with confidence, training and from others in the support they can lend, will make walking in the chaos with a calm mind possible.

#TWITTERTOUR

Eight Atsugi area residents were selected from more than 300 entrants for a chance to tour Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi and its tenant commands Feb. 12.

The tour was hosted by NAF Atsugi’s Host Nation Relations Office (HNRO) as a way of allowing followers of the base’s official Japanese language Twitter and Facebook account to experience the base.

“This tour is important because it shows the local citizens something they don’t regularly get to see,” said Sumie Maruyama, an HNRO representative. “It allows them to better understand the mission and effort of NAF Atsugi.”

For some of the guests, it was their first time ever visiting NAF Atsugi or being on a military installation.

“I’ve been very excited to see the base,” said Yukio Sekido, from Zama, Kanagawa. “On this base you can see the different aircraft here.”

During the visit, the guests had a walking tour of the installation’s Alliance Park where static displays of aircraft from various squadrons throughout the base’s history can be seen. Next, HNRO delivered a brief on the history of the base and guests were treated to a Japanese tea ceremony performed by NAF Atsugi’s Chado Tea Club followed by...
lunch at the Navy Exchange food court.

“Alliance Park is a good example for visitors to see America and Japan’s mutual friendship and cooperation,” said Maruyama.

After lunch, the guests visited with Sailors from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 51. Guests were given a tour of the squadron’s hangar and allowed to see the inside of an MH-60R Seahawk.

“I always enjoy seeing the enthusiasm for naval aviation from the guests,” said Naval Aircrewman (Tactical Helicopter) 3rd Class Eric Williams, from Holmdel, N.J. “It’s always a great experience to show others our culture and provide insight into what we do here at HSM-51.”

Lastly, guests were given a windshield tour of the installation’s flight line, getting a chance to see NAF Atsugi’s flight operations up close before leaving the base with more insight into the daily operations and lives of the base and its Sailors.

**Story by Courtney Pollock, Photos Courtesy of Navy.mil**

Every day 1.3 million active duty service members answer the call to our nation, but after Hurricane Maria, four Sailors from Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi furthered their service by volunteering in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

“I’ve seen it happen in different countries and all over the U.S., but this time it actually happened at home and I actually had a chance to assist in the relief efforts for them,” said Chief Master-at-Arms Daniel Fuentes whose family is from Fajardo, Puerto Rico. “You can see it on TV and it’s not the same as me actually putting my hands in the dirt, carrying the boxes, and watching people cry as you bring them some food.”

On Sept. 20, Category 4 Hurricane Maria tore through the center of Puerto Rico crippling the country’s aging infrastructure and leaving almost the entire population without electricity and clean water. To add to the challenge, humanitarian and disaster relief efforts were already stretched thin due to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in the preceding weeks.

American Red Cross Regional Program Manager Joy Marin received the request for Spanish-speaking volunteers to aid with disaster relief which she forwarded to the trained Disaster Action Team (DAT) members at NAF Atsugi.

As an active member of DAT, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Charlotte Catoni, from Miami, Florida, asked around her department to see if anyone else was interested in volunteering. Two Sailors with family in Puerto Rico agreed to help, Fuentes and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Edgardo Huertas, from Ponce, Puerto Rico. Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Steffanni Agudello, from Margate, Florida rounded out the Atsugi team.

“Once selected for deployment, the four team members were given information regarding living and working conditions, reporting and travel instructions, and a suggested packing list,” said Marin. “From there, the team was self-sufficient and proactive in making
data to make the missions far easier. So, if you said Catoni. “She helped to consolidate all the efficiency of the missions.

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Sailors formed one of three ‘hot shot’ teams that comprised of active duty military from Georgia where they received briefs on the current situation, training on the apps used to collect data, and final preparations before deployment to Puerto Rico. The team arrived to challenging living situations. The first night was spent in a church with approximately 100-150 people. Everyone was so anxious to begin helping that sleep was limited.

As the relief efforts began to mobilize, the Sailors formed one of three ‘hot shot’ teams that comprised of active duty military from Okinawa, NAF Atsugi, and Germany.

“We were deployed to different parts of the island to families in need and we would deliver all the stuff that they needed,” said Huertas.

“It was our duty to search for the place, find the house, find the family, and take supplies to them. That was our duty.”

Later on, Catoni and Agudello moved to the headquarters to assist in the collection and consolidation of data which increased the efficiency of the missions.

“Steffani [Agudello] went to Operations," said Catoni. “She helped to consolidate all the data to make the missions far easier. So, if you were in one area, you would be able to hit all the points at once.”

The knowledge Catoni brought with her as an active member of Atsugi DAT allowed her to utilize the training in a real world scenario. “They [American Red Cross] would teach us about what DAT members would do,” Catoni stated. “For example, we prepared for [Exercise] Keen Edge by doing bulk distribution, packings and the paperwork which is exactly what we did while in Puerto Rico. Those trainings I received definitely helped a lot because that was exactly what we experienced in P.R. It was a pretty smooth transition.”

Overall, the team spent 27 days in Puerto Rico assisting with the relief efforts. Twenty-seven days that left all of them exhausted but fulfilled from being able to assist those in need and contribute to the rebuilding of the country.

Huertas returned to Puerto Rico in December to see the efforts of their data collection being used. “In my hometown, we went to one of my neighbors, an old lady, and her house was destroyed,” he said. “We put a tarp and everything, and Catoni and Agudello collected the information. When I went back to Puerto Rico, FEMA was building her house again.”

That ability to directly assist and impact those who need was possible through their involvement with the American Red Cross. The involvement wasn’t only a one-way relationship but the Sailors learned valuable skills that will help them in their personal and professional lives.

“For me, the Red Cross and volunteering, that was another tool for my box,” said Huertas.

For more information on volunteering with the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team or programs offered, call DSN (315) 264-6794 or commercial, 0467-63-6794.

Fuel Farm personnel will coordinate with Air Logistics to set up flights to the island of Iwo To, where Fuel Farm personnel will complete mission essential requirements in order to support Carrier Air Wing FIVE and tenant squadrons.

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Naval Air Facility Atsugi’s Fuel Farm coordinates with Air Logistics to set up flights to the island of Iwo To, where Fuel Farm personnel will complete mission essential requirements in order to support Carrier Air Wing FIVE and tenant squadrons.

How can your customers reach you?
We are reachable by phone. Our phone number is Intl: 81-46-763-3907 or DSN 264-3907.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT
JOY BRIGHT HANCOCK

Joined the U.S. Navy in 1918 as an enlisted Yeoman.
She later returned to the Navy in 1942 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant.
She became one of the first female naval officers, and was the director of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).

MICHELLE JANINE HOWARD

Joined the U.S. Navy in 1982
Was the first female graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy selected for flag rank.
She was later selected to become a four-star admiral and the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. The first woman to hold that post.

TWO SHINING EXAMPLES