

# NAVY **RECRUITER**

magazine

The Magazine for Navy Recruiters

March-April 2010

Vol. 58 No. 2



***Navy Recruiting Command  
Recruiters Lend a Helping Hand to Haiti***

***Sailor of the Year  
NRD Miami's YN1 Ortiz is Recognized***

***Saving Lives  
Sailors and Future Sailors in Action***

# NAVY **RECRUITER** magazine

## IN THIS ISSUE...

### features...

**5** *NRD Houston Commissions First Officer Through New Military Accessions Program* ●

**6** *Sailors Honored at Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Game*

**7** *NRD Miami's Ortiz is NRC's Sailor of the Year* ●

**8** *Arkansas Recruiters Unite in Community Service*

**9** *NRD Miami Mounts Relief Effort for Haitian Earthquake Victims*

**10** *NRD Los Angeles Chief Speaks for Injured Haitians*

**11** *Recruiters Save Fire Victim*

**13** *Future Sailor Rescues Woman from House Fire*

**14** *New Orleans on Parade* ●

**18** *Commander, NRC Visits South Florida Schools*

**19** *Deployed Sailors Seek Reserve Commissions*

**21** *NSW/NSO Showcased at Winter X Games 14*

**22** *Navy Band New Orleans Hits High Notes with Schools*

**23** *Oregon City Future Sailors Attend Trail Blazers Game*

**24** *Navy Week Premieres in Reno* ●

**26** *Navy Leaders Participate in AISES Conference*

**27** *Attracting the Best and Brightest*

**28** *Sailors Serve at Food Bank*

**29** *Ensign Sworn in on Idaho Capitol Steps*

**30** *New York School Honors Alumni in Military*



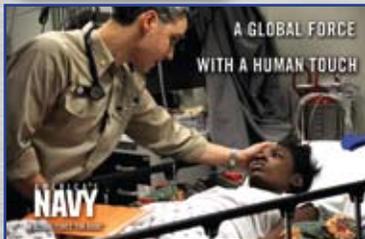


## regulars...

- 4 **A Word From the Admiral**
- 31 **The Districts' Best Stations**
- 31 **Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters**



**Front cover:** AG2 Cory Clare (left) from Apopka, Fla., assigned to the staff of Africa Partnership Station West, ET2 Damien Pauline from New York, and BM2 Jeffrey Dixon from Baton Rouge, La., all three embarked aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44), transport a patient from the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20) to the Killick Haitian Coast Guard Base medical clinic. *Gunston Hall* and *Comfort* are conducting humanitarian and disaster relief operations as part of Operation Unified Response after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused severe damage in and around Port-au-Prince, Haiti Jan. 12. (U. S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Stratton)



**Center:** Doctors treat victims aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20) off the coast of Haiti. *Comfort* is conducting and disaster relief operations as part of Operation Unified Response after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused severe damage in Haiti Jan. 12, 2010. (Photo illustration by Chris Desmond, NRC)



**Back cover:** HM2 Kisha Wright from Valdosta, Ga., assigned to the medical department of the amphibious dock landing ship USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44), applies an anti-bacterial ointment to the upper forehead of a Haitian child in the recovery ward at the Killick Haitian Coast Guard Base. *Gunston Hall* is conducting humanitarian and disaster relief operations as part of Operation Unified Response after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused severe damage in and around Port-au-Prince, Haiti Jan. 12. (U. S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Stratton)

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# A Word From the Admiral



Shipmates:

Congratulations on your third annual Navy Total Force Retention Excellence Award! As you know, this award recognizes those who retain quality Sailors with the knowledge, skills, and abilities critical to our global missions.

In addition to high retention, Sailors serving in our recruiting force continue to exceed the Navy advancement average. Great retention and outstanding promotion opportunity are two indicators that the entire Navy Recruiting Force is doing what it takes to help our Sailors succeed.

As you continue to recruit quality Sailors today and build for tomorrow, I want to emphasize the importance of ensuring that our priorities guide your efforts, focusing on delivering the best quality Sailor to the Fleet, in the right job, at the right time.

Currently, reserve component medical officer recruiting is a high priority and remains one of our biggest challenges. One program that will help in our immediate quest for Reserve medical officers is the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) Program, which was extended by OSD through April 30, 2010, and could receive another two-year extension. MAVNI was designed to provide critical, vital health care professionals and language/cultural skills to the services with manageable risk.

An added benefit to non-citizens who join through this outstanding program is the privilege of expedited U. S. citizenship. So far, we've recruited 22 language and cultural experts, and three health care professionals using the MAVNI Program. Let's build upon this success, especially in areas where we have the greatest need.

Last year, MAVNI health care professionals could only apply for the active component. This year, we expanded our program for MAVNI applicants to apply for the Selected Reserve. This expansion helps us reach out to a broader market. I encourage all of you to make the most of this new opportunity by aggressively canvassing in your area for health care professionals who are non-citizens and who may

be interested in serving as officers in the Navy.

Our overall recruiting priorities remain: medical (both active and reserve), nuclear trained personnel, special warfare (including EOD, diver, SWCC and SEAL), chaplains and diversity.

Diversity is all encompassing and includes women. Diversity is about ensuring access and inclusion to the very best talent across America.

I ask that each of you continue to focus on our recruiting force, work hard to recruit the best and brightest and ignite awareness in America.

If you haven't already joined us on Facebook, please do so at our headquarters page [www.facebook.com/navyrecruiting](http://www.facebook.com/navyrecruiting) and join the conversation at [www.facebook.com/usnavylife](http://www.facebook.com/usnavylife).

We are the greatest recruiting force in the world's best Navy. Thanks for your contribution to our Navy's most important mission – recruiting.



Rear Admiral Craig S. Faller  
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command



# NRD Houston Commissions First Officer Through New Military Accessions Program



Story and photo by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston

**HOUSTON** – Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Houston commissioned the first foreign applicant under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) Program March 5 at the district office.

vital to national interest. The purpose of the program is citizenship acceleration for individuals with certain medical or linguistic proficiencies who want to serve in the U. S. military.

Dr. Octavian R. Adam, 32, was born and educated in Romania. He graduated from medical school in Bucharest and moved to the United States to work and continue his studies seven years ago. He has worked in various hospitals around the country as well lived in Houston for the last six years.

“Today was very exciting for me,” said Adam. “I am very proud to have come so far and to be commissioned as a naval officer. It is an honor, as an immigrant, to bring my skills and abilities to a country that has given me so much.”



Dr. Octavian R. Adam, a native of Romania, is sworn into the United States Navy Medical Corps by Lt. Cmdr. David De La Rosa, Medical Corps officer recruiter at a commissioning ceremony held at Navy Recruiting District Houston on March 5. Adam is the first foreign applicant to enlist under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) Program. MAVNI's purpose is citizenship acceleration for individuals with certain medical or linguistic proficiencies who want to serve in the U.S. military.

The MAVNI Program allows military services to recruit certain legal aliens whose skills are considered to be

“Normally, it would take four to five years for a person seeking citizenship to get naturalized,” said Lt. Cmdr. David De La Rosa, NRD Houston Medical Corps

officer recruiter. "We accelerated this process to within six months."

The MAVNI Program is allowing the Navy to have access to a population of healthcare professionals who normally would not be eligible for commissioning.

"The significance of today's commissioning ceremony," said Navy Cmdr. Melanie F. O'Brien, commanding officer, NRD Houston, "is that Dr. Adam is the first in recruiting history to be accepted under this [MAVNI] program and it is an honor to have him here."

When attending medical school in Bucharest, Adam always had an ultimate goal of becoming a U. S.

citizen. The Navy and MAVNI Program have allowed this Houston neurologist to fulfill his dream.

"I came here [United States] to get a better education and have a better life," said Adam. "Becoming a citizen was the last step in goals I set for myself."

Adam already has the skills to practice as a medical professional in the Navy. Next he will attend the Direct Commission Officer class held in Rhode Island to learn Navy traditions, customs, courtesies and basic military knowledge he needs to know to be a successful naval officer. He has a follow-on assignment at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va.



# Sailors Honored at Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Game

Story and photo by Kelly Wright, NRD Raleigh Public Affairs

**RALEIGH, N. C.** – The Carolina Hurricanes of the National Hockey League held their annual Military Appreciation Night Jan. 10.

Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Raleigh recruiters manned a recruiting booth on the concourse inside the RBC Center.

Just before the first puck was dropped, a Marine Corps color guard marched onto the ice and presented colors. Musician 2nd Class Hilario Mireles with U. S. Fleet Forces Band sang the National Anthem in front of a crowd of more than 16,000 people.

Sailors attending the game were asked to stand while the audience applauded in appreciation for their service in the Navy.

Cmdr. Dave Kemp, commanding officer of NRD Raleigh, was blown away by the generosity of the Hurricanes organization and the obvious patriotism and support for the military shown by fans. Using a popular local phrase, he stated, "It's a Caniac thing!"



Musician 2nd Class Hilario Mireles with U. S. Fleet Forces Band sings the National Anthem in front of a crowd of more than 16,000 people, kicking off a Hurricanes hockey games in Raleigh, N. C., recently.

# SOY

## NRD Miami's Ortiz is NRC's Sailor of the Year

Story by Pam Branch, NRC Public Affairs  
Photo by Chris Desmond, NRC

**MIAMI** – Yeoman (YN) 1st Class (AW/SW) Rochelly Ortiz's career path has been one of continuous upward spirals and accolades.

Navy Recruiting Command's Sailor of the Year (SOY), Ortiz was born in Cayey, Puerto Rico, and followed in the footsteps of her parents and attended the University of Puerto Rico before enlisting in the United States Navy.

Upon completion of basic training, she attended YN "A" school before reporting to her first duty station, Navy Reserve Readiness Command in San Diego. She was promoted to YN3 and shortly thereafter, YN2. She was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ), Third Quarter 2000.

In November 2002, at Navy Reserve Readiness Command, Jacksonville, Fla., Ortiz was the command inspector for the training department for over

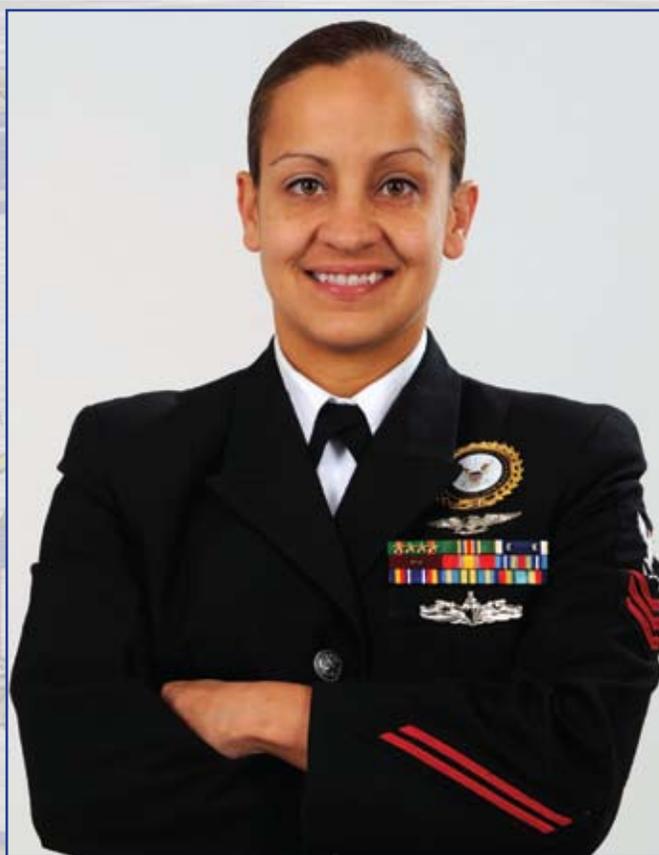


17 Naval Reserve Centers – a position usually filled by khaki personnel. She was selected as their SOQ Second Quarter 2003.

The next stop for Ortiz was Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 60 where she was promoted to YN1 and attained her qualification as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist.

As the leading petty officer (LPO) for HSL-60 Admin Department, she was directly responsible for the command earning the Helicopter Wing Reserve Administrative Excellence Award for calendar year 2006.

When HSL 60 – embarked on board USS *Philippine Sea* (CG 58) – deployed, she was the only detachment yeoman and assumed the duties as the administrative LPO for the ship's office. A team player, she integrated with the maintenance department and actively participated during launch and recovery



NRD Miami's YN1(AW/SW) Rochelly Ortiz was recently selected as NRC's Sailor of the Year, Calendar Year 2009. The mother of two believes that it is a responsibility to lead by example, and balance your life, work and community.

operations of the embarked SH-60B Seahawk helicopter. During this deployment, she was designated an enlisted Surface Warfare specialist.

Reporting to Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Miami in May, 2007, Ortiz's many assignments have included Enlisted Programs Officer department LPO, Administrative Department LPO, command fitness leader, and MWR chairman. She is currently the chief administrator and was selected as Senior SOQ, Fourth Quarter 2008 and Senior SOY for Calendar Year 2009.

She oversees the administrative matters for over 250 personnel located in 46 stations across Southern Florida, Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands.

Last year Ortiz supervised the processing of over 220 awards, 132 evaluations, 80 directives, 10 non-judicial punishments, 40 alleged enlistment processing irregularities and all command correspondence.

She was directly responsible for the NRD Miami's Administrative Department's outstanding grade during its 2009 inspection, specifically lauded by the senior inspector as having the best admin team in the nation.

Ortiz's many awards include five Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War

on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

The mother of a daughter, Crystal, and son, Gian, she also finds time to volunteer in the community with various sports and mentoring organizations.

Ortiz states, "Being selected as Sailor of the Year means a lot to me because it gives me the opportunity to represent the most powerful Navy in the world, America's Navy. I'm very proud to serve my country and be part of an organization that always answers the global call, not just for combat operations, but also as global humanitarians.

"Integrity is what drives me to make a difference in the lives of my junior Sailors, peers, seniors and my children. My commitment to the Navy keeps me focused and motivated to do what is right, for the good of everyone around me," said Ortiz. "This is an opportunity to demonstrate to our community that the Navy is a mirror of America, because I'm a testimony of diversity, equal opportunity and the quality of the Sailors serving country. Being the Sailor of the Year is not just a title; it is a responsibility to lead by example – to demonstrate to my fellow shipmates that when you balance your life, work and your community you can achieve your goals and reach your dreams."



## Arkansas Recruiters

# Unite in Community Service

*From NRD Nashville Public Affairs Office*

**ROGERS, Ark.** – Navy Counselor 1st Class Bert Allen, recruiter in charge, Navy Recruiting Station (NRS) Rogers, and NC1 Brian St. George, recruiter in charge, NRS Fayetteville, are members of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3031 who have assisted the post with volunteer work, events and maintenance at the facilities.

St. George completed approximately 20 hours repairing and performing preventive maintenance on the post's walk-in cooler and air-conditioning system, saving them approximately \$3,300.

With assistance of some of their Delayed Entry Program future Sailors, Allen and St. George completed approximately 100 hours cleaning up and mowing four acres at the VFW Post.

Both Allen and St. George organized and hosted a Navy and Marine Corps World War II social, including setting up a quarterdeck so members could be properly brought aboard. They spent approximately 25 off-duty hours and \$200 of their own money for food for the event, which in turn raised \$800 for the Honor Flight Program to send a local veteran to Washington, D. C.

Additionally, these two recruiters volunteered 30 hours at the Traveling Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Avoca, Ark. Assisting in the project were Utilitiesman 1st William Brewster (NRS Rogers enlisted recruiter) and Culinary Specialist 1st Class Brian Hilliard (NRS Fayetteville enlisted recruiter) who constructed a bamboo POW tower.

St. George, Hilliard and NRS Fayetteville future Sailors donated numerous hours to the Fayetteville Faith in Action Program in building an addition to an elderly woman's house, as well as volunteering 10 hours to the VA hospital during a diversity blitz.



# NRD Miami Mounts Relief Effort for Haitian Earthquake Victims



Story and photo by MCC(SW/AW) Gabe Puello, NRD Miami Public Affairs

**MIAMI** – As news of Haiti’s devastating earthquake began to emerge, recruiters at Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Miami began looking for ways to participate in Haiti relief efforts by collecting food, water, and supplies.

The largest communities of Haitians in the United States reside in NRD Miami’s Zones One and Two and several of the command’s personnel lost family members or have not heard from them since the earthquake rattled the nation.

Over 40 NRD Miami recruiters and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students from South Florida high schools participated in loading emergency supplies and goods bound for Haiti into the back of trucks.

“We will continue to collect goods from every recruiting office and JROTC high school in Dade and Broward Counties for the next week,” said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Pedro Collado, recruiter at Navy Recruiting Station Perrine. “That’s when the (American) Red Cross will take our supplies.”

The Northwestern High School JROTC program began the effort by contacting Collado and asking for the Navy’s help.

“I want to blow this thing up as much as possible. We have over 40 high schools that are going to contribute items and we’ll house it at the Navy’s facility in Hialeah until it’s ready to be transported by 18-wheeler to the Red Cross next week,” said Sergeant 1st Class Joseph Simpson, JROTC advisor at Northwestern High.

The response comes after Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, was hit by a powerful 7.0-magnitude earthquake Jan. 12. The quake struck near the nation’s capital of Port-au-Prince, damaging hospitals, universities and the presidential palace.



ABE2 Shamon Smith hands AME1 Upton Wallace emergency supplies bound for Haiti Jan. 15 while on a working party of NRD Miami recruiters at the Navy Operations Support Center, Miami. As news of Haiti’s devastating earthquake emerged, NRD Miami recruiters pounced into action by collecting food, water, and other supplies. Over 40 recruiters and JROTC students from South Florida high schools loaded the items bound for Haiti into the back of trucks.

Collado said his JROTC volunteers and recruiters mounted a massive effort to get supplies to the Haitian people as soon as possible and will continue their efforts until it’s no longer needed.

“These (Haitians) are the folks we recruit, visit at our high schools and work side by side with. It’s the least we can do,” said Collado.





# Chief Speaks for Injured Haitians

By MCC(AW/SW) Anthony Briggs, Jr., NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs

**USNS COMFORT, At Anchor** – A Sailor from Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Los Angeles volunteered to assist his native country of Haiti after the 7.0 earthquake on Jan. 12.

Chief Navy Counselor (SW) Marcel Blanfort, who is fluent in Haitian Creole, was sent by Navy Recruiting Command to bolster the Navy's assistance efforts in the Caribbean.

Blanfort left his job where he supervises NRD Los Angeles metro zone and oversees six recruiting stations with 23 recruiters for the assignment as a departmental leading chief petty officer aboard USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20).

"I am really happy that I am making a difference in Haiti," said Blanfort.

Aboard *Comfort* he oversees 150 military and American Red Cross translators, and coordinates manning for the ship's hospital wards, intensive care units, and triage sites on the ground in Haiti.

"We often engage stressful moments here," said Blanfort. "I'm fortunate that I can mentor young Sailors



CTR1 Ernesto Gomez and CTM1 Ismael Rivera of Navy Recruiting Station Puerto Rico assist National Guardsmen in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in organizing badly needed supplies for Haiti earthquake victims. Navy Recruiting District Miami personnel from Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands participated in this all-out effort on Jan. 15 to provide the grief-stricken citizens with much needed assistance. (Photo by NCC(SW) Brian Banrey, NRS Puerto Rico)

when they experience those situations."

Born in Nassau, Bahamas, the 12-year veteran was raised 90 miles north of Haiti in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

"They are so appreciative of us. The ship is a foreign place and with that uncertainty comes a little bit of fear," said Blanfort. "We help to explain what's happening and we give the medical staff the feedback they need to better care for those in our care."

His success in Haiti is a source of pride for his shipmates at NRD Los

Angles. "We are all very proud of Chief Blanfort and Operation Unified Response," said NRD Los Angeles Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Chris Collins. "It's times like these when the United States shows its long-term commitment to friendship with Haiti and demonstrates America's Navy as a global force for good."

Blanfort keeps his service in perspective.

"When your country calls for your service, don't think about your career or the prize. Think of the purpose of the cause."



A surgical team performs an open-reduction, internal-fixation femur surgery aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20). Doctors aboard *Comfort* have performed hundreds of surgeries since arriving off the coast of Haiti. More than 1,200 medical professionals and support personnel aboard *Comfort* are assisting in Operation Unified Response after a major earthquake crippled that country in January. (U. S. Navy photo by MC3 Matthew Jackson)

Lt. Toinette Evans, embarked aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20), embraces a young child in the pediatric ward of St. Damien Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. *Comfort* Sailors visited the local hospital to assess medical needs of the facility and assist recovering patients with their rehabilitation process. *Comfort* is participating in Operation Unified Response by providing medical support capabilities in Haiti. (U. S. Navy photo by MC2 Chelsea Kennedy)



# Recruiters Save Fire Victim

*Story by Chris Vaughn, Fort Worth Star Telegram*

**DALLAS** – Mamie McKnight celebrated her 65th birthday earlier this year with a catfish dinner.

Her son gives all the credit for that life landmark to two young Sailors who, one morning last March, saw flames from their recruiting station on North Collins Street in Arlington, ran toward the fire and pulled her out of a burning apartment building.

“She was asleep,” said John McKnight, who helps care for his disabled mother. “She would have been dead

from smoke inhalation if they hadn’t shown up.”

On that, there is no dispute.

The Arlington Fire Department told Mayor Robert Cluck, “That lady would not have survived” without the actions of (Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class) Matthew Castleberry and (Sonar Technician Submarine 2nd Class) Brandon Gonzalez, who were minutes ahead of the first fire engine.

On Feb. 11, Rear Adm. Craig Faller pinned a Navy and Marine Corps Medal on each of the men, the highest award the service can give for noncombat heroism. Very few Sailors or Marines receive the medal, which is higher than the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

"I've never presented one in 27 years," said Faller, commander, Navy Recruiting Command who came to the Navy's district recruiting office in Dallas for the ceremony.

Castleberry, 25, an Arlington native back home for a recruiting tour, described the attention showered on him as "surreal" but "pretty cool."

"It took a lot of time and effort to put this together, just for us," he said.

About 9 a.m. on March 20, 2009, Castleberry and Gonzalez, 31, a Grand Prairie native, had shown up to work at their recruiting station. Castleberry is an aviation mechanic who has done three deployments on aircraft carriers. Gonzalez serves as a sonar technician aboard submarines.

"We were going to head out, hit the streets and see what

we could find," Gonzalez said. They remarked to (Chief Machinist's Mate) Aaron Wilson that smoke was coming from an apartment building across the street. "I told them it was probably someone barbecuing," Wilson said.

Within a few minutes, flames were shooting out of the roof. Castleberry and Gonzalez took off across Collins Street. Wilson called 911. After leaping the iron fence around the complex, Gonzalez started banging on doors. Castleberry headed for the apartment next to where the flames were the worst.

"I jumped into her balcony," he said. "I was yelling, and I could hear her in there. But she wouldn't come to the door."

He jumped back over the patio fence and ran to Mamie McKnight's front door, which, luckily, was unlocked. Wicked black smoke poured out and made Castleberry gag. He grabbed a piece of clothing off the floor and held it to his face.

As he found her wheelchair, Gonzalez came running into the apartment, having seen Castleberry go in by himself. They helped her into the wheelchair and got her into the parking lot.

Then they banged on more doors until they were satisfied that everyone was out. Within minutes, fire trucks arrived, and an ambulance took McKnight to a hospital.

Gonzalez and Castleberry, though, went back to work.

"My lungs hurt for the rest of the day, but it wasn't anything major," Castleberry said.

John McKnight said the fire department determined that a child playing in an adjacent apartment had accidentally started the fire with a lighter. His mother, who worked for General Motors for 30 years, had hoped to attend the medals ceremony. But she

was too nervous about getting out in the snow.

As thrilled as John McKnight is with the medals for Castleberry and Gonzalez, who were nominated by Wilson, their supervisor, he isn't done with his one-man gratitude campaign.

He has written to U. S. Representative Joe Barton; U. S. Senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison; Governor Rick Perry; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen; Chief Justice John Roberts; and the White House. He's even e-mailed Oprah.

"I wrote letters to all those people asking them if they knew what kind of character it takes to run into a fire," he said. "These guys need to be recognized for what they did."

*Reprinted with permission by the Fort Worth Star Telegram*



Arlington, Texas, Mayor Dr. Robert Cluck (with microphone) proclaims Feb. 11, 2010, Petty Officer Castleberry and Petty Officer Gonzales Day for their heroics in saving a disabled woman from a burning building in 2009. The two were also meritoriously promoted in January for their bravery. (From left) Rear Adm. Craig Faller, commander, NRC; STS2 Brandon Gonzalez; AM1 Matthew Castleberry; Cluck; and Cmdr. Mike Mullins, commanding officer of NRD Dallas where the recruiters work. At the ceremony, Faller presented each petty officer a Navy and Marine Corps Medal, his first presentation of this medal in his 27 years in the Navy. (Photo by MC1 Amanda Sullivan, NRD Dallas Public Affairs)



# Future Sailor Rescues Woman from House Fire



By Lt. Brett Cline, NRD Richmond Public Affairs

**MARTINSBURG, W. Va.** – You quite often hear of heroic deeds by our brave soldiers and Sailors in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It takes a special breed of person to volunteer for such a noble cause.

One such person is future Sailor Andrew McDermott of Navy Recruiting District Richmond, who became an instant hero overnight in the small town of Martinsburg.

It was a cold Christmas Eve night when McDermott and his friend Jesse Franks were on their way home after visiting Operations Specialist Seaman David Reese, who was home on Christmas leave from boot camp.

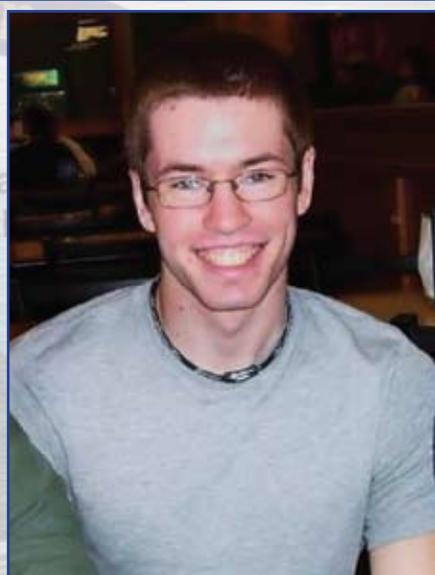
They drove past a townhome, which they believed was on fire. They immediately dialed 911 and reported the incident. Upon further investigation, they not only saw smoke but flames coming from the first floor. After observing that there was a television on, McDermott knew that they must act quickly as someone could be inside.

After a few desperate attempts of trying to see if there was anyone in the residence with no response, the pair broke a first level window and forced open the door. They then entered the townhome, where they found 48-year-old Patricia Miller unconscious on the couch. It was later determined to be due to severe smoke inhalation.

McDermott and Franks carried the woman to safety and waited for emergency responders to arrive. Due to their quick thinking and bravery, they were able to save the woman's life.

"If they hadn't stopped, she probably would have been dead," Lt. Gary Harmison of the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department, who is investigating the fire. "She had severe smoke inhalation. It doesn't take much. If your CO2 level gets to 35 percent, it usually kills you."

No one else was in the home. Unfortunately a Chihuahua was found dead in the upstairs portion of the home where the smoke concentration was the greatest. The cause of the fire was narrowed down to faulty wiring or smoking material.



Future Sailor Andrew McDermott became a hero Christmas Eve night when he and a friend rescued a woman from her burning home in Martinsburg, W. Va. (Courtesy photo)

South Berkeley Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Rick Petry said, "Truly, they did save her life, because by the time a neighbor or someone else would have seen it and called it in, the whole house would have been totally full of smoke."

McDermott shipped to Great Lakes on Feb. 3 and chose the rating of hospital corpsman because he said he has "Always enjoyed helping out people, and if possible, saving lives." He made this extremely clear by his heroic actions on Christmas Eve.

It is our job as recruiters to find recruits of this top caliber and process them into the Navy. We are responsible to man the Navy's front lines with the best, brightest and bravest.

McDermott is certainly not your average citizen, and will make a fine corpsman upon completion of boot camp. He epitomizes the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment, words he will become intimately familiar over the next few months.



# NEW ORLEANS

Story and photo by MC1 Isaiah Sellers III, NRD New Orleans Public Affairs

**NEW ORLEANS** – Navy Recruiting District (NRD) New Orleans took part in this year's annual Mardi Gras carnival celebration with its Navy float, a replica of *Constitution*, in 10 parades beginning Jan. 31 and concluding Feb. 16 (Fat Tuesday).

The city's proud history of carnivals span back as far as 1730 with the creation of elegant society balls. It wasn't until a century later that Mardi Gras, as it's known today, was established with elaborate floats, parades, and throws.

Mardi Gras to New Orleans is as essential as a child to its mother. It is such an important event that in 1875 the state of Louisiana declared it a legal holiday.

New Orleans' proud carnival tradition was broken following Hurricane Katrina, the worst hurricane to ever rock the Gulf Coast causing over 1,800 fatalities and in excess of \$88.5 billion in damages.

Questions began to arise as to whether or not Mardi Gras would ever return to New Orleans due to Katrina's devastation. These questions were answered by the nation's support with record numbers.

"Mardi Gras is not only carnivals, beads, and parties. It is a sense of hope and progression. It's our chance to celebrate everything that is good and right about life," said Personnelman Specialist 2nd Class Tonya Geary, a New Orleans native assigned to NRD New Orleans.

It is to no surprise that NRD New Orleans keeps a strong presence with its *Constitution* float to continue building the bridge between the Navy and the local community.

Parade spectators, not including those with the media, far exceeded historical numbers of Navy Fleet Weeks. Audiences are an eclectic mix of people, drawing those in high schools, colleges, universities, corporations, both young and old.

NRD New Orleans continues to find ways to successfully engage large audiences and showcase career opportunities that the Navy has to offer. NRD New Orleans serves areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, has two Military Entrance Processing Stations, 40 recruiting stations and 180 recruiters.

With such a strong impact in the community, it is no wonder why this is America's Navy – A global force for good.



NRD New Orleans Sailors participated in 10 parades during the 2010 Mardi Gras season. This was the 10th year for NRD New Orleans to enter their unique float in the Mardi Gras celebration. The float is modeled after the oldest commissioned naval vessel afloat in the world, *Constitution*, and it holds 26 riders including an eight-piece Navy Band.

# S ON PARADE

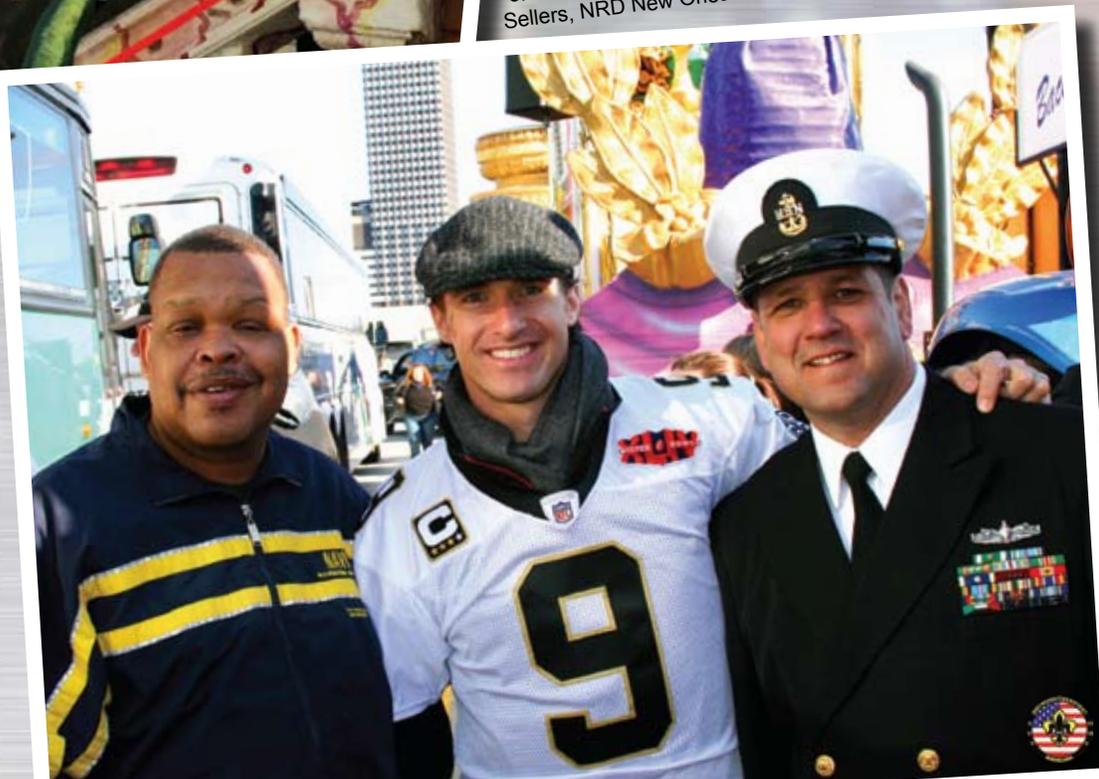


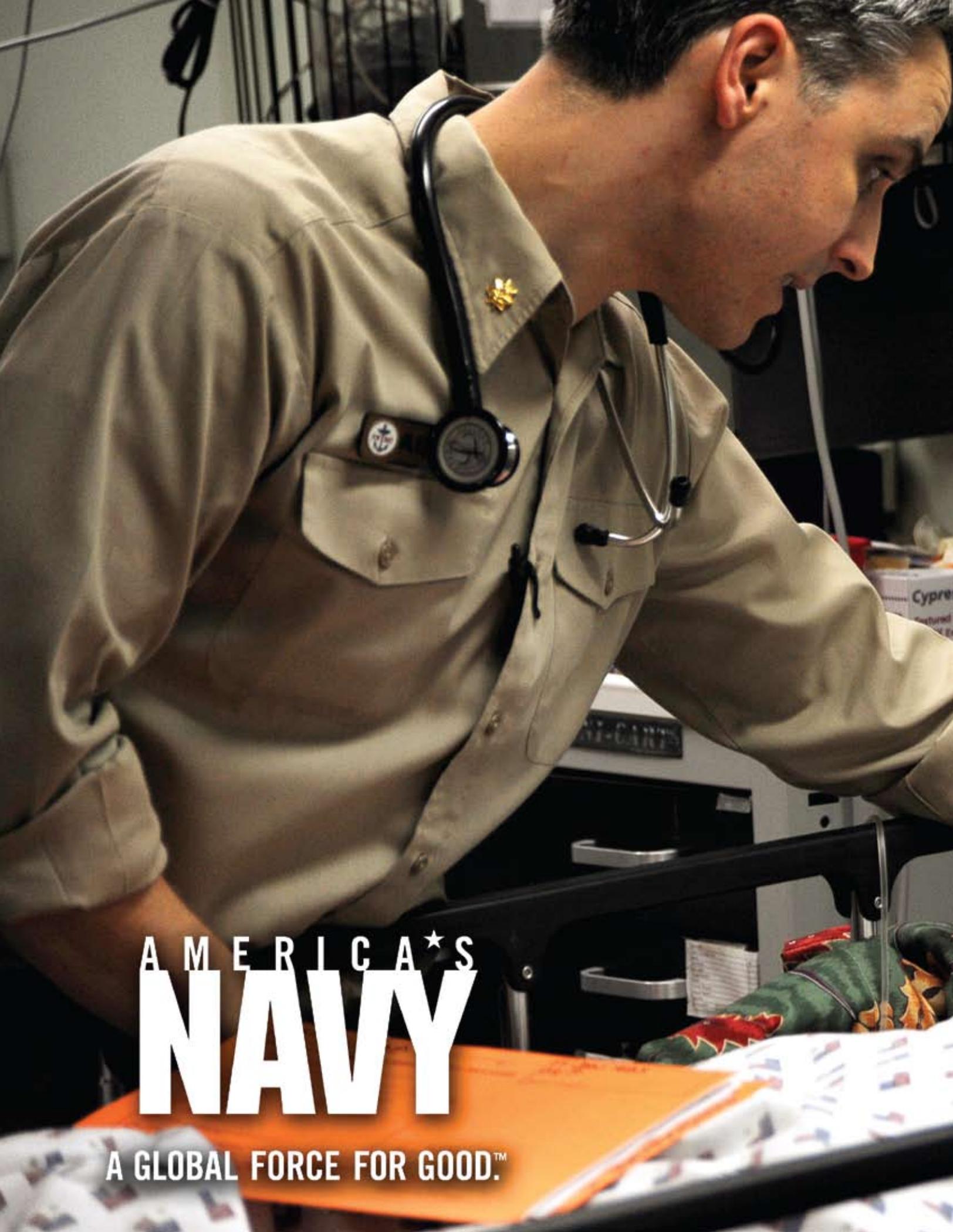
**Above:** New Orleans Saints' number 67, Jamar Nesbit, traded his Super Bowl XLIV champion cap for a Navy cover and proudly displays it on board their celebration float. (Photo by MC1 Isaiah Sellers, NRD New Orleans Public Affairs)

**Right:** In addition to the 10 Mardi Gras parades that NRD New Orleans participated in, they were also in the parade to celebrate the New Orleans Saints victory in Super Bowl XLIV, the first-ever Super Bowl title for the Saints. Joe Serals, NRD New Orleans employee, Saints quarterback Drew Brees, and ICCS Perry Muller, NRD New Orleans LEADS Department Head, pause just prior to the start of the parade. (Photo by Tony Baker, NRD New Orleans)



**Above:** (From left) PS2 Tonya Geary, NC1 Kieron Coulon, SH1 Donald Craig, and EN2 Kentreal Peters pose with New Orleans Saints kicker Garrett Hartley prior to the start of the Saints victory parade held Feb. 9, two days after the Saints beat the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV. NRD New Orleans' float, a replica of *Constitution*, was selected as one of 13 floats to participate in this parade. (Photo by MC1 Isaiah Sellers, NRD New Orleans Public Affairs)

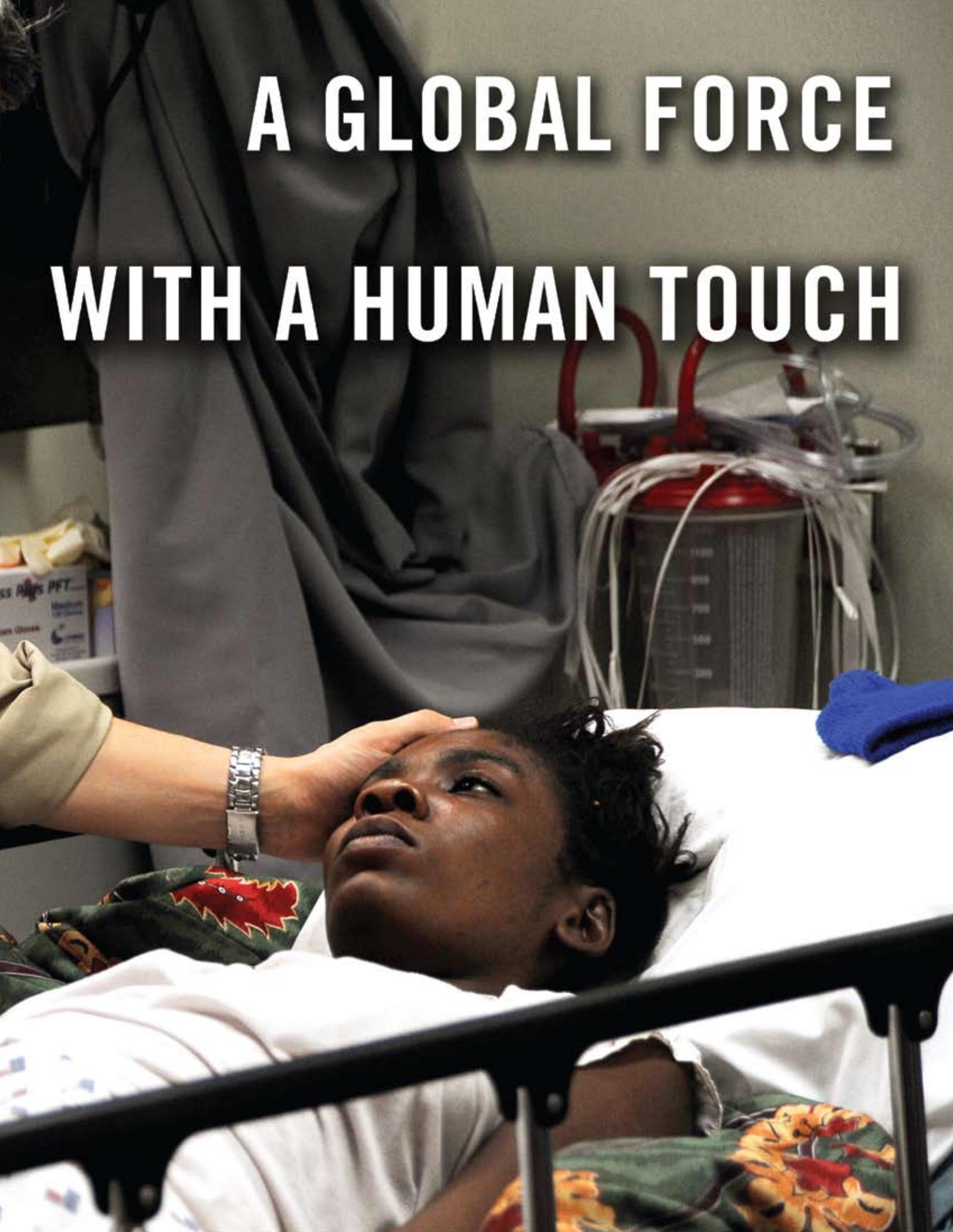




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A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD.™

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# Commander, NRC Visits South Florida Schools



Story and photo by MCC(SW/AW) Gabe Puello, NRD Miami Public Affairs

**MIAMI** – Rear Adm. Craig S. Faller, commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visited South Florida recruiters, high schools and colleges Jan. 27-29 to spread the news about the Navy's new brand, America's Navy – A global force for good.

Faller spoke to Boca Raton Community High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Unit and South Broward High School's Army JROTC Unit on Jan. 27.

The NJROTC Unit at Boca Raton Community High School was named second best in the country in five of the last seven years. During a speech given in an auditorium filled with NJROTC Cadets and students, Faller spoke from the heart about his experiences while studying at the Naval Academy, his early tours of duty and travels as a junior officer.



Cadet Cmdr. Michael Newman (at podium) briefs Rear Adm. Craig S. Faller (far right), commander, Navy Recruiting Command, on the day-to-day operations of the Boca Raton Community High School NJROTC. Later Faller spoke to a packed auditorium about his experiences while at the Naval Academy, his early tours of duty and travels with the Navy.

“As a leader, you’re going to be measured by your character, your honesty and your integrity. A simple equation sums it up: performance equals opportunity,” Faller said.

Faller emphasized to each group the importance of leadership. More than 75,000 cadets are enrolled in

NJROTC programs worldwide. NJROTC instills in high school students the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.

Boca Raton Community High School's NJROTC boasts 174 cadets this academic year and next year they want to expand even more, according to Cadet Cmdr. Michael Newman.

"Clearly serving in the military, to me, is one of the greatest professions that anyone could have. You can serve in the nuclear field, medicine, in science or engineering," Faller said.

Faller also spoke to students at Florida International University's School of Engineering. "When you stop learning, you start sliding backwards," said Faller. "Our new brand, America's Navy – A global force for good, means our forces can deliver care and hand out bottles of water in stricken lands just as easily as we

can target warheads to foreheads on our bad guys. Navy doctors, lawyers, dentists and civilian college professors are needed to do just as much good on land and at sea as our war fighters."

On the last day of his scholastic tour in Florida, Faller visited and spoke to students and faculty at Broward College in Fort Lauderdale and Florida Atlantic University's Oceanography Class in Boca Raton.

Recruiters point out the significant citizenship role the NJROTC Program plays in instilling service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment in students. NJROTC teaches cadets self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills to help them meet life's challenges and prepare them for life after high school, regardless of what career path they choose. Naval Service Training Command, headquartered at Naval Station Great Lakes, oversees more than 600 NJROTC units worldwide.



# Deployed Sailors Seek Reserve Commissions



*By Lt. j.g. Michael A. Leach, NAVELSG Public Affairs  
Official U. S. Navy photos*

**WILLIAMSBURG, Va.** – Navy Officer Recruiting Station Syracuse (New York) Officer Programs recruiter, Lt. Cmdr. Tracy Bloomquist, herself a Reserve Supply Officer, is working closely with four petty officers to ensure their dreams of entering the commissioned ranks are realized.

Two Sailors assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG) forward JULIET Team and two Individual Augmentees from Detroit, Mich., want to join the ranks of the Navy Supply Officer Corps as ensigns.

Logistics Specialist (LS) 1st Class Victoria Schutz, LS2 Jeffery Braun, LS2 Michael T. De Martin, and Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Angelita Noche, all forward-deployed petty officers, were encouraged by their commanding officers to submit individual direct-commission officer packages because the responsibilities of each is typically held by a lieutenant in the Supply Corps.

Following in the footsteps of her two brothers, Noche enlisted in 2002. Presently, she is the lead petty officer in a communications operations center at a forward

base in Iraq where it is her responsibility to ensure that command personnel, visitors and guests are always accounted for. Having earned a college degree, the next logical step for Noche was to pursue a Supply Corps commission. "Submitting my Supply Corps officer package has been very exciting for me.

Since my enlistment in 2002, I always thought about the opportunity to become a commissioned officer and didn't realize it would come to fruition during my deployment," said Noche.

Service has always been close to De Martin's heart. He volunteered for a deployment to Afghanistan where he serves as a leader for a provincial reconstruction team. De Martin became such an important member to his commanding officer and the Army first sergeant with whom he worked that they encouraged him to apply for the direct-commission officer program. "I have wanted to submit an officer package for a long time, but I always allowed things to get in the way, but with the full support of my commanding officer in Afghanistan, now is the time," said De Martin.

When Jeffery Braun isn't teaching criminal justice courses at night for Central Texas College on his assigned base in Afghanistan, he's busy as the supply non-commissioned officer in charge during the day. "I have been working on my direct-commission officer package since August. Not surprisingly, it is quite difficult to complete such a task from several thousand



Even with a heavy workload in Iraq, LS1 Victoria Schutz made time to submit her officer package for the Supply Corps. In civilian life, she is a detention officer for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department in Arizona.



(Left) LS2 Michael T. De Martin volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan. While forward-deployed, he submitted his individual direct-commission officer package, hoping to become an ensign in the Navy Supply Officer Corps. (Right) SH2 Angelita Noche took the next logical step in her naval career after receiving her college degree: submitting her Supply Corps officer package while forward deployed in Iraq.

miles away; however, the process has been going rather smoothly so far, more so than I expected," according to Braun.

For Schutz, life in Iraq couldn't be busier. She is the lead petty officer of the Mobile Air Cargo Handling Team, supervising several Sailors in the delivery of supplies and high-priority assault support requests throughout Iraq. In her civilian life, Schutz works as a detention officer for "America's Toughest Sheriff," Joe Arpaio at the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department in Arizona. Schutz serves as a taser instructor, field training officer, and supply officer overseeing ordering large quantities of food, clothing and other supplies for the county jail.

What does a direct-commission package for the Navy Reserve Supply Corps entail? College transcripts; 26 pages of security

clearance information; letters of recommendation; a personal mission statement of 500 words; two Supply Corps officer interviews from senior commanders or captains, which can be a challenge if you are 8,000 miles away in Afghanistan or Kuwait; the commission application; medical forms; identity paperwork; and countless other pieces of paperwork. As one can imagine, earning a direct commission is not an easy process.

Within a few months, all four sailors may be trading in their red chevrons for a single gold bar and joining the proud tradition of the Navy Supply Officer Corps.

# NSW/NSO Showcased at Winter X Games 14

Story and photo by Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs

**ASPEN, Colo.** – What would bring U. S. Navy SEALs, divers, Explosive Ordinance Disposal and Sea-Air Rescue experts to the high Colorado Rocky Mountains, well over 1,000 miles from the nearest ocean? The annual Winter X Games in Aspen of course! This four-day “extreme games” series of events Jan. 28-31 drew tens of thousands of enthusiasts across the globe to watch, play as amateurs and perform as professional contenders. This crowd reflected traits essential to those who choose to pursue careers in the Navy Special Warfare and Special Operations (NSW/NSO) communities.

“Awareness of Navy opportunities is an essential first step toward meeting the Navy’s ever-demanding NSW/NSO manning requirements and I am very impressed with the physical conditioning that I see in this group,” stated Navy Recruiting Command Program Coordinator, Master Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Matthew May. “The visitors are actively engaged in the sport. You can see that they live the lifestyle and it shows.”

The Navy booth was ideally located a snowball’s throw from event center, the SuperPipe. Crowds came to watch the Snowboard and Skiing SuperPipe, Best Trick, Big Air, Slopestyle and Snowmobile SnoCross competitions among many other events to include the Mono Skier class.

“They just pour into the Navy booth asking for giveaways and asking excellent questions. The pull-up bar challenge is a big draw. We track the contenders and give away a one-of-a-kind collector’s snowboard to the competition winner each day,” stated the Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Denver NSW/NSO coordinator, Navy Counselor 1st Class (SS/DV) Robert Whatley.

Quartermaster 1st Class (SW/AW) Nicholas R. Smith III volunteered to assist and drove a significant distance from Salt Lake City, Utah. Smith said, “Most of our Navy awareness is actually done at the ‘deck plates’ level in the high schools, recreation centers and at local sports competitions. When offered the opportunity to assist with this major international event, I jumped at the chance. It’s awe-inspiring”.

NRD Denver Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Ann Rennie, made a special point of inviting influential members of the community to join in the festivities. “The opportunity to showcase Navy in our land-locked region is an invaluable assist to our efforts to attract the ‘best and brightest’ to man our future Navy,” stated Rennie. “It’s truly gratifying to see our top community, business and education leaders make a friend of the Navy for life”.



QM1 Nicholas Smith assists a young rising star with the pull-up challenge during the Winter X Games 14 held in Aspen/Snowmass, Colo. The Navy is an official sponsor of the games to showcase career options among enthusiasts who revel in pushing their physical limits.



# Navy Band New Orleans Hits High Notes with Schools

Story and photo by MC1 Isaiah Sellers III, NRD New Orleans Public Affairs

**ALEXANDRIA, La.** – A weeklong event was used as a gateway to gain military access into local schools that may have been reluctant to allow military presence.

Navy Recruiting District (NRD) New Orleans Commanding Officer, Cmdr. John Lewis, ensured that the command maximized the Navy's visibility in the Alexandria area by turning the event into a "mini Navy Week."

Media coverage was solicited and the senior ranking military officer, Capt. Brian Harrison, commanding officer, Naval Support Station Algiers, was present to speak to students and to greet Dr. Gary Jones, superintendent of Rapides Parish School Board.

Jones was a former Navy member prior to receiving his commission in the U. S. Army and attaining the rank of brigadier general. "Being a retired military member myself, I know the service can assist young kids with structure in their lives," said Jones.

Jones along with several members of NRD New Orleans had the opportunity to ride the Navy simulator during his visit to Bolton High School. The occasion was a first for the superintendent but was succeeded by an equally

impressive show, a performance provided by New Orleans Navy Band Express.

The band performed music listed on the top 20 charts. With their lead vocalist and talented musicians, Express received rave reviews on their concert. Teachers said that they were really impressed, noting that the band's performance was not what they expected.

The event engaged both the kids and school staff. After their performances, band members allowed students to step up and display their talent.

The band being able to perform at different venues with NRDs is part of the Music for Recruiting Program. It is designed to enhance recruiting efforts across the nation with musical units including ceremonial and parade bands, pop/rock bands, brass and woodwind quintets and jazz ensembles.

NRD New Orleans and the Navy Band work closely together to assist in meeting Navy Recruiting Command's mission of recruiting qualified individuals to meet established strength levels of officer and enlisted, in both the active and reserve components of the United States Navy.



Vocalist MU3 Cory Parker with Navy Band New Orleans' Express group is joined on stage by a student in singing a duet. NRD New Orleans partnered with the Navy Band for a weeklong event in Alexandria as part of the Music for Recruiting Program which is designed to enhance recruiting efforts across the nation with musical units including ceremonial and parade bands, pop/rock bands, brass and woodwind quintets and jazz ensembles.





# Oregon City Future Sailors Attend Trail Blazers Game

Story and photo by Elizabeth Allen, NRD Portland Public Affairs

**OREGON CITY, Ore.** – Recruiters from Navy Recruiting Station Oregon City treated their future Sailors under the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) to a little Portland Trail Blazers basketball recently when they attended a special Military Appreciation Night at the Rose Quarter.

Events for those in the DEP help keep recruits on course to fulfill their obligations while giving them an opportunity to learn more about the service they will become part of.

“The most important thing is to get the future Sailors mentally and physically prepared for boot camp,” said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Christopher Newell. “We get the recruits in shape, teach them some of the things they need to know and let them know that Sailors, in addition to their recruiters, are here to help.”

Oregon City recruiters routinely instruct recruits on the military basics, such as saluting and ceremonial procedures, the 11 general orders and the Sailor’s Creed. But with future Sailors in DEP waiting up to 18 months before attending boot camp, recruiters find special events very useful.

“It’s important to have fun activities to reward future Sailors for sticking with the program, especially when some of them are waiting for a job to open up,” said Newell. The DEP recruits appreciate the extra motivation as well, and like a chance to just have some fun.

Recruiters were able to get a special rate on tickets for the game as part of the Blazers’ Military Appreciation Night. Events during the game included a salute to active duty military and veterans attending the game, a mass swearing-in ceremony, and video messages from Oregon soldiers serving in Afghanistan.



Future Sailors in the Delayed Entry Program from Oregon City, Ore., pose with their recruiters after attending a recent Portland Trail Blazers basketball game.



# Navy Week Premieres in Reno

Story and photos by Elizabeth Allen, NRD Portland Public Affairs

**RENO, Nev.** – The U. S. Navy landed on the Reno strip as part of the 2009 Reno Navy Week, the first one ever held in this city.

Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Portland joined with Navy Band Northwest, crewmembers of the USS *Nevada* (SSBN 733) and the U. S. Navy Blue Angels in events that made a large impact on the area.

Rear Adm. Mark I. Fox, commander, Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center at nearby Fallon, Nev., kicked off the week as guest speaker at a Rotary Club luncheon where Mayor Bob Cashell presented him with a Navy Week proclamation before a contingent of local Navy recruiters, reservists, and over 150 Rotary Club members.

The mayor warmly welcomed Navy officials. “If there’s anything

the city of Reno can do for the Navy, let me know,” said Cashell.

NRD Portland recruiters and Sailors from *Nevada* logged numerous community service hours and served as goodwill ambassadors. Highlights included meeting Gov. Jim Gibbons at his office in the state capitol in Carson City; attending a McQueen High School football game as featured guests; packing and stacking food packages at the Food Bank of Northern



BM2 Fred Zigelhofer from NRD Portland stands with 29 future Sailors as they are sworn in at the Reno Air Races as part of the 2009 Reno Navy Week celebration. Rear Adm. Mark I. Fox, commander, Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center at nearby Fallon, Nev., administered the oath.

Nevada for needy families in the region; tutoring children at an after-school study class; being honored VIPs in the Heroes Parade that was organized to honor military and those who serve in the community; attending a Caps for Kids event at a local hospital; meeting the University of Nevada, Reno head college football coach Chris Ault; and serving as guests of honor at a First Responder's luncheon.

"Navy Week beat all my expectations," said *Nevada* crewmember Lt. j.g. Jonathan Richmond as the week drew to a close. "It's been a great opportunity to interact with the community, as well as get the crew away from a typical all-Navy town where it can become routine, and let them see the appreciation everyone has for what we do."

Electrician's Mate 1st Class (SS) Kevin Garber, also from *Nevada*, said that even though he enjoyed riding in the Heroes Parade, the opportunity for crewmembers to visit with children in Reno schools was his favorite part of the Navy Week.

"It's been an inspiration to meet the people of Nevada and find out how proud they are of us," Garber said.

The week culminated with the swearing in of Delayed Entry Program personnel and a performance by the Blue Angels flight demonstration team at the 46th annual Reno National Championship Air Races. Three members of the Reno community (Mixed Martial Arts fighter Gina Carano; Washoe County School District Superintendent, Dr. Heath Morrison; and McQueen High School counselor Gregg Donnelly) got backseat rides with Blue Angel pilot and narrator Lt. Ben Walborn.

According to Carano, riding in the backseat of an F/A 18 was one of the most exciting things she has ever done in her career and one of the toughest workouts she'd ever had.

"Lt. Walborn told me what would happen first: a climb straight up into the sky that would feel hundreds of times more powerful than the biggest, fastest roller coaster. I couldn't believe I was doing this. We traveled faster and faster on the runway. We went straight up. I was glued to my seat. Clouds started



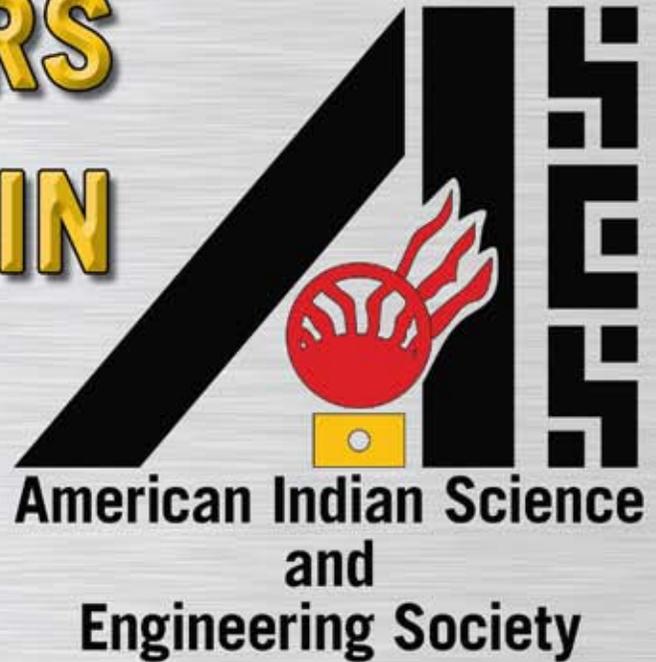
Mixed Martial Arts fighter and celebrity Gina Carano gives a thumbs up for her ride with a Navy Blue Angels pilot. The Blue Angels performed at the 46th annual Reno Air Races during Reno Navy Week, one of 21 Navy Weeks conducted around the country in 2009. Navy Weeks are designed to show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy and increase awareness in metropolitan areas that do not have a significant Navy presence.

flying past on either side," Carano said. "My ride gave me a real appreciation for people in the military, especially those in such precision jobs like a pilot with the Blue Angels. My body felt like someone dropped me from a three-story building. This was the most terrifying experience ever. And, at the same time, it was the best."

In their first appearance in Reno since 2000, the Blue Angels also visited local high schools to talk about careers in the Navy and participated in the Heroes Parade.



# NAVY LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN AISES CONFERENCE



Story and photo by Elizabeth Allen, NRD Portland Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – Members of Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Portland participated in the three-day American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference. NRD Portland Commanding Officer Cmdr. Damon Wenger was a panel member on American Indian leadership within the United States Navy in the 21st Century, while members of the officer recruiting department manned a booth in the exhibit hall.

Rear Adm. Michael Giorgione, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, spoke about leadership principles at the conference that was held at the Oregon Convention Center.

Addressing a group of more than 100 engineers, educators, business people and students, Giorgione shared perspectives on leadership gathered during his naval career. “We have a continuing need for leaders who are willing to stand up and choose to make a difference,” Giorgione said.

Giorgione’s comments coincided with the conference’s theme “The Difference is You.” He went on to note that while the Navy is first and foremost a military organization, it is also an organization that builds, that has been in business for over 230 years, and employs 700,000 active and reserve Sailors, civilians and contractors.

Other essentials of leadership Giorgione discussed included taking care of your people, holding yourself and your team accountable, building teamwork, learning from good leaders, knowing the difference between leadership and management, understanding where to apply your energies, and letting people learn from their mistakes.

AISES board of directors chairperson Dr. Dorothy Pender, an Inupiat Eskimo, said, “Having Rear Adm. Giorgione being here as a role model and being recognized for what he’s doing is a great opportunity for students to see how they can succeed.”



Rear Adm. Michael Giorgione, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, receives a native American Indian blanket from Pamela Silas, chief executive officer of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), during opening ceremonies of the 31st Annual AISES National Conference in Portland, Ore. The blanket was a thank-you gift for him speaking at the conference.



# Attracting the Best and Brightest



*Story and photo by Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs*

**DENVER** – One year after East High School teacher Joel Noble attended an Educator Orientation Visit in San Diego, he accepted the invitation of Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Denver Special Warfare/Special Operations coordinator, Navy Counselor 1st Class (DV/SS) Robert Whatley, to showcase Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robotic equipment for his Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Robotics Club.

Word spread throughout the school and during lunch break the small group comprised of the MESA Robotics Club had grown to several hundred students. Despite the winter chill in the air, students converged outside in the faculty parking lot to learn about a cross section of Navy programs and, specifically, the role of the Navy EOD expert.

Volunteer reservists from EOD Expeditionary Support Unit One, San Diego, Chief EOD Arron Edmonds, and Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (DV) Anthony Perrone assisted recruiters from NRD Denver in discussing dive physics, materials engineering, essential skill sets, teamwork, and the mental, moral and physical requirements for naval service.

A highlight of the presentation was a demonstration of their tools of the trade, such as the Mark 16 Mod 1 rebreathing apparatus, bomb suits and high tech robotics equipment. "I've never seen so many phone cameras furiously clicking at the same time," stated the school's Navy liaison, Construction Mechanic 1st Class (SCW) William Sanders.

School host Noble stated, "I have no military background in my family and knew nothing of the armed services. I resisted preconceived notions and accepted the invitation of [NRD] Denver Education Specialist Tim Askew to tour Navy facilities and ask tough face-to-face questions of the Sailors. I was quite impressed by the young men and women I met. A high point for me was a tour of the EOD compound. When I was recently offered the opportunity to get EOD experts and actual equipment in front of my students, I jumped at the chance."

High school senior and MESA Robotics Club member David Romero will be attending Metropolitan State University in the fall with the intent of pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. Romero stated, "This was awesome. I particularly liked the real-life applications, saving lives."



EODC Arron Edmonds suits up IT2(DV) Anthony Perrone for a simulated bomb disposal presentation to the students of Denver's East High School. NRD Denver Sailors scheduled the presentation to brief on qualifications for naval service, specifically, acceptance into the Special Warfare/Special Operations communities.

# Sailors Serve at Food Bank



Story and photo by MC1(AW) Adrian Melendez, NRD Phoenix Public Affairs

**PHOENIX** – Four recruiters and 15 future Sailors from Navy Recruiting Station (NRS) Desert Sky in Phoenix participated in a community service project at St. Mary's Food Bank on Feb. 17.

The group spent the afternoon packing meals for needy families around the Valley of the Sun. The event was put together to teach the future fleet Sailors teamwork, but more importantly, the importance of giving back to the community and helping those in need.

"I wanted something different for these future Sailors to do. I wanted to show them what the Navy does through helping the community and giving back as well," said Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jasmin Rodriguez, a recruiter at NRS Desert Sky and event organizer. "I hope they learn a little of what the Navy is all about, which is teamwork, and see it's all about giving back to people and not just about going out and doing your job on a daily basis."

For four hours they packed bags full of canned goods and other nutritional items for the needy. The food bank relies on volunteers from the community, and the future Sailors were happy to help out.

"It feels good to be able to help people out who need it the most. It's a good feeling," said Aaron Emmons, a future Sailor from Phoenix who spent his last day before shipping off to recruit training helping at the food bank. "This is what the Navy does. I'm getting ready to be a Sailor and that's why I'm here."

Kari Eckert, who will be reporting to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes in August echoed Emmons' feelings on what giving back means and the power of working as a team. "We have a lot of great teamwork

out here. It's amazing how everyone just wants to help," Eckert said.

Overall, the future Sailors and their mentors packed 1,680 bags and 20 pallets, providing thousands of meals for those who need the food bank's assistance.

"This was huge," said Deb Vajgrt, St. Mary's Food Bank production coordinator. "Altogether more than 11,000 people are going to be impacted by the teamwork that they all did. It's truly awesome that they would take hours out of their day to give back to the community."



A future Sailor and Navy Counselor 1st Class Nicolas Carbajal (right) from NRS Desert Sky pack sacks with food at Phoenix's St. Mary's Food Bank. The four-hour project was a valuable lesson for the recruits in giving back to the community in which they live.

When the day was done and all the meals were packed, the future Sailors and Vajgrt walked away with a better understanding of what it means to be a part of America's Navy – A global force for good.

"It's a blessing for me to be able to see the magnitude of the effect that their efforts will have on people," said Vajgrt.



# Ensign Sworn in on Idaho Capitol Steps



Story and photo by Elizabeth Allen, NRD Portland Public Affairs Contractor

**BOISE, Idaho** – “Today we gather to witness an oath.”

With those words, Idaho State Representative Marvin Hagedorn, a retired Navy chief warrant officer, addressed a group of legislators, friends and family gathered on the steps of the Idaho State Capitol to witness the commissioning of Ensign Erik Makrush.

Idaho dignitaries in attendance included the lieutenant governor, attorney general, a state representative and several state senators.

Hagedorn told the crowd, “As legislators we have all taken oaths, but I don’t think any of them have had the weight of the oath this young man is taking today. In this oath, Mr. Makrush is swearing to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, a document that defines who we are as a nation.”

Previously an enlisted petty officer from 1992 until 1996, Makrush was deployed in both Iraq and Bosnia. He used the G.I. bill to return to college after leaving active duty and got his degree from Boise State University in Political Science with an emphasis in law and a minor in business.

A legislative consultant for the Idaho Association of Building Officials and the Idaho Freedom Foundation, Makrush was sworn in Jan. 29.

“I am honored to once again serve our nation in the U. S. Navy. This commissioning has been a goal of mine for some time and I appreciate all the support from my recruiter and especially my family to allow this to come to pass,” Makrush said.



Ensign Erik Makrush is sworn into the United States Navy Reserves on the steps of the Idaho State Capitol in Boise by State Representative Marvin Hagedorn. The newly-commissioned officer took the oath before friends, family and various state legislators and dignitaries.

Commissioned into the Navy Reserve Supply Corps Program, Makrush will be working with Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 5 in Boise.



# NEW YORK SCHOOL HONORS ALUMNI IN MILITARY



Story by MCC(SW/AW) Eric Durie, NRD New York Public Affairs

Photo by Bruce Howard, NRD New York Public Affairs

**MIDDLE ISLAND, N.Y.** – Upon entering Longwood Senior High School, it is immediately evident that this school takes great pride in the achievements of its students. The hallways are lined with exhibits displaying artwork, engineering projects, and athletic achievements of students, both past and present.

One exhibit, however, stands out from the rest. It is remarkable in both appearance and intent. Located in the school's main hallway is a wall covered in photos of Longwood alumni who chose to leave Long Island to serve their country as part of the United States military. The exhibit currently consists of 48 photos, and 15 more will be added in the spring.

The concept for Longwood's "Volunteers Proudly Serving" exhibit was developed three years ago when a former assistant principal suggested that the school create a military memorial.

According to Longwood's current principal and former Army sergeant, Donald Murphy, it didn't take much to get the rest of the school excited about honoring former students now serving in the military. "We all galvanized around the idea and got it off the ground," said Murphy.

The display is now as much a part of the school as the students it honors once were. "We love it," said Murphy.

Murphy and the students of Longwood are not the only ones excited about the memorial. Navy Recruiting District New York Executive Officer, Cmdr. Susanne McNinch, and education specialist, Dr. Joseph Sipolo, visited the school in December to see the memorial and thank them for their support of the military and recruiting.



(From left) NRD New York Education Specialist Dr. Joseph Sipolo, Longwood Senior High School guidance counselor Laura Aliperti, NRD New York Executive Officer Cmdr. Susanne McNinch, and Longwood principal Donald Murphy stand before the school wall that's dedicated to alumni serving in the military.

According to Murphy, this support is easy to offer. "Some people think we shouldn't mix the military with school," he said. "We don't share that opinion."

This outlook is shaped by the school district's understanding of how the service of their former students impacts their lives. "We wouldn't have what we have without the

military," said Longwood's guidance counselor Laura Aliperti. Because of this understanding, the school is always welcoming of military members. "Everybody has their own path in life," said Aliperti.

For some, that path leads them to a career in the military. For Murphy and the school, this is a welcome result. "We think it (the military) is a great option for our kids," Murphy said.

In an area where there is no significant military presence, it is both surprising and refreshing to find a school where service to country is both appreciated and encouraged. This is, and according to Murphy, will continue to be the case at Longwood Senior High School.



# The Districts' Best Stations

## January 2010

### Region East

#### Small

NRS Detroit East  
(NRD Michigan)

#### Medium

NRS Chesapeake  
(NRD Richmond)

#### Large

NRS Toledo  
(NRD Ohio)

**NRD Denver**  
NRS Castle Rock

**NRD Houston**  
NRS Lake Charles

**NRD Jacksonville**  
NRS East Orlando

**NRD Los Angeles**  
NRS San Luis Obispo

**NRD Miami**  
NRS NW Tampa

**NRD Michigan**  
NRS Detroit East

**NRD Minneapolis**  
NRS Omaha

**NRD Nashville**  
NRS Pine Bluff

**NRD New England**  
NRS Albany

**NRD New Orleans**  
NRS Veterans

**NRD Ohio**  
NRS Florence

**NRD Phoenix**  
NRS Santa Fe

**NRD Pittsburgh**  
NRS Horseheads

**NRD Portland**  
NRS Red Bluff

**NRD Raleigh**  
NRS Augusta

**NRD Richmond**  
NRS Chesapeake

**NRD San Antonio**  
NRS Weslaco

**NRD San Diego**  
NRS San Bernardino

**NRD Seattle**  
NRS Spokane

**NRD St. Louis**  
NRS Gladstone

## February 2010

**NRD Chicago**  
NRS Peru

**NRD Dallas**  
NRS Ardmore

## February 2010

**NRD Dallas**  
MM1 Justin Newsom

**NRD Denver**  
AM2 Jordan Rose

**NRD Houston**  
EM2 Jose Penaloza

**NRD Jacksonville**  
ABF2 Yolanda Alfred

**NRD Los Angeles**  
NC1 Casey Spaulding

**NRD Miami**  
CTR1 Garrick Washington

**NRD Michigan**  
CTR1 Darby O'Connor

**NRD Minneapolis**  
MM2 John Dinnetz

**NRD Nashville**  
CTM1 James Wyatt

**NRD New England**  
BM2 Wilfredo Maldonado

**NRD New Orleans**  
EN2 Kentreal Peters

**NRD New York**  
PS2 Demetrius Gatlin

**NRD Ohio**  
HT1 Brandon Smith

**NRD Philadelphia**  
AM2 Josh Werner

**NRD Phoenix**  
BM2 Dallas Rodriguez

**NRD Pittsburgh**  
ET2 Bill Sgaggero



**NRD Portland**  
GM2 Gerald McCully

**NRD Raleigh**  
NC1 Lester Lipford

**NRD Richmond**  
AO2 Ashley McNeese

**NRD San Antonio**  
STG2 Joshua Cave

**NRD San Diego**  
DC2 Don Hammonds

**NRD San Francisco**  
OS1 Andrew Etherton

**NRD Seattle**  
LS1 Matthew Morgan

