

NAVY RECRUITER

magazine

The Magazine for Navy Recruiters

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MAVNI Program Success
Navy Recruits Become U.S. Citizens

Diversity Officer ROY
The Secret of His Success

NRC is Going Green
Making the Switch to Hybrid Vehicles

Navy Week
Sailors Participate in Tampa and Phoenix

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Front cover photo: Sailors from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 31 pose in the Navy's latest working uniform. As one of the oldest squadrons operating in the U.S. Navy today, VFA-31 has a long and distinguished history. Its beginnings can be traced to the commissioning of the VF-1B Shooting Stars in July 1935. VFA-31 is the only Navy fighter squadron to achieve aerial victories in three wars--WWII, Korean and Vietnam. (Photo by Chris Desmond, NRC)

Back cover photo: Recruiter GSE2 Francisco Zapata, NRS Hollywood, Fla., spent time coloring with children at Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital's Hematology and Oncology Ward where youngsters with acute and chronic blood disorders, pediatric cancer and leukemia are treated. Sailors from NRD Miami gave patients Navy ball caps and other memorabilia donated by the Pelicans of Patrol Squadron 45 based in Jacksonville, Fla., during Tampa's Navy Week. The Caps for Kids Program is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing caps and scarves to youth suffering from hair loss as a result of various forms of cancer treatment. (Photo by MCC(SW/AW) Gabe Puello, NRD Miami Public Affairs)

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A Word From the Admiral



Shipmates:

The imperative of recruiting diverse future Sailors, both officer and enlisted, is foremost about ensuring the best and brightest Americans have access and inclusion into our Navy. This is an all-out war for talent in our Navy. In each of my visits to Recruiting Districts and Stations, I've seen firsthand what diversity adds and fully realize it's a key ingredient of America's top recruiting force, both now and in the future.

Diversity is about a culture of inclusion where the creativity, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, skills and talents of Sailors and civilians enhance the Navy's mission readiness. The different experiences, backgrounds and talents of our Navy total force forge new ideas, ensuring the Navy advances in terms of technology, resourcefulness and leadership. I reflect on my own experiences on ships and major staffs – a broad array of background from different warfare specialties, services, gender and race enhanced the team's ability to find proactive solutions and achieve success.

Enhancing our diversity across all ranks takes time. Our strategic imperative is clear: Keep pace with the shifting distribution of workforce talent to attract and retain quality people. By 2020, projections indicate that one third of America's workforce will be made up of minorities, and by 2050 this percentage will grow to one half. Today, 20 percent of our youth population is Hispanic and that number will grow to nearly 38 percent by 2050.

To keep our Total Force Navy Recruiting Team competitive, to recruit and retain a talented, diverse workforce, we must remain fully engaged and ensure we are seeking and maintaining access to diverse schools, community groups, national organizations and key influencers. Attracting and retaining talent from cultures across America and around the world is critical to developing 21st century leaders.

As we steadily build our culture of inclusion, such as by recruiting women in non-traditional roles, we continue to recognize and capitalize on the strengths that diversity brings. By doing so, we are better able to reach future Sailors around the world.



Rear Admiral Craig S. Faller
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

As we head into the final half of FY2010, we are well above our benchmarks in all diversity categories. This speaks volumes for your focus on our Navy Recruiting strategic priorities.



America's greatest asset is our people. Navy Recruiting's greatest asset is you.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to help lead this outstanding Navy Recruiting Team! Thanks to each of you for your hard work and dedication. You have enabled our team to successfully meet mission, by recruiting quality today, and by building for tomorrow.

As this goes to print, we have just experienced a devastating flood in Millington and Nashville. Thankfully, none of our team was seriously injured, but unfortunately many lost their homes and most-precious possessions. Please keep them in your prayers and thoughts.



Navy Recruits Become U.S. Citizens through New MAVNI Program

Story and photo by Scott A. Thornbloom, Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES – They grew up below the 38th parallel in the Republic of Korea, in the shadow of Mt. Everest and the Himalayas in Nepal, and on the plains of the Serengeti in Kenya. They speak several languages. And today, thanks to a new Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) pilot program, the Navy and Recruit Training Command (RTC), they are United States Navy Sailors.

These six new Sailors were the first enlisted Sailors to participate in SECDEF's Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) initiative. The Army was the first to implement the program in 2008, and the Navy joined the initiative soon after in 2009. The overall mission of the MAVNI Program is to recruit and accelerate citizenship for foreign individuals with certain linguistic proficiencies.

In his 2009 Posture Statement, Adm. Eric T. Olson, commander, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), stated, "In November 2008, thanks to a very positive response by the Secretary of the Army and the approval of the Secretary of Defense, we made progress in one of USSOCOM's high priority initiatives: increasing our level of regional expertise through the recruitment of native heritage speakers."

Olson's posture statement continued with, "As of today, over 100 legal non-permanent residents (LNPRs) with special language skills and abilities have joined the Army under a pilot program. Some of these candidates will serve in special operations units."

The Navy started recruiting enlisted LNPRs with special language skills in 2009. The first six LNPR recruits graduated from the Navy's only boot camp at RTC, located at Naval Station Great Lakes Feb. 12, and are presently learning to operate with Navy Special

Operators (SEALs) as linguistic specialists in San Diego.

Two days after graduating from boot camp and before transferring to follow-on training, they became U.S. citizens in a ceremony at the Region Legal Service Office Midwest at Naval Station Great Lakes.

While at the Navy's only boot camp, a MAVNI recruit's citizenship paperwork is reviewed, updated and completed so they can recite the oath of citizenship immediately after graduating from RTC. This is a critical part of the program.

"We are helping them along the way to get their paperwork expedited to become citizens," said Lt. Cmdr. Mike Favata, student control director at RTC. "But we are still here to make them Sailors first, just like we would with any other recruit."

Favata said RTC staff members, like Lt. Vince Dasta, RTC's citizenship representative, go through the citizenship paperwork within the first 48 hours of a MAVNI recruit's arrival at RTC.

"They have to have a valid Social Security number and their visas have to be in certain categories," Favata said.

"[RTC] staff members help the recruits expedite fingerprint forms, get passport pictures taken, and escort them to the legal office where they actually sit down and meet one-on-one with a legal representative," Favata said. "We also make sure all the appropriate citizenship forms are properly filled out. We walk them through the process so they don't get hung up with any red tape."

For the new Sailors, becoming American citizens has been a long-time dream.

"I'm so excited," said Yun Hwang, 19, originally from Seoul, Korea. "I have had this dream of becoming an American for 10 years."

Hwang said she and her family moved to America when she was nine and her family has worked at becoming citizens since first arriving on American soil.

"It is a very long process and has been very hard to try and get jobs and getting a good education and into a good school without being a citizen," she said. "My brother just happened to find a Navy recruiter that knew of the MAVNI Program and knew how we could expedite getting our American citizenship."

boot camp," Dasta said. "So far, it's been very smooth and they have all performed very well during their training."

Even before the recruits enter boot camp and begin the citizenship paperwork, each applicant goes through a very extensive background check.

"Right now, this is a pilot program and we're not really going to know the success of this program until we see how these new Sailors do in the fleet," Favata said. "If they do as well as we think they will, and if the Navy looks to expand this program, we'll definitely have to continue to be extremely vigilant to make sure the right folks get in."

Dasta added that part of the enlistment through the



The first Navy Sailors to participate in the MAVNI pilot program are issued the oath of citizenship by Stacey Summers, branch chief with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Chicago Field Office: (from left) Seaman Recruits Sandesh Shrestha, 25, from Katmandu, Nepal; Gilbert Nalelia, 30, from Kitale, Kenya; Yun Hwang, 19, Seoul, Republic of Korea (South Korea); Soun Woo Han, 20, Pusan, Republic of Korea; Seong Yeol Song, 31, Incheong, Republic of Korea; and SR Nirvesh Karki, 22, Katmandu, Nepal. MAVNI is designed to recognize foreign nationals with skills considered to be vital to national interest such as doctors, nurses, and certain language experts and give them the opportunity to expedite the naturalization process by serving in the U.S. military.

Hwang joins four other MAVNI Sailors in working as linguists with Navy Special Warfare Group 1 in Coronado, Calif. Hwang's brother is presently going through boot camp as a MAVNI recruit and is looking to become a Navy Special Operator.

Dasta said accelerating the process for the six new Americans, as well as future MAVNI recruits, is a team effort between Navy Recruiting, RTC and the Chicago Office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

"There's a lot to do and a number of processes each MAVNI recruit has to go through on top of the Navy curriculum and training they have to keep up with in

MAVNI Program is agreeing to honorably complete their obligated military service. If the candidates don't meet this commitment, they could lose their citizenship.

"But that would be the decision of the USCIS," Dasta said.

For the first six "American" Sailors, this isn't considered a problem.

"I have waited a long time for this," said Seaman Sandesh Shrentha, 25, originally from Katmandu, Nepal,

who spent the past several years in San Diego on work and student visas. "Knowing how far I have come and where I was when first arriving in the United States, I now know I have opportunities and it is like the world is now open for me."

There are three MAVNI recruits presently attending recruit training, and they are expected to graduate soon. RTC is also scheduled to receive nine more MAVNI recruits at boot camp later in the year.

For more information on the MAVNI Program, read COMNAVCRUITCOMINST 1133.13 or visit http://immigration.about.com/od/uscitizenship/f/MAVNI_Program.htm or <http://www.defense.gov/news/MAVNI-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.



Sailors Step Up to Science

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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Approximately 15 Sailors from area NRSs and Navy Reserve Support Center (NRSC) took part in judging science and engineering projects of students in grades eight-12 during the 23rd National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

The judging started early in the morning by reviewing 216 projects in 18 categories ranging from computer sciences to bioengineering.

“Going through junior high and high school I was always interested in science fair stuff,” said AE2(AW) Antonio Jaramillo, Special Operations coordinator at NRS Albuquerque. “When this opportunity came up, I wanted to jump on board and judge.”

Many of the judges, including Jaramillo, were excited to get a chance to work with the youth as well as be part of a different type of volunteer opportunity that they never get a chance to do.

“It was actually really cool to get the chance to come out here and meet all the kids and do something

different,” said YN2(AW) Joseph Stricklan from NRSC Albuquerque.

Stricklan was chosen to be the lead judge in the medicine and health category, and was amazed by the quality of projects that were presented. “All the projects I saw blew me away because I would have never thought about anything like that when I was their age,” said Stricklan.

Rear Adm. Michael Bachmann, commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, was on hand to give remarks during the opening ceremony, view projects, and give out a special Navy award as part of the final awards ceremony.



AE2(AW) Antonio Jaramillo from NRS Albuquerque judges a student's science project at the 23rd National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Approximately 15 Sailors from the area volunteered as judges at the fair that featured 216 individual projects by students from all over the United States representing more than 40 tribal nations.

“These projects were outstanding. Everyone I saw was extraordinarily reverent. What was really striking was the caliber of the students. Not only the quality of the projects, but, more importantly, their poise and overview of their briefings was phenomenal,” said Bachmann.

Bachmann was very appreciative of the Sailors that came out to

volunteer, but noted that the event was not only a great volunteer opportunity for the Sailors, but a great way to show the Navy flag in a location where the Navy isn't well known.

The engineering and science fair is hosted by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and was attended by students from all over the United States representing more than 40 tribal nations.

"We're well known in the coastal areas. It's a good opportunity to show some Navy presence and get involved with the community on a national level," said Bachmann.



Diversity Officer ROY Reveals the Secret of His Success

Story by Barbara Wallerstedt, NRD San Antonio Public Affairs

Photo by MC1(AW) Christopher D. Blachy, NRC

SAN ANTONIO – Sailors chosen to become recruiters are drawn from a pool of top performers who are motivated to tell their Navy story to others. These Sailors are expected to succeed in their unique and demanding role and provide results.

NRC honors those who stand out among the pack and are selected as Recruiters of the Year (ROY). These recruiters shape the future of the Navy.

Diversity is a top recruiting priority – with the ultimate goal being that the Navy reflects the variety of the United States population.

Lt. Cmdr. (Select) Anthony T. Cosby was selected as the 2009 Diversity Officer ROY.

When asked about how others can achieve the goals he reached, Cosby said, "I attribute my success to my own personal experiences, increasing my visibility in the community and providing superior service."



Rear Adm. Craig S. Faller, commander, NRC, congratulates Lt. Cmdr. (Select) Anthony Cosby (right) for his selection as the 2009 Navy Diversity Officer Recruiter of the Year during ROY Week festivities in Washington, D.C.

Serving as the Officer Programs Officer (OPO) at NRD San Antonio, Cosby not only achieved high numbers with his diversity applicants, he visited the district's Navy Officer Recruiting Stations, presented training topics to local recruiters, and assisted with visiting university leadership. He challenged his OPO team to embrace the phenomenal opportunity to recruit highly educated and diverse men and women to become naval officers. To ensure that every officer recruiter was held accountable for successfully performing their crucial jobs, recruiter

accountability was at the forefront of the OPO team philosophy.

In May 2009, Cosby had an unfortunate accident that left him immobilized in a neck brace for three months. Although he was absent during this time to recover from his injury, Cosby's momentum propelled the OPO team to achieve record-breaking diversity numbers for fiscal year 2009.



Rare Opportunity for South Carolina Student

*Story by Kelly Wright, NRD Raleigh Public Affairs
Photo by IC1 Christopher Aiken, NRD Raleigh*

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Cmdr. David S. Kemp, NRD Raleigh commanding officer, presented a \$36,000 check to Russell Jones at Midlands Technical Community College during their Military Day Career Fair. The over-sized check symbolizes the cost of his education.

As an undergraduate, a student can apply to receive up to \$169,700 in financial assistance through the BDCP, enabling them to get the most out of college life – no loans,

Local Navy recruiters had a booth at the career fair and answered questions from job applicants, students and those looking to learn more about what the Navy has to offer.

A participant in the Navy's Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program (BDCP), Jones is one of only two students in North and South Carolina to enter the BDCP after attending a community college.

Kemp hand picked Jones for this program. Originally from Chapin, S.C., Jones currently attends the University of South Carolina in Columbia and is studying applied mathematics. He also volunteers each week to the elderly and has an impressive background in real estate. Jones is in the Navy's pilot program and will become a naval officer straight out of college.

Kemp was pleased to present Jones with the check at the career fair and said, "We were thrilled to recognize the type of high quality student that Midlands Tech produces. This check presentation hopefully made others aware of the special opportunities available through the Navy's BDCP."



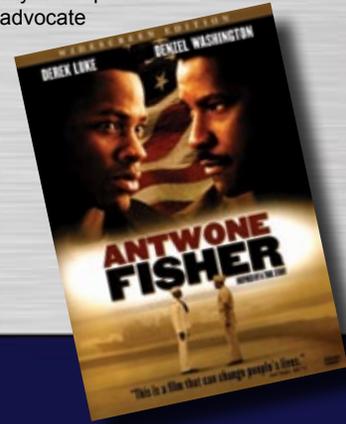
NRD Raleigh's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. David S. Kemp, presents a \$36,000 check to Russell Jones at Midlands Technical Community College during their Military Day Career Fair. Jones is obtaining his degree through the Navy's Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program and the check represents the cost of his education. He is scheduled to graduate in August 2010.

no part-time jobs, no uniforms and no military service until after graduation. Upon graduation, the new Navy officer steps right into a leadership role in fields ranging from engineering to intelligence, to public affairs.





CNRC Rear Adm. Craig S. Faller talks with special guest Antwone Fisher at the NRD Los Angeles luncheon in Marina del Rey. The former Sailor was the foundation for the 2002 movie, "Antwone Fisher," based on his autobiography. The speaker-author-producer is a big advocate of the Navy and speaks on its behalf whenever possible.



NRD Los Angeles Thanks Local Supporters

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

Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Delgado, Navy Personnel Command Navy Regional Diversity Outreach

LOS ANGELES – NRD Los Angeles recently hosted a luncheon in Marina del Rey to celebrate a diverse group of individuals.

Rear Adm. Craig S. Faller, commander, Navy Recruiting Command, was on hand to thank local organizations, high schools and universities who have partnered with NRD Los Angeles in promoting opportunities to serve in the Navy.

Faller stressed the importance of the Navy maintaining a positive relationship with the local community.

"There are a lot of choices out there," said Faller. "The Navy gives individuals another choice, and I thank you for partnering with us to present that choice. We're thankful to you for your support of Navy recruiting. The partnership we have has directly improved our ability to recruit the right people for the right job at the right time."

Bertha Haro, manager, development administration of Great Minds in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) echoed the same sentiment towards the Navy.

"We are very proud of our long-standing partnership with the Navy. The Navy is a founding sponsor of

our Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference. Through the years the relationship has flourished into a strong and innovative partnership," said Haro. "Having the ability to convey to our community the importance of the Navy's national security and humanitarian efforts is really important."

One of the special guests was former Sailor Antwone Fisher who spent 11 years in the Navy, where he was a ship's serviceman second class. Today he is an inspirational speaker, author, screenwriter and film producer. Fisher's 2001 autobiographical book "Finding Fish" was the basis for the 2002 movie, "Antwone Fisher." He gives back to the Navy as often as possible.

"The Navy helped save my life," said Fisher. "I was 17 with no home or family and the Navy was just that – my family. I will always love the Navy."

Lt. Cmdr. Samuel Delgado, Navy Regional Diversity Outreach Officer with Navy Personnel Command, looked at the luncheon as a chance for people with a common goal to further that goal.

"Everyone here has the Navy's best interest at hand," said Delgado. "The luncheon is a small way of saying thanks."



Identical Twins Aim for High Goals in the Navy

Story and photo by MC1(SW/AW) James Coyle, NRD San Francisco Public Affairs

SAN MATEO, Calif. – Yongxin “Queenie” and Yongyi “Winnie” Zhang spend a lot of time together and have been there for each other their entire lives, doing everything together as identical twins.

When they made the decision to seek a career doing the same thing, it came as a surprise to no one who knows the ambitious pair from Millbrae, Calif.

It was their clear choice to join the United States Navy together that made the most sense to the two Mills High School seniors. They will head off to Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes in quest of remaining together just as they have done their entire lives.

“I think the Navy will really give my parents the help they need when it comes to my education,” said Winnie. “And we’re both interested in the medical field. The independent life of working as a hospital corpsman does seem interesting to me.”

The dedicated duo will be going into the Navy as part of the very popular “buddy system” which means the same RTC division and then on to Hospital Corpsman ‘A’ School with the goal of graduating together and working in the same command after their HM selection process is completed.

“It was something we had a dream about. To be able to work together while doing scientific [things] and all

the biology issues involved. Maybe at some point in time someday becoming a doctor or pharmacist is a very solid future we are both looking forward to,” said Queenie.



Yongxin “Queenie” Zhang (left) stands with her twin sister Yongyi “Winnie” and NRD San Francisco recruiter LS1(SW/AW) Hai Ye. The twins are currently scheduled to depart for Recruit Training Command in August, utilizing the Navy’s “buddy system” program. Each girl maintains a 4.0 GPA in high school and hopes to someday serve together at the same Navy command.

The Zhangs know there are no guarantees they will make it to the same command but they are convinced their next birthday Sept. 30 will be celebrated together during their challenging life at RTC.

“They are both very much looking forward to their time at RTC together as an adventure and their shared birthdays at RTC will be just more icing on the cake,” said NRS San Mateo’s LS1(SW/AW) Hai Ye. “Actually I don’t think they give you birthday cake in boot camp but it will be a special memory for both of them.”

Ye, who has been the twins' recruiter from the very beginning, said the young women are very excited, extremely focused and both are showing excellent signs of leadership, strong work ethics and an outstanding attitude in everything they are involved in while they have been in the station's Delayed Entry Program pool.

"They've been amazing," said Ye. "They do all their PQS [personal qualification standards] assignments, they work out and stay in great shape, and really follow instructions consistently. Plus they both have

been getting straight A's at school in every class. I'm proud of them," said Ye.

Both Queenie and Winnie are also very proud of the decision they've made together to begin their careers in the Navy instead of the traditional path of college or university.

"This way we aren't wasting any of our time towards reaching our goals. We can be doing what we want to do right away and the decision to join the Navy has changed our lives to just where we want to be," said Queenie.



NRD New York Goes Green ...to Make Some Green

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

NEW YORK – NRD New York's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and Banquet Committees celebrated Earth Day by initiating a recycling program across the NRD...and making a little money in the process.

Each of the district's recruiting stations received a recycling bin, which will serve as a repository for empty soda bottles and cans. At the end of each week, a committee representative will pick up the bins and return the bottles. The money received from these bottle returns will go straight into the MWR or banquet treasury where it can be used to help improve the morale of the Sailors assigned to NRD New York.

"The main goal is to help both the community and the command," said MM2 Alicia Ferrell, a member of the district's MWR committee. "This program allows us to raise money and help the environment."

According to Ferrell, it is vital for Sailors to embrace opportunities to help out in their communities as well as in the workplace. "To me it is very important that service members involve themselves in some sort of program that not only gives back to the community but also the environment," she said. "I believe this program is a way to start positive reinforcement of not only the Navy's image but also a way to show our community that we are concerned about the world around us."

The NRD New York recycling program allows the district's Sailors to demonstrate that concern by simply tossing their empty soda or water bottles in the recycling bins instead of the garbage. The fact that the proceeds will directly improve these Sailors' quality of life doesn't hurt either.

"Our command personnel will only benefit from this, so why would they not want to participate in raising money?" said NC1 Monique Brodeur, one of the driving forces behind the program.

Ferrell echoed Brodeur's sentiments. "The ultimate goal is...to have enough money that we can sponsor events for the command without members of the command having to pay out of pocket for any of it. Hopefully, we can get participation from every station and every member of NRD New York."

The benefits of the program have many NRD New York Sailors excited, an excitement that Ferrell hopes is lasting. "One of the challenges we may face with this program further down the road is ensuring that each recruiting station continues to support the recycling efforts as the year progresses," she said. "It's easy for a program to fall by the wayside after the initial excitement or 'rush' of the initiation of the program."

According to Brodeur, this command-wide participation is crucial to the program's success. She also sees the program as an opportunity for the command to have a lasting impact on the health of the earth. "Our recycling plays a major part in us doing our part as a command to help the environment," said Brodeur.

While Earth Day comes and goes, the NRD New York recycling program will stick around; dedicated to helping both the district's Sailors and the environment, five cents at a time.



NRC to Use Hybrid Vehicles, Save Petroleum

By MCCS(EXW) Tom Jones, NRC Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – NRC will begin incorporating hybrid vehicles into its leased government vehicle fleet beginning May this year in direct support of the Navy's overall goal to cut petroleum use in half by 2020.

The Government Services Administration will deliver 297 Ford Fusion hybrid vehicles to NRC from May through mid-August 2010. By 2013, NRC expects 25 percent of the 5,100 vehicles in the command vehicle

Phoenix, San Francisco, Denver, New Orleans, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Nashville, New York and Miami.

"This initiative is important because it shows our commitment to preserving the environment and reduces our dependency on foreign oil," said Curry.

Today, 85 percent of NRC's vehicle fleet consists of alternative-fuel vehicles or "flex fuel" vehicles that can operate on ethanol as well as gasoline. The switch to hybrid vehicles will reduce the operational cost by \$200 per vehicle annually, ultimately saving NRC and the Navy more than \$55,800 in 2010 alone.



Artist concept

fleet will be hybrids. NRC's goal is for hybrid vehicles to comprise at least 75 percent of the Navy Recruiting fleet by 2020.

John Curry, deputy director of the NRC Supply, Logistics and Facilities Department, said the initial influx of hybrid vehicles will be used predominately in metropolitan areas throughout the country.

A metropolitan statistical area is defined as a city that normally has a population of 100,000 people or more. NRC will use these vehicles in cities like Philadelphia,

"It's not just about the dollar figure," Curry said. "We are reducing our carbon footprint, ultimately supporting the Navy's energy and environmental goals."

According to Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, assistance secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment), the Department of the Navy has raised the bar by committing that the Navy will lead among the services, the Federal Government and the nation in achieving aggressive goals for energy efficiency.

"[Our] initiatives are tied directly to our national security," Pfannenstiel said. "But achieving them, we will realize other benefits, including better use of limited resources and healthier communities."





MCPON Visits NRD Nashville

Story and photo by ETC(SS/DV/PJ) Tim Lavachek, NRD Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – NRD Nashville recently hosted a visit from the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West, who is originally from Rising Fawn, Ga. --- a small town that lies within NRD Nashville boundaries.

The MCPON's visit encompassed all aspects of recruiting --- NRD Nashville headquarters, Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) Nashville, NRSs Rivergate and Murfreesboro, and Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Nashville.

He learned about a day in the life of a recruiter, and fielded questions at each stop.

"I always give a coin to the individual with the first question," MCPON said to Ensign Murphy Goodman, a freshly commissioned officer from NRD Nashville headquarters. Aware of Goodman's surprise at what to do with the coin, MCPON jokingly said "I don't want to see this on eBay!"

At MEPS Nashville, MCPON witnessed a future Sailor being sworn in before shipping off to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes. MCPON told the new Sailor, "Work hard and stay focused, and you will be successful whether you stay in for four years or 30 years."

Later in the day, the MCPON visited two NRSs and the local NOSC, where he was eager to speak with local recruiters and future Sailors.

"Recruiting has become much more difficult as we are now looking for the most highly qualified instead of

quantity. You are doing a fantastic job and I am both proud and thankful for your efforts," MCPON said to the recruiters from central Tennessee.

To the attentive future Sailors, he stated, "You have joined the Navy at a great time in our history. We currently have 13,000 Sailors on the ground in the Fifth Fleet AOR supporting joint efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. We also have over 8,000 Sailors supporting



During his visit to Nashville, Tenn., MCPON Rick West witnessed the swearing in of Aaron Phillips at MEPS Nashville. Phillips shipped out to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes to become a CTI.

the relief efforts in Haiti. This is an example of how our Navy has changed since I joined in 1981. Much will be asked of you and you will be successful through hard work."

It was a busy and eventful day for those keeping pace with the MCPON. Capping off his day with the energetic recruiters, MCPON led the assembled group in a traditional Navy cry of "HOOYAH!"



BRADENTON RECRUITERS MENTOR AT YOUTH RANCH

“Most of the kids are taught how to work and make money, and they have their own accounts where they can earn privileges. For example, one of the young men owns a car and he had to work to save up the money for his insurance and other expenses. This teaches them a sense of responsibility,” said Corey Waters, recreation director at the youth ranch.

“I’m very glad that I was asked to be a part of this and I would like to thank the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch for the opportunity,” said Nuñez.

“I would like to thank my father for being such a good role model to me and raising me the way he did. I also plan on being more involved in this place because it is an outstanding facility and these are wonderful young men,” said Stagner. Stagner’s father visited the ranch with him as well and was very touched by the program.

Story and photo by NC1 Christy Miller, NRS Bradenton

BRADENTON, Fla. – NRD Miami recruiters at NRS Bradenton gathered recently at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, Bradenton-Sarasota to work with less fortunate boys from all parts of south Florida during a fatherhood mentoring program.

A member of a state-wide network of non-profit facilities, the youth ranch is a residential childcare and service agency that strives to develop productive citizens.

The ranch plans on holding the fatherhood mentoring event annually with one main purpose: to teach and mentor the character traits of being a good, positive father.

Recruiters CM1(EXW/SCW) Erik Stagner, MM2(SW) Joseph Rising and STS2(SS) Alex Nuñez know what being a father involves since all three are fathers themselves. When asked to participate in this event, they gladly accepted the offer.

The recruiters weren’t the only mentors invited to participate. Others included middle school principals, doctors, police officers and the Sarasota Fire Department Chief. Each of these local leaders had a different view on how to be successful as a man and a father.

“The day began at around 9 a.m. with a meet-and-greet with all the mentors. An opening agenda was reviewed and then each mentor was matched up with one of the 24 young men ranging from ages 13 to 17,” said Stagner. The mentors were given a tour of the ranch and visited areas where the children sleep, work, and study.



Some of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch residents gave recruiters (from left) CM1(EXW/SCW) Erik Stagner, MM2(SW) Joseph Rising, and STS2(SS) Alex Nunez a tour of the barn where they perform some of their daily chores. The recruiters were part of a fatherhood mentoring event at the ranch that organizers hope to make into an annual occurrence.

“I feel this program was a way to let people know there are less fortunate young men out there and I feel as though they need guidance and mentoring,” said Stagner.

As the day progressed and lunch was served, strong bonds were established between the youth and their mentors. This was an outstanding partnership and gave the young men the opportunity to ask successful men how they handle certain issues and what career paths they need to be on to head in the right direction.



Father, Daughter and Navy Tradition

Story by MCC Jeremy Siegrist, NRD Pittsburgh Public Affairs

Photo by NC1 Robert Miller, NRD Pittsburgh

GREAT LAKES – The Navy is a family, but for one recruiter at NRD Pittsburgh this concept took on a whole new meaning recently when he watched his daughter graduate from Navy basic training.

NC1 Robert Miller was in attendance when his daughter, Quinn Marie Miller, participated in the pass and review ceremony as part of Company 033's graduation.

"I can't express how proud I am of her. My daughter has truly changed so much in the eight weeks there [boot camp]. She was not a bad girl before she left but now she is like a fine-tuned car," Miller said.

Miller, whose father served with the Army during the Vietnam War, is proud of his family's military tradition.

"My parents wanted to go to the graduation but with my mother's health it just wasn't possible. When she graduated I called my dad and had him talk to her and he said how much of an honor it was for him knowing his granddaughter was serving in the U.S. Navy," said Miller.

Not only was this a monumental day for Miller and his family, but that same week there were five other Sailors graduating from boot camp that Miller had recruited into the Navy. "Out of the five people I had up there graduating during that week, all five passed everything with flying colors," Miller proudly exclaimed.

Being in Great Lakes for the pass and review also allowed Miller to speak to recruit division commanders (RDCs) about what they see coming out of NRDs, and how recruiters can help them and in turn, decrease attrition and better serve future Sailors arriving for boot camp.

Miller explained how he was able to gain insight from the RDCs. "He [one of the RDCs] told me the two biggest problems they see are teaching recruits how to swim and getting them in shape to pass an IFA [initial fitness assessment]. He even went on to say that out of the last two divisions he had, the only reason any one was held

back was due to the recruit not passing the initial IFA. I asked him if the two girls that came out of my office [future Sailor Sterrett and future Sailor Miller] had any problems passing it. Both of them blew it away on their initial [try] and got even better as time went on."



Army Capt. Daniel B. Utts swears in Quinn Miller at NRD Pittsburgh. Quinn is the daughter of NC1 Robert Miller, a recruiter at NRD Pittsburgh. She is the second generation of Millers to serve in the Navy.

Noticing the changes that his own daughter underwent, Miller spoke with emotion. "Her self-confidence is really good. She is always talking about how she feels obligated to help anyone out, whether it's with their class work or anything else. This whole experience has been tremendous."

"A lot of recruiters never really get to see the end result of all of their hard work," said assistant chief recruiter for NRD Pittsburgh, NCCS Frank Tiongco.

Tiongco continued, "Having NC1 Miller go and actually see his own daughter graduate from boot camp and talk to the RDCs is really meaningful for both NC1 Miller and the RDCs at Great Lakes."

In a service that is steeped with tradition, Miller and his family have definitely started their own chapter in the history books of the U.S. Navy.



Car Wash in Arizona Desert Helps Haiti

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

SURPRISE, Ariz. – Recruiters and future Sailors from NRD Phoenix Zone 4 donated their time and energy early one Saturday morning at a car wash to raise money for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund at a local gas station.

Although the future Sailors and their seasoned sea service mentors weren't able to be on the small Caribbean island, they were all more than willing to donate a few hours of their time to help out from the Arizona desert.

"I know a lot of our brothers and sisters are out there, and we're in Arizona, so what better way to help than to come out here and help them out from here," said ABHC(AW/SW) Reginald Anies, a recruiter at NRS Surprise. "It's not just all about going out there. It's also about doing what you can from home. This is also to show our future Sailors that not only do we go out there, but we can also help from home."

This small lesson of one aspect of the overall Navy mission was something that was not lost on the future

Sailors, who will soon be part of the global force for good.

"It feels really good. I'm not able to be there to help out, so I wanted to come out and do this little bit," said Letycia Carrillo, who will leave for Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes in September.



Recruiters and future Sailors from NRD Phoenix rolled out the soap, towels, and elbow grease at a car wash in Surprise, Ariz., to raise money for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund. Although the future Sailors and their seasoned sea service mentors weren't able to be on the small Caribbean island, they were all more than willing to donate a few hours of their time to help out from the Arizona desert.

Friends and family of some of the future Sailors came out to lend their support and make donations. They were also able to catch a glimpse of what the future holds for the soon-to-be shipmates.

"We're very proud of him," said Ed Friermuth, grandfather of Nick Friermuth who will report to RTC Great Lakes in August.

"He's going to make a great Sailor and do a great job serving his country."

After scrubbing down numerous cars, trucks, and a recreational vehicle, the Phoenix heroes raised more than \$300 to help the earthquake victims of Haiti. These future Sailors will soon be part of the Navy brotherhood that helps out those in need around the world.



NRD Michigan Hosts Navy SEAL Challenge



Story and photo by MC2 Joseph R. Wax, NRD Michigan Public Affairs

KENTWOOD, Mich. – NRD Michigan hosted a Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge at East Kentwood High School to raise awareness of the Navy’s special warfare community.

Participants from all over Michigan and Indiana braved snow and freezing rain to test their fitness levels against the Navy’s special warfare entrance standards.

“The event went great, considering the weather,” said NDC Leon D. Brown, NRD Michigan’s special warfare/special operations coordinator. “This event gives the public a chance to see some of what members of the special warfare community go through.”

SEAL Fitness Challenges can often be eye-opening for many of the participants. “A lot of people look at the standards on paper and individually they look easy, but when you combine everything together it takes a toll on your body,” said Brown.

“I have been doing this job for four years now and you hear it over and over, ‘That was a lot tougher than I thought,’” said retired Senior Chief Radioman (SEAL) Jeff Krause, special warfare/special operations mentor for NRD Michigan.

The SEAL Fitness Challenge uses the same physical screening test that prospective SEALs must meet as the minimum standard to be considered. The test consists of a 500-yard swim using the side-stroke or breast-stroke, two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of sit-ups, as many pull-ups as the participant can do, and a 1.5-mile run.

For civilians who dream of one day becoming a Navy SEAL, the challenge can be a great opportunity to see how they stack up. “You watch shows and movies about Navy SEALs and you always wonder how you compare,” said Steve Bush, a student at Western Michigan University.

For other people in the local community, like former Marine Brian Zwart, the SEAL challenge can be a good opportunity to support the military. “I liked the challenge,” said Zwart. “It’s a great way of getting kids aware of the military. When I was these guys’ age I would have loved to do something like this and I’m glad I had this opportunity.”

The SEAL challenge also gave those training to become SEALs an idea of how their training is going. “Doing the challenge prepares them and let’s them know that maybe they need to be doing more,” said Brown.

For NRD Michigan, the SEAL Fitness Challenge was another way to get into the community to interact with people that might not otherwise have any contact with Navy members.

“Just to be around members of the Navy helps people understand a little more,” said Krause. “This event brings really good awareness to the Navy and the special operations community.”

Photo: Participants in NRD Michigan’s Navy SEAL Fitness Challenge fight through snow and wind to complete a 1.5-mile run at East Kentwood High School in Kentwood, Mich. The challenge consisted of a 500-yard swim, push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and a 1.5-mile run, and helped raise awareness about the Navy’s special warfare community.



Tampa Navy Week Produces Nearly 300 Leads



TAMPA – The recent Tampa Bay Navy Week featured 71 events attended by 201,348 people, over 11 million media impressions and \$318,500 worth of free press and television airtime about the Navy.

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

These numbers look great in a public affairs officer's after-action report and would lead you to assume the Navy Week was a resounding success given these performance metrics. But how do those metrics turn into applicants walking through recruiting doors and how is the success or failure measured from a recruiting standpoint?

NRD Miami recruiters logged approximately 342 man-hours supporting various Navy Week events. When all was said and done, a total of 295 solid, qualified applicant leads were collected during the entire week.

How this will impact Tampa recruiters in reaching and exceeding their goals in the coming year is yet to be seen. Keeping with the current NRC trend towards "fit" versus "fill," Tampa area recruiters were choosy about who filled out voluntary response cards (VRCs).

"Thousands of interested persons came and spoke to us and rode the assets [flight simulator and Navy Tour] all week long, but the recruiters were being especially selective during this process and only collected VRCs from serious, qualified applicants," said NCC Marie Kveen, Tampa area zone supervisor.

The week-long events in Tampa included a jam-packed schedule of festivities, parades, concerts, sporting events and Blue Angels air show. Begun in 2005, Navy Weeks bring America's Navy home, showcasing the Navy's talented people.

"A Navy Week is a report card of sorts," said Cmdr. John Wallach, director of the Navy Office of Community Outreach (NAVCO) in Millington, Tenn. "We have an obligation to show Americans firsthand the investment they have made in their Navy. Navy weeks are one way we can do that for communities outside of fleet concentration areas."

Tampa Navy Week shared the Navy story with the city through a two-pronged approach. Vice Adm. Samuel Locklear III, Director, Navy Staff, kicked off the week by speaking to the chamber of commerce, civic organizations and local colleges. He also appeared on local television news shows speaking about our Maritime Strategy and the purpose of our naval forces, how the U.S. Navy is a good steward of resources and showcasing the week's events. Additionally, he toured the facilities of the host city's major employers, met key leaders in the area and threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Yankees spring training game.

The second prong involved performances by the U.S. Navy Band Southeast contemporary entertainment ensemble, Pride, during a St. Patrick's Day parade, spring training baseball game, water theme park opening, Busch Gardens and at local area high schools. In addition, Cmdr. Tom Calabrese, commanding officer, USS *Florida* (SSGN 728) (Gold) and five *Florida* crewmembers proudly represented the Navy and the submarine force, reinforcing close ties between the submarine and its namesake state.

Calabrese kicked off the entire event by administering the oath of enlistment to approximately 30 young men and women on board the SS American Victory, a military cargo carrier in service in World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars --- now a museum docked at Tampa's Channelside. "I want to thank you, because not everyone is willing to do what you're doing," Calabrese told the newly-enlisted Sailors.

It is difficult to top a group enlistment on board a World War II supply ship, but the crew did their best. They participated in Tampa Mayor Pam Lorio's Walk with the Mayor --- Keep Tampa Fit initiative, were guests of honor in the Ybor City St. Patrick's Day parade, accepted an official Navy Week proclamation, and Calabrese served as the enlisting officer at Busch Gardens for another group enlistment of over 100 future Sailors.

"I volunteered to help so that someone else will have a nice place to live. The Navy takes good care of me, so I can give back to those less fortunate," said SO1 (SEAL) Aaron Darajky with the Navy Leap Frogs based in San Diego.

Ojeda expressed gratitude for the Navy's presence and assistance in building his home. The family expects to finish building their house by May.

Navy Weeks are organized around an anchor event such as the MacDill Air Force Base Air Show. By planning Navy Weeks around or in conjunction with these larger public events, NRD Miami and NAVCO staffs were able to take advantage of the increased awareness and front load the week with events culminating with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels performing tactical demonstrations, precision

flying, and aerobatic maneuvers at the annual air show.

Sailors also showed their softer side, visiting children at St. Joseph's Hospital, local schools, and Tampa Boys and Girls Club. "It's really about my Sailors interacting with the people here in Tampa," said chief of the boat, MMCM Randy Huckaback. "Everyone here has shown us so much appreciation, it's incredible. I work with the best of the best, and it is our privilege to represent USS Florida and Kings Bay submariners."

If your NRD is planning a Navy Week event



Vice Adm. Samuel Locklear III, Director, Navy Staff, and Ralph Jackson, affiliate CEO for Habitat for Humanity, Hillsborough County speak to the group of Sailors who volunteered to build a new home for Habitat for Humanity during Tampa Bay Navy Week. More than 30 Sailors from NRD Miami, Leap Frogs and United States Special Operations Command volunteered to help with the project.

In addition to free Navy entertainment and special events scheduled throughout the week, Sailors visited schools, hospitals and civic organizations to speak about the Navy and show community support.

Local Sailors from NRD Miami and United States Special Operations Command also traded in their uniforms for jeans and t-shirts as they took part in a Habitat for Humanity building project. Sailors joined college students and the Ojeda family in insulation installation, leveling the property and painting the exterior.

in the near future with the help of a NAVCO action officer, probably the most significant lesson learned from Tampa's Navy Week is to ensure local community leaders and local recruiters who live and work in the areas where events are being scheduled have an opportunity to scrub the early drafts of the events agenda prior to finalization. It's also a good idea to have a local person in-the-know as to trends, traffic and hotspots in the area where events are scheduled.

NAVCO staff members MCCS Gary Ward and MC2 Jennifer P. Harman, and MC3 Darrin M. Russ of NOSC Tampa contributed to this article.



Phoenix Wraps Up Navy Week 2010

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

PHOENIX – Sailors and citizens around the area recently spent seven days celebrating and honoring the sea service during Phoenix Navy Week 2010.

The week-long celebration was a culmination of numerous events consisting of school visits, spring training pre-game ceremonies, as well as Sailors participating in community relations projects to show people throughout the valley that the Navy is part of the Phoenix community.

“For us to be able to get out and about in the community, and show that global force for good to the people out here is invaluable,” said NCC(SW) David Waters, who volunteered to represent USS *Ford* (FFG 54), named after Arizona native GM2 Patrick Osborne Ford who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for saving the lives of two shipmates during battle on the My Tho River in Vietnam June 21, 1968. “I love being out here and surrounded by so many people who believe in what we do and want to know more about the Navy mission.”

Waters also had the chance to represent the Navy during a spring training pre-game ceremony at Tempe Diablo Stadium by throwing out the first pitch of the game.

“I was a little nervous,” said Waters. “When the ball landed in that glove I was just happy I made the pitch.”

Students at many local high schools had the opportunity to listen to a Navy rock band, get hands-on experience

with Explosive Ordnance Disposal team equipment, talk to Sailors, and get a taste of a Navy mission through the Navy simulator, which takes participants through a six-minute enactment in various naval vehicles.

“I like how it takes you on a mission from start to finish,” said Sue Hennessey, a guidance counselor at Westview High School in Avondale. “That way it gives you an idea of the various job options you have if one were to join.”

The Navy was part of a day-long career fair that Westview held to show students different opportunities afforded to them after they graduate.

“I think this is fantastic,” said Hennessey. “I think any opportunity we have to expose our kids to the various

opportunities out there, whether it be college education or military, we’re doing our job.”

Arizona Sen. John McCain was on hand to honor the service he was once part of and witness the unveiling of a model of the USS *Arizona* at the Arizona Military Museum in Phoenix.

“I join you today in helping keep the memory of their patriotism alive in the hearts of generations of Americans who live in freedom today because Americans whom they may never know gave all that we asked of them,” said McCain.



MM1(SW) Douglas Boykin talks with a student at Westview High School in Avondale, Ariz., about a career in the Navy during a Navy Week event at the school. Boykin is assigned to NRD Phoenix's NRS Desert Sky.

At the end of all the festivities, many Phoenix residents walked away with a greater sense of the Navy mission and learned a little about the Sailors who are in their own backyard.

There are 47,000 Sailors from Arizona serving in the Navy. An additional 74 Reserve Sailors who are Arizona residents are deployed overseas on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Phoenix FOX 10 reporter Cory McCloskey wears an Explosive Ordnance Disposal suit as he does a live report on Phoenix Navy Week events at Paradise Valley High School in Paradise Valley, Ariz.

“You could be serving aboard a DDG [guided missile destroyer] doing a UNREP [underway replenishment], or working on a flight deck. There is nothing like it in the world, serving in the Navy,” said Waters. “You need to seize these moments and convey to people what the Navy is all about, because these are experiences you can’t find anywhere else.”



High School Students Tour Naval Hospital

Story and photo by Kelly Wright, NRD Raleigh Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. – NRD Raleigh invited over 100 students and educators to tour Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune on March 4. Coordinating the tour was NRD Raleigh Education Liaison, Donna Smith.

Most of the students attending the tour plan to enroll in medical programs after graduating high school. Students unsure of what they want to do after high school were encouraged to take a closer look at medical professions and ask questions.



NRD Raleigh hosted over 100 students and educators on a visit to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune. Tour guide HN Adam Strader took his group to every floor of the hospital. Here he demonstrates what equipment is used and the protocols followed when a patient takes a turn for the worse. Most of the students on the tour plan to enroll in medical programs after graduating high school. Students not sure what they want to do after high school were encouraged to take a closer look at medical professions and ask questions.

Students were split into groups and participated in tours and lectures.

Tour guide HM Adam Strader took his group to every floor of the hospital. He explained and demonstrated how to operate various equipment, such as pulse monitors and crash carts, allowing students to explore the equipment themselves. Other staff members explained their duties at the hospital, including drawing blood, assisting with circumcisions, and ‘catching babies’ during delivery.

Navy nurse Lt. j.g. Nichole Benardo explained to her group about her role at the hospital. Not only must she know her duties, but every corpsman makes rounds to learn other jobs in the hospital.

The labor/delivery and neonatal units were the most popular areas among students.



Future Sailors Heralded With Red Carpet Treatment

Story by MCC(AW/SW) Jeremy J. Siegrist, NRD Pittsburgh Public Affairs

Photo by MCC(AW) Craig Byers, NRD Pittsburgh

ERIE, Pa. – Hockey fans in northern Pennsylvania recently witnessed the official swearing in of future Sailors in a display of U.S. Navy pride.

Fourteen future Sailors were guests of honor of the Ontario Hockey League's Erie Otters. The ceremony at Tullio Arena was conducted by NRD Pittsburgh Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Shoemaker on center ice. Sailors, recruiters and Shoemaker were literally given the red carpet treatment by the Otters organization.

"You could hear a pin drop during the ceremony," said MN1 Sean Silman, who spearheaded the event. "The fans could see what was going on and knew the gravity and solemnity of the ceremony."

Team captains from the Otters and the visiting Guelph Storm posed with Shoemaker, future Sailors, and recruiters for an on-ice photo.

The respect the fans displayed during the ceremony did not stop them from showing their support and adoration for the U.S. Navy contingent. As they departed the ice, fans loudly chanted "USA."

The Otters also played the Navy's "Feel the Rush" video on the replay screen prior to the start of the ceremony to the delight of the audience. Future Sailor Rocklynn Valerio, who intends on becoming a cryptologic technician, dropped the honorary puck to start the game which had playoff implications.

Even as the game commenced, the focus on the Navy didn't stop. The entire contingent was treated to a tour of the locker room and guided to their rink-side seats.

Erie Otters representative Jeremy Coblentz worked with Silman in coordinating the event. Coblentz considered it a great ceremony and huge success, noting how long the crowd cheered for the future recruits.



New recruit Rocklynn Valerio (center) dropped the honorary puck to start the hockey game between the Erie Otters and Guelph Storm. Valerio is surrounded by recruiters and fellow recruits following a swearing-in ceremony conducted by NRD Pittsburgh Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jonathan Shoemaker (center back). Shoemaker delivered the oath of enlistment at center ice in front of approximately 3,500 onlookers.

Starting more than three months in advance, Silman contacted the local team and brought up the idea to not only increase Navy awareness throughout the area but to give his pool of future Sailors a taste of the importance of what they had undertaken by joining the Navy.

"Events like these are win-win for everyone concerned. These future Sailors will remember this for the rest of their lives. Like the commercial says:

'Tickets to a hockey game; two hours picking people up and dropping them off; working until 10:30 p.m.; seeing 14 future Sailors being the stars of the night and having a blast..... PRICELESS!'"

"I think the most telling thing I heard of the event was hearing the future Sailors ask if we could do this every time we had a meeting. This night was a total success," said Silman.





Above: Sailors from NRD Denver, Navy Information Operations Command Colorado, and Navy Operational Support Center Denver assist at the season home-opening ceremonies of the Colorado Rockies baseball club at Coors Field. NRD Denver enjoys a close relationship with this team, including on-field enlistments, team member visits, first pitches, National Anthem performances, aircraft flyovers and Leap Frog Parachute Team demonstrations. (Photo by NC1 Robert Ringler, NRD Denver)



Left: Whispering Pines Elementary School students who collected over \$1,500 in one week for the Forgotten Soldiers Outreach (FSO) were rewarded by NRS Perrine, Fla., recruiters with an ice cream party. FSO is an organization that sends care packages to deployed active duty members. (Photo by FC2(SW/AW) Pedro Collado, NRD Miami)

Below: How many Girl Scouts can you get in a SEAL desert patrol vehicle? NRD Denver recruiters UT2 Philip Mercer (left) and NC1 Robert Ringler assisted Hearts Across the Miles, a Denver-based organization that supports servicemen and women stationed overseas. Working in conjunction with the Mile-Hi Council Girl Scouts of the USA, the organization collected and shipped 20,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies one busy Saturday morning. (Photo by Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs)



Recruiter Maximizes Education Benefits

From NRD Miami Public Affairs

MIAMI – While working full time as a NRD Miami recruiter in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Navy Reserve Lt. Angel R. Rivera, officer recruiter, attends school full time at night and completed a second bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a 3.85 GPA. Additionally, he has two master's degrees. He passed the fundamentals and professional engineering exams to become a licensed professional engineer in July 2008.

Rivera has been stationed at NRD Miami since 2005. During his tenure he has been selected as the Diversity Officer Recruiter of the Year in fiscal years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Additionally, he was selected as the Engineering Programs Officer Recruiter of the Year in fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

"I am currently enrolled in law school as a full-time night student in the second semester of my first year. I got a perfect 4.0 GPA in my first semester. While I am serving on active duty, I make the most of the benefits the Navy affords me to better myself for the day I decide to change careers," said Rivera.

He is also on track to exceed NRD Miami's recruiting goals for the fifth year in a row.

Rivera can not only explain to prospective officer applicants the many educational benefits the Navy has to offer but he also serves as a living example of those same benefits used to their fullest extent.



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Photo: On Laughter Silvered Wings President, Gilbert Wheeler, Jr., (with cap) showcases the organization's hanger and equipment following light aircraft flights awarded to 65 students nominated by their faculty for boosting their grades. NRD Denver partnered with the organization to provide positive role models for inner-city school students.

Denver Students Improve Grades and Take Flight



Story and photo by Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs

DENVER – What better way to spend a beautiful Saturday morning than to go for a light airplane flight? On Laughter Silvered Wings (OLSW), an aviation-oriented, diversity youth-mentoring organization did just that by rewarding 65 students nominated by their faculty with airplane rides provided by volunteers from the Colorado Chapter 301 of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Young Eagles Program.

Watchcare Academy, a non-profit, private K-8 elementary school, along with participating B.U.G. (Bring Up Your Grades) Program schools (Northeast Academy, Rachel B. Noel Middle School and their 'feeder' elementary schools) had an enthusiastic crowd of faculty, friends and family that filled Denver's Front Range Airport terminal building to capacity.

"My command began working with this organization a year ago. Their mission and goals mirror that of the Navy Recruiting," stated NRD Denver Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Ann Rennie. "While many of the

children are much younger than our target market, we see this as an opportunity to invest in future diversity officer and enlisted candidates. At the event there were four and five-year-olds who could recite the four forces of flight and other key aviation facts. These young people already have an interest in aviation, and they are affiliated at a young age with an organization which emphasizes the importance of education and other positives that will help keep them recruitment eligible."

Commander, Naval Air Forces assisted NRD Denver's efforts by flying out a pilot from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3 from Naval Air Station North Island to serve as a role model. "My message to the children is that nothing is impossible as long as you apply yourself 100 percent by studying, studying, studying. I'm definitely not the smartest, nor am I the best stick, but I doubt anyone studies more than I do," stated Lt. j.g. Rabb Muhammad.

Conducted as part of Black History Month, former Denver Nuggets players Mark Randall and Ervin Johnson, and members of the Denver Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen joined OLSW President and founder, Gilbert F. Wheeler, Jr., in presenting certificates to the young aviators following their flights.

“A number of these children have met our challenge to improve their grades semester after semester. In fact, many have started pilot logbooks! I’m particularly proud of one of our 7th graders who brought her math grade up from an F to an A,” said Wheeler.

“On Laughter Silvered Wings” is a phrase from a famous poem, “High Flight.” The OLSW organization

was founded six years ago by Wheeler, a private pilot, a dream he nearly abandoned as a child. His goal is to provide role-model mentoring for students to expand their horizons and encourage them not to give up on their dreams.

OLSW uses aviation activities to highlight and present fundamental science, technology, engineering and mathematics principles tailored to the interests, age and skill of the children. These aviation activities teach the value of achieving goals, staying in school and avoiding drugs, alcohol and gangs.



Navy Recruiting's Top Family Hosts First-Ever Virtual Town Hall

By *MCCS(EXW) Tom Jones, NRC Public Affairs*

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – NRC leadership held its first-ever virtual town hall meeting March 1 with Sailors, civilians and family members from across the command’s network of recruiting stations and districts throughout the United States.

Rear Adm. Craig Faller, commander of the 7,000-strong recruiting force, along with his wife, Martha, and Force Master Chief Christopher Penton, used Defense Connect Online and teleconferencing to connect with the nearly 350 Sailors, civilians and family members who participated in the discussion forum.

Faller used this broadcast to communicate Navy Recruiting’s mission, vision, command philosophy and to address questions and concerns as well as to put his emphasis on family readiness.

“Mission success begins at home,” Faller said. “And this first virtual town hall meeting is an effort to further strengthen the bonds of our recruiting family.”

“The town hall meeting was very important, informative and genuine,” said Penton. “It gave Sailors and their families an opportunity to discuss issues and

concerns with the top family of recruiting – Rear Adm. and Mrs. Faller.”

Penton added that it was equally important for everyone participating in the town hall to hear and see that the Fallers “walk the walk while talking the talk” when it comes to family readiness.

“When a Sailor leaves home in the morning they need to know that their family is taken care of,” Penton said. “A Sailor can not give you 100 percent if the family is operating at 30 percent. Sailors want and need to know that we care about them 24 hours a day, not just during the hours they are on the clock.”

Many participated in this unique exchange from their own homes, and asked a variety of questions during the one-hour session on topics ranging from the recruiting mission, community service opportunities, education, spouse employment and other family-related issues.

It is anticipated that online/teleconferencing town halls of this nature will continue in the future to continue the Fallers’ stress on the importance of family readiness.



Cyber Challenge Winners Offered NROTC Scholarships

*From Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs
Photo by Scott A. Thornbloom, NSTC Public Affairs*

GREAT LAKES – The Navy is establishing five annual four-year college Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarships for U. S. high school and college students who demonstrate advanced cyber security skills.

The new cyber-option NROTC scholarships are a key part of a comprehensive Navy strategy to attract, recruit and develop elite cyber professionals needed to operate securely and effectively in cyberspace.

search and skills development program that identifies young Americans with the interests and technical skills required to fill the ranks of cyber security practitioners, researchers and professionals who become the innovative leaders in cyber security.

The students must have also met the requirements for entering the NROTC Program, such as maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale, ranking in the top 40 percent of their class,



Capt. Edward Martin, commanding officer, Chicago Naval ROTC Consortium, inspects incoming freshmen at Naval Station Great Lakes. The Chicago NROTC Consortium includes midshipmen students from Northwestern University, Loyola University and the Illinois Institute of Technology. The consortium holds their annual freshman orientation at Naval Station Great Lakes to familiarize the freshmen to the Navy and a military lifestyle.

This includes providing intense professional and career development programs for officers, enlisted and civilian cyber security experts. The new cyber-option NROTC scholarship program will allow the Navy to identify the best and the brightest young minds to support the Navy's cyber force. The Navy will award five cyber-option NROTC scholarships annually to high school seniors or first year college students who individually place in the top 20 percent at the U.S. Cyber Challenge competition. The competition is a national talent

scoring competitively in the ACT and/or SAT and passing a physical exam. Upon commissioning from the NROTC Program, the cyber-option scholarship winners will use their skills in cyber warfare leadership positions.

NROTC scholarships provide significant benefits, including 100 percent payment of college tuition; full reimbursement for required books, supplies and equipment; a monthly monetary stipend; and active duty pay and benefits for up to 45 days a year.

The NROTC Program, overseen by Naval Service Training Command at Naval Station Great Lakes was established to develop midshipmen mentally, morally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, loyalty and Navy core values. NROTC graduates become naval officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the naval service and have a potential for future development in mind and character so as to assume

the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government.

For more information about applying for NROTC scholarships, visit <https://www.nrotc.navy.mil>.

For more information about the U.S. Cyber Challenge competition, visit <http://www.csis.org/uscc>.



NRD Jacksonville Recruiters Attend Women in Aviation, International Convention

Story and photo by MC1(SW/AW) Melissa Robertson-Leake, NRD Jacksonville Public Affairs

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – NRD Jacksonville recruiters attended the 21st Annual Women in Aviation, International convention held in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Women in Aviation, International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing networking, education, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women (and men) who are striving for challenging and fulfilling careers in the aviation and aerospace industries.

The three-day convention, “Aviation: It’s a Small World,” offered a number of daily seminars highlighting different opportunities available to both women and men in aviation.

Approximately 3,000 attendees from all areas of the aviation community were drawn to the convention. Several branches of the armed services along with several airlines were represented. In addition, there were numerous corporate aviation businesses present in the engineering, academic, maintenance and research fields.

Four Navy recruiters from NRD Jacksonville raised Navy awareness and discussed various jobs and opportunities the Navy offers with the attendees at the convention.

Lt. Laura Short, a Navy officer recruiter with NRD Jacksonville, said attending the convention was an

opportunity to connect the Navy with the aviation industry. “[Attending the convention was] an amazing experience and invaluable opportunity,” said Short. “The presence of so many successful females in the aviation field along with the discussions that took place left



Rear Adm. Robin R. Braun puts a Navy pin on an aviation enthusiast at the Women in Aviation, International convention held in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Braun is the director for Total Force Management for the Navy and was one of approximately 3,000 attendees at this year’s convention.

everyone that participated with a very positive outlook for the future of women in aviation.”

opportunity for women in aviation to get together, network and see what opportunities are out there.

Participants came from all over the United States as well as all over the world.

“This has been a wonderful event for aviation and has been a great opportunity for the Navy to talk about naval aviation,” Braun said. “As an aviator, it has been great to talk to other women about how exciting flying is. The convention clearly highlighted the positive outlook for women in aviation.”

Rear Adm. Robin R. Braun, director for Total Force Management for the Navy, was one of those in attendance. She felt the conference was a wonderful



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Navy For Moms
<http://www.navyformoms.com/>

U.S. Women Redefined
<http://www.facebook.com/womenredefinednavy>

United States Navy
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/unitedstatesnavy>



MUSN Brooke Knight, singer with the U.S. Navy Band Southeast contemporary entertainment ensemble “Pride,” belts out a song at the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade in Ybor City, Fla. The band’s performance was part of events at this year’s Tampa Bay Navy Week. (Photo by MCC(SW/AW) Gabe Puello, NRD Miami Public Affairs)

The Districts' Best Stations

March 2010

NRD Atlanta
NRS Bessemer

NRD Chicago
NRS Milwaukee

NRD Dallas
NRS Amarillo

NRD Denver
NRS West Jordan

NRD Houston
NRS Rosenberg

NRD Jacksonville
NRS Kissimmee

NRD Los Angeles
NRS Thousand
Oaks

NRD Miami
NRS Brandon

NRD Michigan
NRS Evansville

NRD Minneapolis
NRS Cambridge

NRD Nashville
NRS Pine Bluff

NRD New England
NRS Bridgeport

NRD New Orleans
NRS Ruston

NRD New York
NRS Elmhurst

NRD Ohio
NRS Eastgate

NRD Pittsburgh
NRS Rome

NRD Phoenix
NRS Superstition

NRD Portland
NRS Elko

NRD Raleigh
NRS Burlington

NRD Richmond
NRS Oxon Hill

NRD San Antonio
NRS South San
Antonio

NRD San Diego
NRS Henderson

NRD San Francisco
NRS Stockton

NRD Seattle
NRS Moses Lake

NRD St. Louis
NRS Pekin

April 2010
NRD Atlanta
NRS Duluth

NRD Chicago
NRS Racine

NRD Dallas
NRS Duncan

NRD Denver
NRS Sandy

NRD Houston
NRS Katy

NRD Jacksonville
NRS Kissimmee

NRD Los Angeles
NRS West Covina

NRD Michigan
NRS Westland

NRD New England
NRS Albany

NRD New Orleans
NRS Pace

NRD New York
NRS Freeport

NRD Ohio
NRS Ashtabula

NRD Philadelphia
NRS Georgetown

NRD Phoenix
NRS Alamogordo

NRD Pittsburgh
NRS Monroeville

NRD Raleigh
NRS Wilkesboro

NRD San Antonio
NRS Copperas
Cove

NRD San Diego
NRS Santa Ana

NRD San Francisco
NRS Stockton

NRD Seattle
NRS Puyallup

NRD St. Louis
NRS Rolla

Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters

March 2010

NRD Atlanta
CS1 Rodrick Jackson

NRD Chicago
AE2 Steven DeBauch
AD2 Michael Young

NRD Dallas
FC2 Lawrence Ryall

NRD Denver
AW2 Robb Eyestone

NRD Houston
ABH1 Michael Ryan

NRD Jacksonville
MM1 Steven Sturkie

NRD Miami
YN1 Brendan Wehmann

NRD Michigan
EM1 Cory King

NRD Minneapolis
EM2 Daniel Borntreger

NRD New England
MM1 Michael Foster

NRD New Orleans
OS2 Marshall Ellsworth

NRD Ohio
CS2 Antonio Thomas

NRD Phoenix
AME2 Dustin Wilson

NRD Pittsburgh
UT2 Erin Quinlan

NRD Portland
GSE2 Michael Clanton

NRD Raleigh
STS1 Christopher
Moulthrop

NRD Richmond
AG2 Terrance Baker

NRD San Antonio
MM1 Darrell Bengé

NRD San Diego
GSM1 Anthony Ramos

NRD San Francisco
GSM2 Luisito Mendoza

NRD Seattle
NC1 Erika Lamar

NRD St. Louis
MA1 Jason Morris

April 2010
NRD Atlanta
SH1 Ronald Waymer

NRD Chicago
AE2 Steven DeBauch

NRD Dallas
AE2 Gary Ritter

NRD Denver
QM2 Johnathan
Sengelmann

NRD Houston
BM2 Terrence Phillips

NRD Jacksonville
LS2 Carlos Osorio

NRD Michigan
CTRC Darby O'Connor

NRD New England
AM1 Jasen Shults

NRD New Orleans
YN2 Tanisha Giddin

NRD New York
AO2 David Hormaza

NRD Ohio
ET1 David Schneck

NRD Philadelphia
MM2 Arthur Henderson

NRD Phoenix
ABF2 Julio Bejarno

NRD Pittsburgh
BU1 Dustin Bozzo

NRD Raleigh
AE2 Joelsimon
Donaldson

NRD San Antonio
FC1 Daniel Alvarez

NRD San Diego
CTT2 Johnathan
Williams

NRD San Francisco
OS1 Cindy Townsend

NRD Seattle
GM2 Nicholas Garrigues





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