



Photo by Esther Dacanay

Spiritual defense!

CAMPZAMA, Japan – Col. Allen B. Boatright, the U.S. Army Japan command chaplain, delivers a message about divine intervention in military situations throughout history during the National Prayer Breakfast held Feb. 22 at the Camp Zama Community Club. Nearly 130 Soldiers, Civilians and Family members attended the 6 a.m. breakfast to observe the annual White House tradition of praying for deployed troops, POWs, servicemembers missing in action, the U.S. and its leaders.

Soldiers reflect on personal character

By Esther Dacanay
Torii Editor

CAMPZAMA, Japan – Nearly 400 Soldiers and Department of Army Civilians gathered at the 8 a.m. *Reflection Day* seminar held Feb. 22 in the Music & Theater Workshop to listen to a series of briefs reviewing the dangers of high-risk behavior as it relates to the impact upon U.S. Forces as ambassadors in Japan.

Approximately three seminars

covering the same topics were held throughout the day. Topics covered were sexual harassment, alcohol/substance abuse and sexual assault prevention/response.

Staff from the Judge Advocate General office of U.S. Army Japan also reviewed consequences of misconduct and behavior punishable by the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The *Reflection Day* seminars came on the heels of four high-risk behavior incidents that took place

in the span of two weeks involving U.S. servicemembers in Okinawa.

“We encourage you to reflect upon your personal character, goals, contribution to your unit, the Army, society, humanity, common good, dignity and respect,” said Maj. Gen. Elbert N. Perkins, deputy commander of I Corps (Forward) and commanding general of U.S. Army Japan, as he addressed the audience. “This is a sensitive and strategic time for U.S. services and the mission here in Japan.”

Japan, the most generous of all U.S. allies, recently signed an agreement providing approximately \$3.2 billion of direct aid to the U.S. presence in Japan. However, punishable incidents involving U.S. personnel in Japan could undermine efforts of good diplomatic relations here.

Although many of the incidents involved U.S. Marines in Okinawa, it makes the responsibility of accountability that much greater for all U.S. servicemembers

and Department of Defense Civilians in Japan, according to Col. Craig J. Agena, the USARJ G-5 director.

“We have to make sure our colleagues and comrades are safe and practicing responsible behavior,” Agena said during the seminar. “I can’t impress enough how important our role is here. We have to have the courage to say something to high-risk personnel. The job does not stop with us. We’ve got to spread the word.”

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