

NAVY **RECRUITER**

magazine

Supporting Navy Recruiters

March-April 2011

Volume 59 Number 2

Who's Who
Recruiters of the Year

ROY Week
Recognition in Washington, D.C.

NRD Portland
Top NRD in NRC



2010

Recruiters
of the Year



VOLUME 59 NUMBER 2

MARCH/APRIL TWENTY-ELEVEN

**S
T
A
R
T
E
R
N
E
T
C
O
N
T
E
N
T
S**

IN THIS ISSUE OF NAVY RECRUITER...

- 5** *2010 Recruiters of the Year*
- 14** *Vice CNO Honors Recruiters of the Year*
- 17** *Hometown Hero Earns Bronze Star*
- 18** *Navy Recruiting District Portland: The Little District That Did*
- 19** *Givens Named Navy Recruiting District New Orleans Top Enlisted Recruiter*
- 20** *Aviation-Bound Future Sailors Get Glimpse of Future*
- 21** *Recruiters Participate in
National Young Readers Week at Elementary School*
- 22** *Sailor Speaks on the Importance of Mail Call*
- 23** *Future Sailor Brings Foxy Back*
- 24** *Navy Spotlitged at Winterhawks Game*
- 25** *NRC Employee Decorates White House*
- 26** *Navy Receives New Recruiting Assets*
- 27** *Sailor From Texas Designs New NRC Coin*



Front Cover: The 15 2010 Recruiters of the Year were involved in a whirlwind of festivities at ROY Week in Washington the last week of January. Their itinerary included the U.S. Capitol, where they posed by the plaster model of the Statue of Freedom in the Capitol Visitor Center, a focal point of Emancipation Hall. This model was used for the bronze Statue of Freedom that sits atop the Capitol dome. Standing with the ROY winners is Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, RDML Craig S. Faller, right. (Photo by MC1(AW) Christopher D. Blachly, NRC)

Back Cover: One of the historic monuments Recruiters of the Year visited while in Washington, D.C., during ROY Week was the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, where they pose by the third president's statue. (Photo by MC1(AW) Christopher D. Blachly, NRC)



Shipmates:

In this edition of Navy Recruiter Magazine we salute Navy Recruiting Command's 2010 top recruiters. Our national Recruiters of the Year were honored during a weeklong visit to Washington, D.C., and it was a heartwarming experience for all of us. My wife Martha and I were extremely honored to meet the parents, spouses, family and friends who attended ROY Week events. We sincerely thank all of our families and friends for their enthusiastic support and dedication to our recruiters each and every day.

Our top recruiters exemplify the highest qualities that make our challenging job possible. Each Recruiter of the Year has an inspiring story to tell, and several are highlighted in this month's magazine.

During ROY Week, our Recruiters of the Year met with the Secretary of the Navy, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Naval Operations, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Naval Personnel, Chief of Navy Reserve, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. These were all proud moments in the life of not only these outstanding recruiters and support personnel but their families as well.

We all know recruiting the right Sailor for the right job is not easy, but our recruiting professionals never cease to amaze me day in and day out with their ability to meet mission. This is what it's all about: Hard work, dedication, success, and the opportunity to humbly celebrate and accept awards for a job well done.

I'd also like to extend a big Navy Recruiting thank you to our friends of the Navy: The Fleet Reserve Association, the United States Navy League, the Navy Club

and the Navy Memorial Foundation, as well as our own Navy Recruiting Command team who helped ensure this year's ROY Week was successful.



Rear Admiral Craig S. Faller
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command



Some of our awardees are career enlisted and officer recruiters, but others are aviation electronics technicians, culinary specialists, gas turbine system technicians, sonar technicians, and yeoman who recently completed assignments in the fleet. They are truly a reflection of not only our great nation but our dedicated, motivated and talented Navy recruiting team.

Our Recruiters of the Year represent the amazing opportunity we provide to our future Sailors each and every day as part of America's Navy – A global force for good.





Enlisted Recruiter of the Year - Active



YN1 (AW/PJ) Brendan P. Wehmann
Navy Recruiting District Miami

Hometown: Perrineville, N.J.
How long have you been in recruiting? Three years
Previous commands and job titles:
SEAL Team EIGHT, Little Creek - Admin/Travel Coordinator
HSL-40 Mayport - Wing Admin LPO

HS-15 Jacksonville - Airman/LSE Plane Captain

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor?

Humbled. When I started this tour, my goal was to give the same opportunities to the young men and women that were given to me. I feel that I have accomplished what I set out to do with the help of my colleagues for the last three years and several recruiters in charge and zone supervisors.

What advice would you give to others in your position?

Seek out and find the successful recruiters within your district and zone. Ask them the hard questions on how they are achieving their success and patent it to your own style and

way of recruiting. Take care of your future Sailors and they will take care of you. Building rapport and gaining their trust will lead to a successful and stress-free recruiting tour.

What are your future goals? My short-term goal is to become a chief petty officer. My long-term goal is to retire from the Navy, move to Costa Rica, buy a boat and live the Pura Vida.

How has the Navy changed your life? I joined the Navy to get out of a small town in New Jersey when I was 18 years old. My aspirations at the time were to travel and see the world and it was all about what the Navy could do for me. I was fortunate enough to complete two Mediterranean cruises within my first two years which allowed me to accomplish the travel and adventure. My next tour of duty allowed me to complete two deployments to Baghdad, Iraq, which changed my perspective from what the Navy could do for me to what I could do for the Navy. I am proud to serve my country.

Hobbies and interests: I enjoy traveling and associated outdoor activities such as hiking, rock climbing and deep sea fishing.



Enlisted Recruiter of the Year - Reserve



NC1 Niesha C. Tartt
Navy Recruiting District St. Louis

Hometown: Savannah, Ga.
How long have you been in recruiting? Three-and-a-half years
Previous commands and job titles:
NSWU-3, Bahrain - Support Yeoman

VAQ 134 - Awards Yeoman

VFA 115 - Operations Yeoman

Naval Station Everett - Commanding Officer's Executive Assistant

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor?

I feel very blessed and honored to receive such a prestigious award. I set my goal this fiscal year only to be NRD St. Louis' Recruiter of the Year, and to be recognized on a national level is unbelievable. Through God, hard work, and dedication, all things are possible.

What advice would you give to others in your position?

Recruiting is a demanding occupation. You have to take care of your people and listen to what they

have to say. Looking out for one another and being open to what others have to bring to the table is an absolute must. I would also suggest to follow your goals and don't sell yourself short on what you want to accomplish. Stand strong on your beliefs and make educated decisions.

What are your future goals? I have my mind set on becoming a chief petty officer. Leadership is very important to me. The chief is the backbone of the Navy and in a position to take care of his/her shipmates and lead them in the right direction. I would love to be able to train, mentor, and mold other Sailors to reach their highest potential.

How has the Navy changed your life? The Navy has made a huge impact on my life. Coming from a military family it was easy for me to get adjusted to the Navy lifestyle. Through the Navy I have been given the opportunity to travel to several different countries, work with many different people and experience the camaraderie I would not receive anywhere else. I am proud to be a Sailor and proud to serve my country.

Hobbies and interests: Basketball, spending time with family and friends, volunteering in my community.



Officer Recruiter of the Year - Active



LCDR Yvonne O. Pitts
Navy Recruiting District Dallas

Hometown: Moorcroft, Wyo.
How long have you been in recruiting? Three years
Previous commands and job titles:
Naval Aviation Forecast Detachment, Bahrain - Officer in Charge
Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Pearl Harbor - Typhoon Duty Officer

Mobile Environmental Team, Whidbey Island - Department Head
USS *Peleliu* (LHA 5) - METOC Division Officer

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? I am very honored. It is not something I thought about when I went to work each day. I have a strong work ethic and did my best every day.

What advice would you give to others in your position? If you treat others as you would want to be treated, then you will be successful. I came in as an enlisted Sailor 26 years ago and unfortunately it wasn't the best experience. When I came to recruiting I was determined to make sure that every person I dealt with felt like they were the most important person to me. Just because you get them to sign up doesn't mean that you are through interacting with them. It is very important to continue to

mentor them. Become involved with schools and diversity groups. A successful recruiter is recognized when they walk onto a campus because of their participation and involvement.

What are your future goals? Take the experiences I have gained in the Navy and find a career in the civilian sector that can give me as much excitement and satisfaction as my Navy career and let people know what a positive impact the Navy can make.

How has the Navy changed your life? I grew up in a small town in Wyoming with few opportunities. I did not join until I was 22 and at that time I could either pay my rent or buy food. The Navy gave me direction and structure in my life. If you have any work ethic and desire, the Navy has many opportunities, and I was able to achieve many milestones. I went from an undesignated fireman to a lieutenant commander, earned my master's degree, traveled the world, served on the ship that launched the first Marines into Afghanistan, and served as a meteorologist for the Army's Command and Control when we went into Iraq. I have loved every minute of my Navy career and have been very passionate about telling my story during my recruiting tour. It has given my children a good outlook on life as they have made the journey with me.

Hobbies and interests: Golf, spending time attending my children's events, reading, scrapbooking, traveling, and time with my family.



Officer Recruiter of the Year - Reserve



LT Todd C. Winn
Navy Recruiting District New Orleans

Hometown: Aurora, Colo.
How long have you been in recruiting? Three-and-a-half years
Previous commands and job titles:
NAVCENT DET B - CAT Cell Officer, NEO Planner
TRAWING 6 - Student
COMNAVSURFPAC DET 118 - Enlisted Scheduler

USS *America* (CV 66) - Signalman

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? I am extremely appreciative, overwhelmed, and humbled. When it became apparent in February 2010 that meeting reserve medical officer goal was going to be challenging, I tried my best to answer the call.

What advice would you give to others in your position? When I began recruiting, I made the commitment to find, recruit, lead and mentor the best applicants I could find. I vowed to never give up, no matter how big the obstacle, or how challenging the situation might seem. This is my final year as a field recruiter and my mission is to pass on what others have taught me and what I have learned over the years. Know my market, provide outstanding customer service and follow

up, and take the initiative are instrumental in my success. It is imperative that with reserve officer goals and finding the exact "fit" requires the recruiter to really know his/her market and how to meet those specific wickets. Follow up is also critical. Put yourself in your applicants' shoes. How would you like to be treated and processed? Do not wait for others to tell you to get out of the office and prospect your market, follow up with a lead, submit a kit, or return a phone call. You should always be one step ahead of your officer programs officer or assistant chief recruiter.

What are your future goals? Complete my graduate level studies at the Naval Post Graduate School. My wife graduating nursing school is another goal. I want her to experience that sense of accomplishment and follow her dreams.

How has the Navy changed your life? I joined the Navy in 1988 to see and experience the world – those experiences would help shape and mold my life. The Navy gave me the confidence I needed to believe in myself, polish the leadership skills I never knew I possessed, provided direction in my life, and offered a sense of purpose in serving an organization greater than one's own self. I gathered a greater appreciation of the country we live in, the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices that have been made to maintain our way of life.

Hobbies and interests: Deep sea fishing, scuba diving, golfing, boating with my family, and rock climbing.



Nuclear Field Coordinator of the Year



EM1(SW/AW) John C. Geiger
Navy Recruiting District Portland

Hometown: Stockton, Calif.
How long have you been in recruiting? Two years
Previous commands and job titles:
USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) -
Number 1 Reactor Electrical
Work Center Supervisor
How do you feel about

being chosen for this honor? I am very excited and extremely humbled. Though I have worked extremely hard, achieving the exceptional success that we have enjoyed in NRD Portland is a team effort. From the recruiters in the field interviewing hundreds of young men and women, to the recruiters in charge and zone supervisors providing guidance and leadership, to the professional and highly competition staff at our MEPS, the support and hard work of the entire Portland "Ironmen" team have been instrumental to my success.

What advice would you give to others in your position? Always remember that you are part of a team. The position of nuclear coordinator comes with an incredibly large amount of responsibilities for a single individual to handle. Training and developing your recruiters and MEPS staff, as well as any fellow nuclear recruiters, will allow you to become a true coordinator.

What are your future goals? Complete my nuclear engineering degree and return to the fleet as a division LCPO.

How has the Navy changed your life? After I dropped out of college, I had a dead-end job making less than \$1,000 a month and had no opportunity to return to complete my degree. Since joining the Navy, I have increased my earning potential to nearly \$100,000 a year and will complete my degree prior to finishing my tour in recruiting.

Hobbies and interests: Writing, miniature war games and spending time with my beautiful wife and children.



Recruiter in Charge of the Year



STG1(SW) Chad E. Goode
Navy Recruiting District Raleigh

Hometown: Cowpens, S.C.
How long have you been in recruiting?
Two-and-a-half years
Previous commands and job titles: USS *San Jacinto* (CG 56) - Work Center Supervisor
SUBTRAFAC Norfolk - IUSS Instructor

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? Humbled and very appreciative. There are a lot of hard-charging Sailors on recruiting duty and I feel blessed to be recognized as one of them. To be recognized as the best of the best is an honor and a privilege. I will do my best to represent the Navy and inspire others to set their professional and personal goals higher than those asked of them.

What advice would you give to others in your position? Take care of your Sailors and they'll take care of you; it all starts with them. I believe taking a personal interest in the lives of the ones we lead on a day-to-day basis makes a happier Sailor, and a happy Sailor is a productive Sailor.

Always produce results that you are proud to attach your name to. You set the tone. Outstanding customer service, follow up, staying organized, knowing your product and your market, believing in yourself, and doing what is right will serve you well.

What are your future goals? To continue to give back to the Navy that has made my life what it is today, complete my degree in business and become a chief in the world's most powerful Navy.

How has the Navy changed your life? As a kid from South Carolina, I joined the Navy in 2002 to see the world and to do something I was proud of. Little did I know how much of the world I would see or how those experiences would shape my life. The Navy provided direction in my life, and a sense of purpose in serving an organization greater than one's own self. The Navy also gave me a greater appreciation of the country we live in and the freedoms we enjoy, as well as the sacrifices that are made to maintain our way of life. The Navy has not been just a job for me, but a way of life.

Hobbies and interests: Golf, billiards, boating, camping, skiing, fishing, hunting; just about anything outdoors.



Classifier of the Year



PS1(SW/AW) Andrea Taylor
Navy Recruiting District Raleigh

Hometown: Greensboro, N.C.

How long have you been in recruiting? One-and-a-half years

Previous commands and job titles:

USS *Essex* (LHD 2) - Seaman/
Transfer and Receipts Clerk
PSD Naval Station San Diego
- ID Lab Clerk/Transfer Clerk/
Receipts Supervisor

VFA-83/CVW-7 - Separations and ESO Clerk/ Travel and Personnel Supervisor

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? To be chosen for this honor is truly a blessing and a pleasant surprise. Coming to a recruiting command, you work hard day after day and you can only dream about being recognized for an award like this. This truly takes my breath away and I do not have the words to describe how honored I feel to be recognized on a national level.

What advice would you give to others in your position? In my experience as a classifier, I have learned one important fact: No matter if you are a recruiter, a classifier, or processor, we are all in an integral partnership to achieve the same mission. The position as a classifier is an important role in launching the Navy career

of a future Sailor and is very rewarding. The best advice I can give to others is that you must know your product and know your customers. This will aid you in having all of your hard work pay off for you in the future.

What are your future goals? To study hard to be selected for chief petty officer and complete my degree in business administration.

How has the Navy changed your life? The Navy has changed my life in many ways. Growing up in a military family, I have been moving and traveling my whole life. I always knew that I wanted to be a part of the military even as a young child. I saw how much the military had influenced my father and I wanted that same discipline. In my senior year of high school, I had no real direction and did not have a set plan for my life. I felt like I was just joining the crowd and following a path that I did not want to go down. Joining the Navy gave me the structure and the discipline that I needed to get me back on the right path. The Navy has taught me so many valuable skills, and I have taken advantage of everything that the Navy has to offer. I continue to grow both professionally and personally. I feel proud to serve my country and feel privileged to be a part of something that is bigger than myself.

Hobbies and interests: I enjoy bowling, tennis, interior decorating, and working with animals.



Zone Supervisor of the Year



NCC(SW) Jose R. Carpio-Ruano
Navy Recruiting District Houston

Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.

How long have you been in recruiting? Ten years

Previous commands and job titles:

USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40)
NRD San Diego
NRD Los Angeles
NRD Houston

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? I am very humbled and honored to have been chosen for this award. We are all out here every day pounding the pavement, serving as ambassadors, leading by example, and fulfilling the mission. To be recognized as the best of the best is still something that has not sunk in yet but it is rewarding to see that the hard work does pay off.

What advice would you give to others in your position? It starts with us, the recruiters. To fulfill CNO and CNP's vision of the Navy, we all must have the mindset that we have a job to do. To get it done we have to be instrumental in attracting the men and women we are looking for and leave a good first impression. You set the tone. Outstanding customer service, follow up, staying organized, knowing your product and your

market, believing in yourself, and doing what is right are the keys to success. Having a vision, a goal, and not giving up when times are tough will always take you to the top.

What are your future goals? To become an assistant chief recruiter and then a chief recruiter. I love recruiting and have a passion for helping young men and women. I'd like to finish my degree and serve as the National Chief Recruiter.

How has the Navy changed your life? The Navy changed my life for the better. Growing up in south central Los Angeles, I was surrounded by gangs and violence. I saw my two older brothers drop out of high school, in and out of jail, getting caught up in the gang life, and I knew I had to do something so I would not end up like them. Joining the Navy straight from high school helped show me the real world. It gave me the confidence I needed to believe in myself. It provided direction in my life and gave me a sense of purpose that I could make something of my life. I was now becoming a man and not a street hoodlum. The Navy also gave me a greater appreciation of the country we live in, the freedoms we enjoy, as well as the sacrifices that are made to maintain our way of life. The Navy is not just a job for me, but a way of life.

Hobbies and interests: Working out, sports, hanging out with my family, cooking, electronics, and running marathons.



Diversity Enlisted Recruiter of the Year



GSE1(SW) Michael N. Clanton
Navy Recruiting District Portland

Hometown: Taylor, Mich.
How long have you been in recruiting? One-and-a-half years
Previous commands and job titles:
USS *Howard* (DDG 83) - Gauge Calibration Tech
USS *Kidd* (DDG 100) - Assistant Work Center

come in due time. Recruiting is a unique billet where hard work pays off and is rewarded.

What are your future goals? Finish my degree and eventually promote to chief petty officer.

How has the Navy changed your life? The Navy has changed my life in so many positive ways that it would be impossible to just name one. From a young man from Michigan who would play John Madden football all day, to a U.S. Navy Sailor who has become a leader, enrolled and attending college, visited many different countries... I have done more in nine years than I have ever imagined I would in my whole life. The Navy is the single, most positive change that has happened in my life.

Hobbies and interests: Reading, building computers, history, bowling, traveling, and movies.

Supervisor

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? I am humbled and very appreciative. Whenever hard work and dedication pays off, it feels amazing. This is by far the biggest award I have ever been chosen for, and words cannot describe how great I feel.
What advice would you give to others in your position? Just work hard and accolades like this will



Diversity Officer Recruiter of the Year



CSCS(SW/AW) Carmen G. Paige
Navy Recruiting District Richmond

Hometown: Wheeling, W.Va.
How long have you been in recruiting? Over two years
Previous commands and job titles:
USS *Gonzalez* (DDG 66) - Supply Department LCPO
USS *San Antonio* (LPD 17) - S-2 LCPO

body a chance to rest. When you are at work, work like there is no tomorrow. The payoff is knowing that you played a part in changing someone's life.

What are your future goals? Promote to master chief, return to sea and finish my degree in business management.

How has the Navy changed your life? I was three months away from graduating high school and still undecided about my future. My parents were expecting me to go to college as did my siblings. I knew I still needed a disciplined atmosphere (not college) if I was going to be productive. I had never thought about the military, but my best friend Janet had signed up a few months earlier and was secure in what her future held. I thought, "why not?" So I signed up and left before her. That was the best decision I ever made. I've met people from all walks of life, seen more countries than most will in a lifetime, and became a part of the best fraternity there is – the chief's mess. Even after 25 years plus four years broken service (reserves), I am still proud to wear this uniform.

Hobbies and interests: I am a certified spinning instructor. I enjoy writing and directing plays, sports, reading, traveling and most of all, I love being with my family.

NAVSTA Annapolis - Command Career Counselor

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? Blessed and still very much in shock. There are a lot of extremely talented recruiters across the nation doing a fantastic job. To be recognized among them is quite an honor. I am very grateful.
What advice would you give to others in your position? Recruiting can not be taken lightly. The future of our nation depends on who we recruit today. Never compromise your integrity, always be professional and treat every applicant as a VIP because they are. Recruiting is very demanding, so you must have your down time. When you are off, it is so important to disconnect yourself to allow your mind and



Medical Officer Recruiter of the Year



LCDR Lorrie L. Meyer
Navy Recruiting District Minneapolis

Hometown: Dayton, Minn.
How long have you been in recruiting? Two-and-a-half years

Previous commands and job titles:
NRD Minneapolis - Medical Officer Recruiter
Naval Hospital, Okinawa - Staff Nurse
Great Lakes Naval Hospital - Staff Nurse

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? Humbled and honored.

What advice would you give to others in your position? Aspire to be the best. I remember sitting at NORU thinking, "How in the world am I going to make it in this world of recruiting? I'm a nurse, not a salesman." What I failed to recognize was my biggest strength, my love for the Navy. I see recruiters beam with pride when they talk about what they love. Use it to your advantage. Tell your story and the rest will fall in place but remember that you have to get out of the office and tell your story. Set goals each day, meet them, and believe in yourself.

What are your future goals? Completion of my doctorate of nursing in 2014.

How has the Navy changed your life? Growing up in a small town in northern Minnesota, I originally enlisted as a Marine in 1988. My goal was to do four years and go back to college to obtain my nursing degree. I was not expecting to adapt to military life as easily as I did. What I found out was that I loved being a part of the military. The pride I felt when I wore the uniform was at times overwhelming but I missed being a Marine and part of something so elite and great. I learned of the NCP program in my second year of college. My husband was an Army recruiter and inquired about the various programs the Navy had. When he told me about the program, I knew it was my way back in and I quickly acted upon the calling. The Navy has not only changed my life but has molded me into the person I am today: A strong, confident, and independent woman. As a young adult, I was told by a counselor at a local community college that I did not have the aptitude to be a nurse. How wrong he was and how thankful I am the Navy took me in and gave me the confidence to fulfill my dream. My story is a rags-to-riches story in the greatest sense. The Navy provided me with the freedom to go to school, see the world, and fulfill my dreams, and it has allowed me to meet some of the greatest people in the world. The Sailors and the Marines with whom I have served with have shaped me into the person and leader I am today and for that I will be forever grateful.

Hobbies and interests: Trail riding (horses), running, scuba diving, gardening, and camping/boating with my family.



NUPOC Recruiter of the Year



OSCS(SW) David B. Gordone
Navy Recruiting District Denver

Hometown: Santa Fe, N.M.
How long have you been in recruiting? Nine years over three separate geographic recruiting tours

Previous commands and job titles:
USNS *Richard E. Byrd* (T-AKE 4) - Ops Officer and Senior Enlisted Advisor
NRD Denver - Nuclear and Civil

Engineering Officer Recruiter
Expeditionary Strike Group Seven - OPS LCPO and Navigator

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? This is an incredible honor. I've worked very hard in support of the NRC mission but I directly attribute the recognition as a result of being fortunate enough to work with some extremely talented, highly-devoted Navy leaders who have been doing great things. I also remember the most crucial times at earlier points of my career when quality mentoring made the difference in my young life. This is a very positive milestone and it signifies just how far anyone can go with a desire to succeed.

What advice would you give to others in your position? I tell any new Sailor on recruiting duty: The success of the Navy solely depends upon the ability of our Sailors in recruiting to bring in the highest quality, most-talented personnel to operate our

ships, submarines, and aircraft. There is absolutely no one else who is going to play that vital of a role in these important times. We must always be innovative, honest and relentlessly devoted toward producing the best possible results. Believe in what the Navy stands for. Putting one's heart and soul into these duties makes the difference between real success and failure. Our Navy can help anyone achieve whatever goals they set in life. A Sailor on recruiting duty must believe in this and be able to effectively communicate in-depth knowledge. Recruiters must seek out the most competitive applicants and mentor them from start to finish.

What are your future goals? I've always sought to help others to succeed and realize their dreams, so being able to remain in a position that sustains that is my goal. I plan to finish my bachelor's degree and to promote to master chief is another important goal.

How has the Navy changed your life? I worked on a 7,000-acre cattle ranch throughout high school. College life was boring and predictable – I was hungry for adventure. A former teacher told me the Navy was the best branch of service and I saw one of those classic "Let the Journey Begin" commercials and those images of Sailors touring Hong Kong and other distant and mysterious countries solidified my decision. The Navy helped me gain maturity and experience needed to make good decisions. It helped me exercise my desire to shoulder more responsibility. It taught me the benefits of making sacrifices and taking good risks in life.

Hobbies and interests: Trail running, adventure racing, mountain biking, electric and acoustic guitar, and rodeo (bull riding).



NSW/NSO Recruiter of the Year



ET1(SW/AW) Oscar Faustino Navy Recruiting District Richmond

Hometown: Noveleta, Cavite, Philippines

How long have you been in recruiting? Three years

Previous commands and job titles:

USS Cowpens (CG 63)
NRD Richmond - Recruiter
(Recruiter of the Year - 2008, 2009)

USS George Washington (CVN 73) - Work Center Supervisor

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? It is an honor to be recognized for this prestigious award and to represent the district, zone, and station I am from. This award represents the work I have done and the work ethic of every individual in my district. Without their support, positive attitude, and team-player mentality, I would have not gotten to where I am. I am humbled and grateful to have been selected.

What advice would you give to others in your position?

Attitude. The first true impression of the Navy the applicant has is with his recruiter. A positive outlook and an honest concern for the future well-being of the individual will guarantee success. Love what you do. If you truly enjoy the Navy, explaining the benefits

of a military career is as easy as a smile. Navy recruiting is about changing lives. Recruiting is an investment not only for the Navy but for yourself as well. Keep in mind that the individuals you recruit today are the same people that will be working for you in the future.

What are your future goals? I want to become the CMC of an aircraft carrier, a fleet master chief, or even the MCPON. Maybe a conversion to officer in SWO or LDO category.

How has the Navy changed your life? Growing up both in the Philippines and the U.S. showed me the difference in life between two cultures and the impact the Navy has had in my life. In the Philippines, I had a bachelor degree in architecture and an associate degree in interior design but the economic breakdown of a developing third-world country was dim even for college graduates. Enlisting in the Navy not only helped my family financially but it is also looked upon with great honor and pride in the country I was raised in. The Navy has one of the most diverse ethnic backgrounds in the world and is known as a branch of military that no matter what color your skin, background, race or gender, hard work and dedication will bring you success. I will always love my Filipino culture and heritage but I am just as proud to be an American in the Navy.

Hobbies and interests: Running, snorkeling, scuba diving, and messing around with the latest electronics.



NSW/NSO/AJRR Coordinator of the Year



AT1(AW/SW) William A. Vega Navy Recruiting District New York

Hometown: New York, N.Y.

How long have you been in recruiting? Three years

Previous commands and job titles:

FRC SW Site Point Mugu - LPO
AIMD Roosevelt Roads - Work Center Supervisor
Fleet Information Warfare

Center Little Creek - Electronic Countermeasures Technician

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor?

Extremely humbled and appreciative. I know most of the NSW/NSO Coordinators at the other NRDs, and they are out there every day putting in countless hours to ensure that each of the NSW/NSO rating pipelines receive the best possible candidates. This award is possible because of the hard work and support of all of the recruiters and chain of command at NRD New York. To be recognized as the best of the best is an honor and privilege. I will do my best to represent the Navy and inspire others to set professional and personal goals higher than those asked of them.

What advice would you give to others in your position? As the coordinators for these highly-demanding rates, it starts with us. It is essential to set the standard for NSW/NSO future Sailors

and hold them accountable to that standard. Even though we are the program coordinators, it is our responsibility to mentor them as well and set goals to help them reach their ultimate goal.

What are your future goals? To fulfil my dream of promoting to chief, complete my college degree and serve as a naval officer.

How has the Navy changed your life? As a young man born and raised in the lower east side of New York City, I joined the Navy in January of 1999 with dreams of getting an education, living on my own, and seeing the world. After graduating from high school in June of 1998, I worked three jobs, seven days a week in order to save some money and make it on my own. After eight months with very little success, I came across a television commercial for the Navy and realized that there was a better way. I was right; the Navy was that way. The Navy gave me a chance to receive an education, live on my own, see the world, and to become a leader. It gave me a greater appreciation of the country we live in, our freedoms that we enjoy, and the sacrifices that are made to maintain our way of life. I proudly wear my uniform everyday and strive to live by the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. I am proud to serve my country as part of the Navy team, and the man that I am today. The Navy is my career and my way of life.

Hobbies and interests: Personal fitness, motorcycle riding, going to car shows, swimming, comedy, and movies.



Support Person of the Year



CTT1(SW) Ryan J. Lamb Navy Recruiting District Denver

Hometown: Littleton, Colo.
How long have you been in recruiting? Three years
Previous commands and job titles:
USS *Anzio* (CG 68) - Electronic Warfare Supervisor/Work Center Supervisor
USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) - Electronic Warfare Watch

anything you wouldn't be willing to do yourself, and offer assistance and leadership where you can.

What are your future goals? Personally, to complete my master's degree in communications, as well as to complete the Iron Man Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii. Professionally, I want to advance to chief petty officer and beyond and one day serve as a command master chief and assist in developing young Sailors just as I've been mentored in the past.

How has the Navy changed your life? Upon graduation from high school, I quickly noticed that I didn't think college was for me just yet and there had to be something else out there first. A very laid back and easy-to-talk-to recruiter later showed me what the Navy had to offer and before I knew it, I was in boot camp. I thought it was a great way to get out of town for a few years, get some money for college, and see a few things. I quickly noticed there was a lot more to the Navy, the history, the pride, and the way-of-life. The Navy has not only provided for me financially, but it has taught me leadership, integrity, and a hard work ethic. Looking back, I know now, this was definitely the path for me, and I wouldn't be who I am today without it.

Hobbies and interests: Endurance races, triathlons, duathlons, cycling, the Colorado mountains, camping, hiking, and skiing.

Stander, AN/SLQ-32 Technician

How do you feel about being chosen for this honor? Extremely grateful. I work with a lot of great individuals, both at NRD Denver as well as around NRC. When asked to step up and become the career counselor, I was both overwhelmed and excited. It's an awesome feeling to help the individual Sailors as well as the command as a whole. Assisting Sailors meet their career milestones, give advice and show different avenues to reach their goals has become my personal goal as well. All the hard work has definitely paid off and I appreciate everyone's help along the way.

What advice would you give to others in your position? Simply to keep the push on. Show up to work with a great, positive attitude and work hard to reach your goals. Continue to learn and progress both personally and professionally. Be sure to not ask anyone to do



NRC Gold "R" District of the Year

Navy Recruiting District Portland



Commanding Officer - CDR Stephen E. Stocking/CDR Damond L. Wenger
Executive Officer - CDR Ronnie M. Candiloro
Enlisted Programs Officer - LT Kelly A. Maksem
Officer Programs Officer - LT Kyle R. Alcock
Command Master Chief - CMDM(SS/AW/EXW) James W. Osborne/CMDM(SS/AW/SW) Kevin M. Monroe
Chief Recruiter - NCCM Michael W. Weatherly
Recruiter of the Year - GSE1(SW) Michael N. Clanton
Government Service Employee of the Year - Gary F. Esposto
Contractor of the Year - Robert J. Ord



NRD Portland covers 270,000 square miles and encompasses the entire state of Oregon and parts of California, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington. NRD Portland is not only a production powerhouse, but an NRD dedicated to producing the highest quality Sailors, recruits, and officers for the United States Navy.

The Ironmen recruiters of NRD Portland held true to their Ironman ethos and recruited the "best and the brightest" future Sailors and officers in FY2010. In a year that was preceded by unprecedented and exceptional national performances in both enlisted and officer programs recruiting, NRD Portland's teamwork approach with strength and honor permeated in every recruiter, processor, civilian, contractor, and headquarters personnel. NRD Portland's enlisted and officer processes are the model for NRC making not just the fit but the fit. In addition to the extraordinary production achievements for the district in FY10, NRD Portland was able to achieve these milestones through tough geographic challenges.

To amplify the significance of their enlisted production achievements, NRD Portland assessed or affiliated 985 future Sailors while maintaining a low in-month loss rate of 3.22%. They finished first overall on the Nuclear Stacking Report at 94.7% for NRC exceeding the national average of 73.5%. NRD Portland finished at 94% on the NSW/NSO Stacking Report above the 91.3% national average. Their accomplishments in NROTC recruiting earned them a ranking of number 1 in NRC. NRD Portland enlisted an unprecedented 350.3% combined diversity, surpassing all other NRDs in the nation. They led Region West and closed out all AC and RC NCO accessions. NRD Portland enlisted 23.4% female future Sailors of which 87.7% were of the test category I-IIIa over and above the NRD requirement of 71.3%.

Active Component (AC) New Contract Objective (NCO): 100%
AC Delayed Entry Program (DEP) Slope Target: 101.5%
New Accession Training (NAT)/Full-time Support (FTS)/NCO: 103.5%
NAT/FTS/DEP Slope Target: 126.3%
NSW/NSO New Contract Objective: 100%
Nuclear Field New Contract Objective: 100%
Prior Service Accessions: 112.7%



Vice CNO Honors Recruiters of the Year



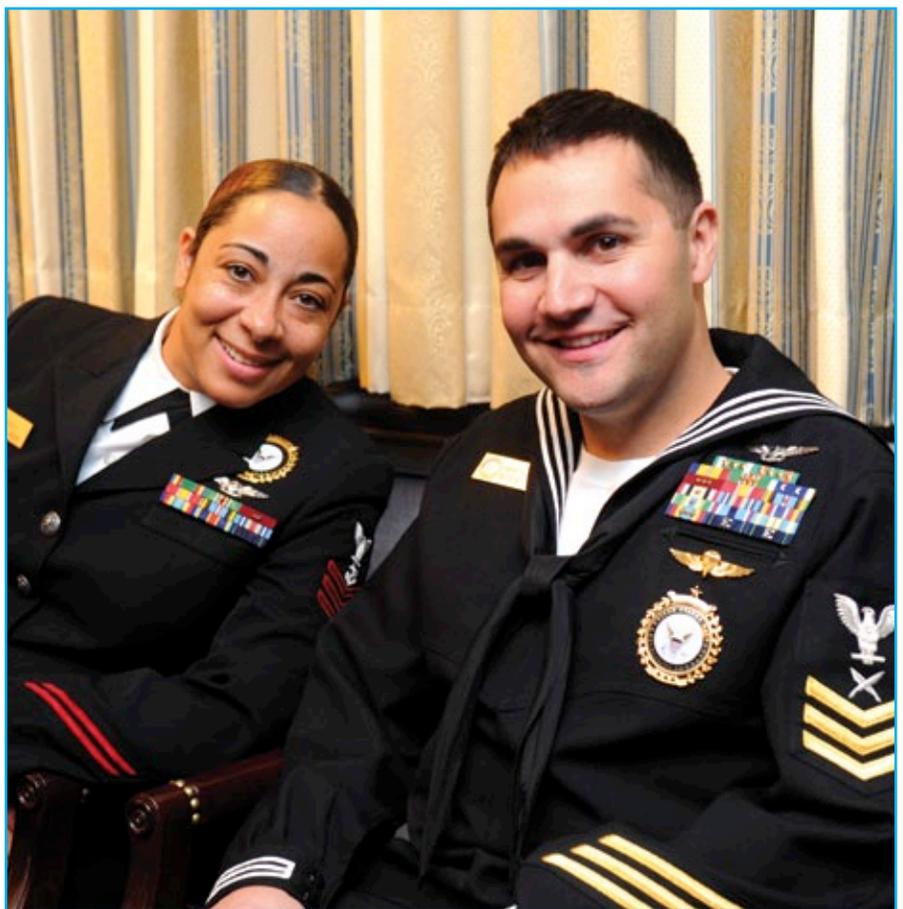
Story by MC2(SW) Charles Newcomer, NRC
Photos by MC1(AW) Christopher D. Blachly, NRC

WASHINGTON – Vice Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, spoke to the 2010 Recruiters of the Year (ROY) and their families at the awards ceremony held Jan. 26 at the Navy Memorial in Washington.

The Vice CNO told the audience that the mission of today's recruiter isn't just to find warm bodies to fill billets and that the ROY went the extra mile in procuring specific professional talent that will carry the world's finest Navy forward into the future.

"What these folks do is beyond just recruiting," said Greenert. "They have a tremendously tough job. They have to find the talent for this Navy of ours, the greatest Navy in the world. How they do it is beyond me, but they do it in an excellent way. They have to find the right quality. Only one out of four 18-to-24 year olds even qualifies because of a whole host of reasons. They have to find the quality we want and then distinguish from that the person with the right talent for the job because they are sending the recruits on the journey of their lives."

Greenert also acknowledged the role recruiters play in the public perception of the Navy.



During a visit to the Pentagon, NC1 Niesha C. Tartt, left, Enlisted ROY (Reserve), NRD St. Louis, and YN1(AW/PJ) Brendan P. Wehmann, Enlisted ROY (Active), NRD Miami, discuss all the festivities and honors bestowed on them during ROY Week.

“They don’t just recruit. They are the face of our Navy, your Navy. They are the ones that our populous probably sees first. Our recruiters put a human face on the Navy. They can often give a young person thinking of entering the military a glimpse of what their future will be like in that career.”

Greenert was the guest speaker for the ROY ceremony on a night when snowfall cancelled flights and ground traffic to a halt, but didn’t put a chill on the enthusiasm the Vice CNO expressed in thanking the awardees and their families for a job well done.

He went on to emphasize the human factor that goes into being a successful Navy recruiter.

“We have 5,300 recruiters out there in 26 districts and here we have the best of the best,” Greenert said. “What you spouses, mothers, fathers, and families do for these award winners is amazing. You are the wind beneath our wings and I thank you greatly. What they [recruiters] are doing is planting the seed corn and we will reap that and become the Navy of tomorrow. It was your predecessors that made us the great Navy we are today, which is really just people, and you’re going to decide the great Navy of tomorrow.”

With 70 percent of the world covered in ocean, 80 percent of the world’s population living near coasts and 90 percent of the world’s commerce traveling by water, America’s Navy is very much a global force for good. NRC’s mission is to recruit the best men and women for America’s Navy to accomplish today’s missions and meet tomorrow’s challenges.



At the Pentagon, ROY recipients GSE1(SW) Michael Clanton, left, LCDR Lorrie Meyer, and LCDR Yvonne Pitts share a light moment with ADM Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest-ranking officer in the U.S. Armed Forces and the president’s principal military advisor.



Vice Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, left, was the guest speaker at the ROY awards ceremony held Jan. 26 at the Navy Memorial in Washington. Among the presentations was a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to NRD Portland’s EM1(SW/AW) John C. Geiger, Nuclear Field Coordinator of the Year. Geiger’s wife, Rhiannon, and Commander, NRC, RDML Craig S. Faller display the letter of appreciation that she received.



MCPON Rick West congratulates ET1(SW/AW) Oscar Faustino, left, and his wife Maricor on his selection as NSW/NSO ROY. One of the highest honors given ROY is the opportunity to meet and talk with top leadership of the Navy during their visit to the nation’s Capitol.



ROY winners met with the Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, center. Joining the group was NCCM Gregory King, NRC National Chief Recruiter (far left); Commander, NRC, RDML Craig S. Faller (right rear); Deputy Commander, NRC, RDML Robin L. Graf (front row, second from right,); and Force Master Chief (SW/AW) Chris Penton (front row, far right).



The Navy Club of the USA hosted a luncheon for ROY recipients and their families. PS1(SW/AW) Andrea Taylor, NRD Raleigh, Classifier of the Year, was the center of the attention as she talked with Navy Club of the USA's National Veterans Affairs Officer, Edward L. Walter, standing left. Seated at the table with Taylor is her mother, Wyona Taylor.

Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Gary Roughead, visited with the ROY on their tour of the Pentagon. Here he compliments LCDR Yvonne O. Pitts from NRD Dallas on her selection as the Officer Recruiter of the Year (Active).



Hometown Hero Earns Bronze Star

NRD Denver Commanding Officer CDR Scott Hendrix, left, presents HMC George Ayala the district's Medical Recruiter Rookie of the Year award during a recent ceremony. (Photo by Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs)

By Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs

DENVER – When HMC George Ayala reported to NRD Denver as an officer programs medical recruiter, no one in the command was aware of the contributions he had made in prior tours.

A humble “doc,” Ayala never spoke about his past service done largely on either individual augmentee or permanent change of station assignments with the U.S. Army, or his selfless service while serving as senior enlisted member, Medical Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Kabul, Afghanistan. However, when a Bronze Star Medal arrived, curiosity arose.

The chief was assigned to a severely understaffed coalition forces health clinic servicing more than 2,000 NATO personnel from 25 countries. While there, he was additionally responsible for the organization and certification of emergency response teams supporting 135 successful convoy operations throughout the combat zone.

Impressive as his contributions were, the citation specifically cites his actions following a car bombing attack on the ISAF headquarters. Although the chief had previously assisted coalition forces that were presented with numerous car bombings and improvised explosive device attacks, this one was different. A car loaded with an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives was detonated along a fence line 75 yards from the medical compound, creating havoc inside. Ayala immediately took charge and directed the triage and casualty transport for 34 persons.

According to the citation, “He displayed extraordinary leadership by calmly, but expediently organizing rapid, resourceful transport of casualties to a higher level of care, directly resulting in no fatalities.”

A 17-year veteran hailing from Pueblo, Colo., Ayala reflected on how these events have changed him. “The experience taught me not to take our American way of life for granted. I try to have fun every day, on the job and with the family, and not take the ‘small things’ as seriously.”

Left: HMC George Ayala stands by the ambulance used to accompany convoys throughout the Kabul, Afghanistan, combat zone. Ayala was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal for lifesaving actions conducted while serving as senior enlisted member, Medical Headquarters, ISAF, Kabul, Afghanistan. (Photo by Cpl. Jeff Shuller, Canadian Transportation Forces)



Navy Recruiting District

Portland: The Little District That Did



Story and photos by Elizabeth Allen, NRD Portland Public Affairs



RENO, Nev. – NRD Portland held their annual Training and Awards Conference in Reno in December.

The conference was the perfect end to a spectacular fiscal year for NRD Portland which earned the Gold “R,” the highest award available to recruiting commands.

NRD Portland was ranked number one out of 26 districts across the nation.

The command is comprised of over 160 officers, enlisted and civilians and is responsible for all Navy accessions, both active and reserve, officer and enlisted throughout Oregon and parts of Washington, Idaho, Nevada and California.



Personnel from NRD Portland celebrate being named the top NRD in the nation at their recent awards banquet in Reno, Nev. The district is staffed by over 160 personnel (Sailors, civilians and contractors).

Held in one of the district’s three metropolitan areas, it was a fitting venue for such a successful year of recruiting for the district.

Special guest, CAPT Yolanda Reagans, commander, Navy Recruiting Region West opened the ceremony with rousing congratulations for all of the district’s accomplishments in fiscal year 2010.

Reagans lauded NRD Portland for not only being named national district of the year, but also for having two recruiters nationally recognized as tops in their fields.

EM1 John Geiger was selected as NRC Nuclear Field Coordinator of the Year, and GSE1 Michael Clanton was selected as NRC Enlisted Diversity Recruiter of the Year. Both attended the Recruiter of the Year (ROY) ceremony in Washington, D.C., recently and were recognized for their significant contributions to Navy recruiting.

Held annually, ROY Week includes meetings with senior Navy leadership, various dignitaries and visits to national

historical sites. Each year the recipients are treated to a week of honors, tours and celebrations for their achievements.

The team of Navy recruiters, known affectionately as the “Ironmen,” had a wonderful visit to the “Biggest Little City in the

World.” This was not the first time that Reno has had such a large Navy presence as in 2009 Reno was chosen to host a Navy Week which featured several performances of the Blue Angels at the Reno Air Races.

In addition to recognizing the district as a whole, individual and group accolades were acknowledged with awards during the conference. Highlights included Zone Supervisor of the Year, NCC Jonathan Lokamas; Ironman of the Year, GSE1(SW) Michael Clanton; Civilian Employee of the Year, Gary Esposto; and Contractor of the Year, Rob Ord.

See “Portland” on page 29

Givens Named Navy Recruiting District New Orleans Top Enlisted Recruiter



By MC1 Robert Keilman, NRD New Orleans Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS – Some people may say that Navy recruiters have their hands full. Each week they screen dozens of applicants, weeding out those who aren't qualified, ensuring the best and the brightest candidates are placed in the right jobs, at the right place, and at the right time.

Although there are many recruiters assigned to NRD New Orleans who perform their duties diligently, each year there is one recruiter whose superior performance separates him or her from the team and garners them the title of Enlisted Recruiter of the Year (EROY).

For 2010, the title of NRD New Orleans EROY went to LS1(SW/AW) Roger Givens from NRS Mobile, Ala. He was presented the distinction by NRD New Orleans Commanding Officer CDR David B. Weller during the command's annual awards banquet held recently in Marksville, La.

"I was in shock when I found out I was named recruiter of the year. I had no idea that my leaders recommended me for this honor," said Givens. "There were several other recruiters in our district who deserved this award as much as I did. I am sincerely grateful."

As an additional surprise, Givens was also awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and meritoriously promoted to the next rank of petty officer (from second to first class) through the Recruiting Command Advancement Program (R-CAP).

"Receiving the Navy com [Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal] and being R-CAPed at the same time feels awesome," said Givens. "There were a lot of recruiters besides me who not only deserved to be the Enlisted Recruiter of the Year, but also the honor of being meritoriously promoted."

The EROY Program was established to recognize one outstanding recruiter based on their production attainment and overall contribution to the Navy Recruiting mission.

NCCS(AW) Mark Long, NRD New Orleans Zone 7 Supervisor, recommended Givens not only for EROY but also for the R-CAP.

"Petty Officer Givens is a well-grounded, mature and motivated Sailor. From the moment he checked aboard the command, he reported to his recruiting station in Mobile determined to make a difference, both for my zone and for the command. He consistently strives to put the recruiting mission first and ensures we are putting the best Sailors in the Navy at all times," said Long.

A native of Mobile, Givens enlisted in the Navy in 2002 after graduating from John S. Shaw High School in Mobile. Following basic and in-rate logistics specialist training, he served aboard Sea Control Squadron 31 (VS-31) in Jacksonville (2002-2006) and Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 133 in Gulfport (2006-2008) before returning to Mobile as a recruiter.

See "Givens" on page 29

Aviation-Bound Future Sailors Get Glimpse of Future



Story and photo by MC2 Chelsea Kennedy, NRD Nashville Public Affairs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – NRD Nashville recruiters in the Memphis area are working hard to keep future Sailors active while in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP).

Recruiters from five recruiting stations joined forces to host an aviation and recruiting event at Wilson Air Center recently in Memphis. It's not every day that future Sailors get to see fighter jets and tactical aircraft. Most new recruits have never seen Navy aircraft.

Recruiters worked with the Memphis Navy League to make the affair possible. An F/A-18 Hornet, T-45C Goshawk trainer jet, E-2C Hawkeye, Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter, and a ridged hull inflatable boat team and their pilots were on hand. Future Sailors got a hands-on tour of each aircraft and talked to the crews about the Navy.

"A large majority of our future Sailors have enlisted in the aviation field," said NCC Derrick Jordan, NRD Nashville Zone 7 Supervisor. "This event provides a clear distinction between the different components of naval aviation allowing future Sailors a view of Navy aircraft, giving them the opportunity to speak with pilots and understand firsthand the importance of the jobs that they are entering, and the effect that aviation has on the overall Navy mission."

Many of the recruits are from land-locked states and most have never had any exposure to the Navy let alone naval aviation.

"This event is important because it allowed my future Sailors to interact with real Navy people besides their recruiter," said BM1(SW/AW) Catrina Wright, a recruiter with NRS Southaven. "Seeing what the pilots actually do and getting in a plane was a new opportunity for me as well as for my recruits. Opportunities like this helps keep the DEP pool active so they feel more like they're a part of the Navy."

Getting the opportunity to talk to flight officers, ask questions and get answers from those working in the field was a much-appreciated experience. With

recruits often waiting in DEP six months or longer, this occasion brought a piece of the Navy a little closer to home.

"When you are in an environment that doesn't regularly introduce an upfront picture of the Navy, you take every opportunity available to take your future Sailors and recruiters and introduce them to this realm," said Jordan. "They can visualize the might of the Navy, so they can learn beyond the recruiting station and Navy handbooks."



LT Mark Muncy, a pilot assigned to Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, talks to future Sailors Jase Robinson and Tim Lawrence about the components of an E-2C Hawkeye during an aviation recruiting event at Wilson Air Center in Memphis. New recruits were given an overview of naval aviation opportunities.

RECRUITERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL YOUNG READERS WEEK AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Story and photo by MCC Bradley J. Sapp, NRD San Diego Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - At Jefferson Elementary School located in the North Park area of San Diego, Sailors assigned to NRD San Diego participated in National Young Readers Week by spending a morning reading literature to students in grades K-5.

Although MM2 Reynald Castillo has no children of his own, he still understands the impact a good role model can have on the future of these students. Castillo routinely volunteers "to do more than my

everyday job by giving back to the kids and the community."

Sorted by grade-appropriate material and reading level, the books selected were meant to challenge the students.

Through his love of reading, LT Cody Titensor believes "that being passionate about education greatly improves the students' chances of being successful." Titensor read "One Hen," a story that teaches about microcredit in Africa.

Jefferson Elementary, a public school with an international baccalaureate program, emphasizes international mindedness in the curriculum. Going beyond the standard requirements for a public school, "We teach the children how to manage themselves," said Francisco Morga, principal.

The philosophy behind the idea of international mindedness is being tolerant and accepting of other cultures and beliefs, not just recognizing the foods, flags or the festivals associated with each country but also to be mature when dealing with something different or difficult.



LT Cody Titensor, NRD San Diego officer recruiter, reads "One Hen" to a class of fifth graders at Jefferson Elementary in San Diego. Titensor volunteered as part of the school's program in observance of National Young Readers Week. Designed to introduce children to outside influencers, educators at this school believe that having school partners and people from the community read to students has meaningful impact and is important for them to achieve success in life.



Sailor Speaks on the Importance of MAIL CALL



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

PITTSBURGH – Many Sailors still remember a time before e-mail and one NRD Pittsburgh Sailor spoke on this subject at an event supporting the Reach Out and Touch a Hero Program.

CTT1(SW) Jennifer Blanchette sat on stage with six fellow servicemen and women at Ross Park Mall in Pittsburgh and had a turn speaking about the importance of communicating with deployed personnel while they're away in support of our country.

Blanchette spoke frankly about how it feels to receive care packages and letters, and yes, even e-mail, when deployed.

"I was able to mention that, from a Sailor's perspective, even during times of relative peace, we deploy all the time in the fleet. And getting that one piece of mail or handwritten letter means so much to deployed personnel. The impact of it cannot be overstated," said Blanchette.

A veteran of four deployments including one to Afghanistan, Blanchette is no stranger to the affect of hearing "mail call" and the impact those two words can have upon the morale of the crew.

NCC Tim Ramsey, Blanchette's zone supervisor, as well as fellow recruiter IT2 Reubin Porch, were at the event to support Blanchette.



Speaking to a crowd at Ross Park Mall in Pittsburgh, CTT1(SW) Jennifer Blanchette relayed the importance of receiving mail while deployed. Having been deployed four times, she was able to speak personally about how meaningful mail can be when deployed.

"I think she [Blanchette] gave the most heartfelt speech of all of the speakers," said Ramsey. "Especially during the holidays, when you're deployed, just that one line of communication from back home can mean the whole difference to someone overseas who is removed from their friends and family."

See "Mail Call" on page 30



Future Sailor Brings Foxy Back

Story and photo by MC1 Lorin Sawyer, NRD Minneapolis Public Affairs



DES MOINES, Iowa - In a time when childhood obesity is a rising concern for the nation, it is an epidemic that also affects the quality of applicants who inquire about the military.

Many inquire and discover they are out of the required weight standards for the military and simply accept the denial of being able to join at that time and move on. For Gregory Fox, Jr., of West Des Moines, it was a wakeup call.

"I wanted to join the Navy but was not sure about the weight requirements. When I was told I would not go to boot camp unless I lost all that weight I had a mini breakdown," said Fox. "I thought this is my future; I need to get on this. So I just set my priorities straight, hiked up my pants and became more responsible by actually trying to lose weight. I realized the only thing keeping me from being who I wanted to be was me and I kicked it up a notch."

Fox comes from a family with a history of naval service. He believes that serving his country would be a continuing honor. The only problem he faced was losing about three percent body fat or more than 35 pounds.

"I was originally 212 pounds and my max allowable weight was 175. I tried my hardest to lose weight and get down to 175," commented Fox. "I signed up March 16, so I had 7-8 months to do it but I was really dedicated to graduating school first. I graduated May 30. By the beginning of June I started running and

working out. I have lost all my weight in a span of about four months. It hasn't been easy, but once you start losing a little bit of weight it snowballs and you get addicted to success. It's an awesome feeling."

There has been an increase in advertising for dietary programs to help people lose weight. There are many arguments on the best method to shed unwanted weight. For Fox it was tricky because he did not want to gain weight as he was losing inches. Fox conducted some research and spoke to his recruiter, AO1 Christopher Aufderhar, for additional advice.



Future Sailor Gregory Fox, Jr., was determined to lose weight in order to meet the standards to joining the Navy. He lost 57 pounds in four months, well over his targeted goal, before shipping out to boot camp. His success was made possible with dieting as well as rigorous running, working his way up to 18 miles a day.

"I was told not to do weights because as you build muscle mass, you gain weight and the idea was to lose weight in order to get into boot camp," said Fox. "I just threw on gym shorts and ran around my town. I was really motivated on losing all that weight, so I bought a vest that carries up to 20 pounds of weight and wore that when I ran. I started at about two miles a day, working up to my maximum of about 18 miles. It took me a long time for the 18 miles. I remember starting about 7 p.m. and getting back about midnight. It took me about five hours because after the 11th mile I was just going at a turtle's pace. I was really tired with almost nothing in my body, just a determination to keep going to 18 miles."

A proper diet is suggested along with any workout regimen. Fox took a look at what his daily intake consisted of and made adjustments. "There's no magical diet out there other than hard work," Fox confessed. "Famous

Dave's, Wendy's, etc. do call, but most of the time I try not to deviate from my diet. You need to go overboard once in a while. If it was a packaged food I looked at calories. I tried to find something better for me. If it was Wheat Thins, I looked for Wheat Thins light. As far as fruits and veggies, if they grow out of the ground, that's the way to go. I eat fresh vegetables. I am not too trusting of canned food. Common sense stuff really. Don't eat fast food. If it tastes really good you most likely shouldn't eat it. Vegetables are very important. Fruits and vegetables increase your metabolism according to a diet Web site I was reading. Spicy foods are also hard to digest, so you burn calories as you eat and digest them."

Now that future Sailor Fox has lost the weight needed for his arrival at boot camp, he plans to continue losing the weight with a goal of 10 pounds at a time. The success

and confidence he is building has led to his nickname "Foxy" being incorporated to a motto he gladly shares. "I like to say I am bringing Foxy back."

Fox does not believe that this success was something that only he alone can accomplish. He encourages others to not be discouraged and keep pushing forward. "Just don't lose hope about losing weight. You are not going to lose weight each time you go out for a run. If you look at the scale and you have not even lost a pound, don't be discouraged because your body can fluctuate from zero-five pounds. I remember checking the scale once and being 176 and going back later and being 181. I got really discouraged but I kept going at it and lost even more. It's not set in stone. You just have to stay motivated and keep going at it."



Navy Spotlighthted at Winterhawks Game



Story and photo by Elizabeth Allen, NRD Portland Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. – NRD Portland joined forces with the Portland Winterhawks of the Western Hockey League to promote naval aviation during their annual Great Airplane Toss game at the Rose Garden in Portland.

At this event, fans make paper airplanes and throw them at targets on the ice at the conclusion of the game. Each fan receives one free paper airplane. The person who throws the plane landing the closest to each target wins that prize. This year's planes were printed with historic Navy aircraft.

Just before the puck was dropped, NRD Portland's color guard presented the flag as part of the game's opening ceremony.

During the first intermission, CDR Ron Candiloro, NRD Portland executive officer, marched onto the ice with 27 future Sailors from the greater

Portland area and administered the oath of enlistment before a crowd of 8,000 fans. After the ceremony, the new Sailors were treated to a standing ovation.

The crowd was enthusiastic and many stopped by the two booths the district had set up in the lobby.

Video messages from four active-duty Sailors on deployment were played as well as some of the new Navy Recruiting videos.



CDR Ron Candiloro, NRD Portland executive officer, left, administered the oath of enlistment to future Sailors from the greater Portland area before a crowd of 8,000 fans at a Portland Winterhawks hockey game.

Several Sailors attended the game and were asked to stand while the crowd applauded in appreciation of their service.

The Centennial of Naval Aviation Command also had a booth displaying the Navy's rich aviation history.



NRC Employee Decorates WHITE HOUSE



By MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender, NRC Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – A NRC employee had a rare opportunity to volunteer for the annual Christmas decorating of the White House.

Retired Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Leslie Chang, a NRC events planning program manager in the Advertising and Marketing Department, was selected for the annual occurrence. The five-day work session follows a different theme each year and is a tradition that was first started by first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961.

“Every year I saw the decoration of the White House showcased on various television channels and wondered how one would get to do that,” said Chang. “So I wrote them a letter, explaining I was a retired sergeant major in the Marine Corps after serving 27 years and was currently working at NRC. I also said I was a hard worker and a good listener.”

A month after sending her letter in to volunteer, Chang received official notification that she had been among those selected to decorate the president’s home.

“I was humbled and extremely honored,” explained Chang. “I later found out that I was among the 97 selected out of literally thousands that applied. While I was there, I met folks who had been applying for years that even cried because they had finally been selected, while I was fortunate to be picked my first year.”

Personnel selected came from many different professions, including architects, florists, interior designers and various others.

“We were from all over,” said Chang. “It was amazing to walk through the hallowed halls of the White House and seeing portraits; it was a surreal experience.”

Volunteers were taken to a warehouse where they assembled decorations including bulbs, garland and bows, preparing everything for hanging in the White House.

“We felt like elves,” said Chang. “On our third day, we began actually taping things to the room. It was a group effort that taught us a lot of things we didn’t know. We learned how the entire process works and the intricate details involved

in decorating. We all learned new skills which we never had before and many of us take for granted.”

On the final day, Chang also had the opportunity to meet first lady Michelle Obama during a reception held for the volunteers.



Leslie Chang of NRC’s Advertising and Marketing Department stands by the White House’s military appreciation Christmas tree, one of several she helped decorate recently. (Courtesy photo)

“She came down and shook hands with several of us,” said Chang. “She took time to talk with each and every one of us. It was just an honor to meet her and speak with her.”

Chang also went on to discuss another experience as one of the volunteers to brief the White House Press Corps. During her brief, she covered the east entrance, which paid honor to all services and their members, past, present and future.

Chang then gave advice for those who manage to be selected to volunteer decorating the White House. “Be prepared to work,” said Chang. “Make sure you take a deep breath when you go in the White House because it is a sight to behold. It’s like seeing a part of American history laid out right in front of you. I really appreciate NRC for letting me take part in this great opportunity.”



Navy Receives New Recruiting Assets



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

CENTER LINE, Mich. – NRC took delivery of two new Chevrolet Suburban assets specially designed and decorated for Navy recruiting and outreach events from Campbell-Ewald (C-E), the company in charge of designing and producing the vehicles, during an unveiling ceremony recently at Center Line High School.

The high-impact, Navy-themed vehicles are outfitted with interactive displays, video games and loud speakers, allowing the Navy to make a strong impression at recruiting and awareness events around the country.

“They are awesome,” said Christopher Purkiss, a senior at Center Line High School and a future Sailor in the Navy’s Delayed Entry Program.

Purkiss and members of Center Line High School’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) unit toured the Navy’s new assets during the unveiling.

“Whoever did the paint job, they look great,” Purkiss added. “They are very attention grabbing.”

The new Navy vehicles didn’t just look good to the high school students in attendance. “These vehicles have great visible appeal and will be a great draw for

any event,” said David J. Garrison, event property and asset manager for NRC’s Advertising and Marketing Department. “They will be a great recruiting tool to help get the job done more easily. Hopefully they will plant a seed in people’s mind about what the Navy has to offer.”

Members of NRD Michigan attended the vehicles unveiling and many of them echoed Garrison’s sentiments.

“The Navy Suburbans are a quick, simple way to bring the focus to an event,” said CDR Peter S. Egeli, NRD Michigan executive officer. “An increased number of assets will definitely help recruiting. Having a table at an event with recruiters handing out pamphlets just does not have the same impact as a Navy Suburban.”



CDR Peter S. Egeli, NRD Michigan executive officer, and David J. Garrison, event property and asset manager for NRC’s Advertising and Marketing Department, receive keys to two new Chevrolet Suburbans outfitted for Navy recruiting and outreach events from Jennifer Monaghan, center, a Campbell-Ewald asset manager, during an unveiling ceremony held at Center Line High School in Center Line, Mich. Campbell-Ewald is the company in charge of designing and building the specialty vehicles which are showcased around the country for Navy recruiting and awareness events.

“They are going to be an outstanding tool and a great draw for high school-age kids,” said CM1 Harvest Wright, a NRD Michigan recruiter in the metro-Detroit area.

These two new vehicles bring the number of Navy Suburban assets in the recruiting and outreach fleet to four, which, according to Chuck Spieser, Navy events account supervisor at C-E, will make the Navy more able to have assets at events around the country.

See “Suburbans” on page 28

Sailor from Texas Designs New NRC Coin



Story by Erica Rodriguez, Victoria Advocate

VICTORIA, Texas – FC2(SW) Daniel Lopez, Jr., of Navy Recruiting Command's IT Department, scribbled out a Navy-themed coin design on a sheet of paper with the faint hope it would be commissioned by an admiral.

There was only one problem. "I'm about as worthless at drawing as my two-year-old son," he said.

Lopez, a 27-year-old Navy telecommunications technician and Victoria native, used his technical know-how instead.

The task was to redesign a Navy challenge coin for the highest ranking officer in his command, RDML Craig S. Faller, the head of the Navy Recruiting Command, during a three-month contest.

The coin, an insignia of power and recognition, is given from a higher-ranking officer or enlisted person to deserving Sailors.

"That coin carries the weight of whoever gave it to you," said Daniel Lopez, Sr., a retired Air Force sergeant who received two coins in his 26 years of service.

Those who have them belong to prestigious circles, have friends in high places or can cash them in for favors.

"If you were at a bar with other military people, they would challenge you to put your coin down, and the person who had the lowest ranking coin, you'd buy a round for everybody," said SKC Jose L. Cruz, about

a legend surrounding the coin. Cruz also supervises Lopez and owns several coins.

Lopez dove into Photoshop for many sleepless nights and weekends, tweaked and reprinted the design, taking advice from everyone along the way.



"There were plenty of nights, trying to work on it, when my wife was asleep and my kids were asleep, and I was on the computer," he said.

In the meantime he was vying for another prestigious recognition: 2009 Junior Sailor of the Year.



Lopez, a father of three, works full time at the Navy Recruiting Command in Millington, Tenn., installing and repairing phones for hundreds of people; he takes online classes; and he volunteers and mentors at-risk teenagers.

In the last three years, he's worked more than 1,000 volunteer hours. "Anything that I can do that doesn't take up too much time away from my family," he said.

His ability to help also comes without warning. Heavy rains in May that caused flooding in Nashville also flooded his base, and Lopez quickly organized his home as a shelter for friends.

"I ended up having six people stay at my house and volunteered to help with everything else," he said.

It's a response typical of Lopez, who's always been known to go beyond his call of duty.

"He always goes the extra mile, and I think that's what sets him apart from a lot of people," said Cruz, who nominated Lopez for the award. "He's not just content with getting the job done."

Lopez has had three deployments in his 10 years in the service: The Persian Gulf, Singapore and the Colombian coast where his ship seized seven tons of liquid cocaine.

After multiple reviews, Lopez learned he won the Junior Sailor of the Year award.

News about his winning coin design came shortly after.

"I wanted to do it," he said. "So that way for the rest of somebody's life, they'll have that coin and it will last way longer than I ever will."

The coin features the Navy's new slogan, "Global Force for Good," and logo. Lopez was presented one of the first coins to be minted and gave his parents a copy. His father said he plans to keep it in the family living room, next to the American flag he received when he retired.

Accomplishments aside, Lopez said he makes his family his priority.



FC2(SW) Daniel Lopez, Jr., of NRC's IT Department, proudly displays the challenge coin he recently designed for Navy Recruiting Command. His design was chosen the winner in a three-month contest. Lopez was also selected as NRC's Junior Sailor of the Year for calendar year 2009. (Photo by MC2(SCW) Michael Lavender, NRC Public Affairs)

Locally, perhaps many might recognize him for a Pancho Claus decoration he had created for his father last year. The sign, originally a Latino Christmastime display on his father's Air Force base, was replaced with a colorful replica after 20 years of display.

"With the support of my wife and three kids," he said. "That's what allows me to get everything done and helps motivate me."

Reprinted with permission of the Victoria Advocate



"Suburbans" from page 26

"These are extremely nimble units that help do guerilla marketing in areas where larger assets can't go," said Spieser. "They will allow recruiters to hit multiple events per day and have the highest return on investment. They are flexible enough to attend most any event type and can set up on the slopes of Aspen or the beaches at Daytona."

The two new Suburban assets showcase the Navy's brand message, America's Navy - A global force for good.

"They will allow people to get the big Navy message plus introduce other more specific Navy career messages, depending on the event," said Spieser.

The new Suburbans can operate anywhere on independent generators or be plugged into shore power. Each one will travel approximately 60,000 miles throughout the year.

The new vehicles were featured at the Army vs. Navy football game in December.



“Portland” from page 18

Reagans presented Region West awards to five members of Team Portland. Besides Clanton and Geiger, other awardees were: LT Kelly Maksem, Region West Enlisted Programs Officer of the Year; LT Kirsten Foltz, Region West NROTC Coordinator of the Year; and NCC Sean Carlson, Region West Officer Diversity Recruiter of the Year.

After a memorable and motivational Training and Awards Conference, NRD Portland recruiters and staff are back at work and on track for a repeat performance in fiscal year 2011.



EM1(SW/AW) John Geiger, center, was knighted as NRD Portland's Ironman of the Year at their recent awards ceremony. Standing with Geiger are CAPT Yolanda Reagans, commander, Navy Recruiting Region West, and CDR Stephen Stocking, commanding officer, NRD Portland. Geiger was also recognized for being named NRC's Nuclear Field Coordinator of the Year.



“Givens” from page 19

“Out of all the commands I have been assigned to, NRD New Orleans is the most rewarding. Not only am I helping the Navy by putting in future Sailors, this command also recognizes its recruiters for their hard work, either with awards, medals, or in my case, R-CAP.”

Givens explains that he will continue helping future Sailors explore their career options in the Navy. “If there is anybody out there who feels they are qualified to join the Navy and is interested, go see your nearest Navy recruiter. The Navy is a win-win situation. You will receive competitive pay, while at the same time training and money for college,” said Givens. “There are several great career programs the Navy is offering such as the Nuclear Propulsion and Special Warfare Programs.”



LS1(SW/AW) Roger Givens, a recruiter with NRS Mobile, Ala., prepares documents for Navy applicant Nicodemus Beach prior to his departure to the Military Enlistment Processing Station in New Orleans. An eight-year Navy veteran, Givens was recently selected as NRD New Orleans' Enlisted Recruiter of the Year. (Photo by MC2(AW) Jerald Campbell, NRS Mobile)

Givens' previous awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), the Navy Good Conduct Medal and various other unit and campaign awards.



“Mail Call” from page 22

The mixed crowd of high school students, veterans and mall patrons was able to talk with recruiters who manned tables at the event.

“While talking to an Army veteran I was humbled,” said Porch. “We talked about the things he and his fellow Soldiers had to endure and about how many things have changed and even more that have stayed the same. He was really excited when he found out I was a communications specialist. The first thing he did was call his friend who was a communications radioman in the Army. When you are in the military and you hear the stories of how the men and women of yester-year put themselves in harm’s way so that they can protect their family as well as yours, you can’t help but stand tall and be proud to be part of a family as compassionate and committed as the armed forces of America. After our conversation, he shook my hand and thanked me for my service and in turn I shook his hand and thanked him for leading the way for me and all the others that are currently serving our great country,” continued Porch.

The Reach Out and Touch a Hero Program is a fairly simple initiative started by Sen. Jane Clare Orie from Pennsylvania that encourages communication with deployed military personnel through care packages and letters.

Each speaker on the dais was able to give a personal testimony as to how one piece of mail from a student in a third grade class or care package sent from an anonymous stranger vastly altered their experience while deployed.

“I remember even before going on IA [Individual Augmentee] to Afghanistan, and even before e-mail was prevalent on ships, how much getting mail means to us in the military, and if I can help one lonely Soldier or Sailor get lifted up, this whole thing will have been a success,” said Blanchette.

More information can be found on the program’s Web site: <http://www.senatororie.com/ROTH/roth.htm>

For us in the military it’s easy to look around and remember our friends who are deployed overseas. Dropping them a line or a package might be just what they need to make their deployment a little less lonely.



CS1 Tommy Chavira of NRS Katy, Texas, participates with the Houston Joint Color Guard at the Houston Texans Military Appreciation game. The Texans, of the National Football League, were victorious against the Kansas City Chiefs on their home turf. (Photo by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)

THE DISTRICTS' BEST STATIONS

December 2010

NRD Atlanta NRS Columbus	NRD Minneapolis NRS Eau Claire	NRD Portland NRS Redding
NRD Chicago NRS Sheboygan	NRD Nashville NRS Franklin	NRD Raleigh NRS Burlington
NRD Dallas NRS Keller	NRD New England NRS Leominster	NRD Richmond NRS Woodbridge
NRD Denver NRS Montrose	NRD New Orleans NRS Hammond	NRD San Antonio NRS Marble Falls
NRD Houston NRS Spring	NRD New York NRS Flushing	NRD San Diego NRS El Cajon
NRD Jacksonville NRS Gainesville	NRD Ohio NRS Hamilton	NRD San Francisco NRS San Jose
NRD Los Angeles NRS Torrance	NRD Philadelphia NRS Georgetown	NRD Seattle NRS Southcenter
NRD Miami NRD Brandon	NRD Phoenix NRS Farmington	NRD St. Louis NRS Olathe
NRD Michigan NRS Flint	NRD Pittsburgh NRS Watertown	

January 2011

NRD Chicago NRS Round Lake	NRD New England NRS Brockton	NRD San Antonio NRS Brownsville
NRD Dallas NRS Weatherford	NRD New Orleans NRS Gretna	NRD San Diego NRS Upland
NRD Denver NRS Canon City	NRD New York NRS Tribeca	NRD San Francisco NRS Elk Grove
NRD Houston NRS Spring	NRD Ohio NRS Medina	NRD Seattle NRS Soldotna
NRD Jacksonville NRS Kissimmee	NRD Philadelphia NRS Columbia	NRD St. Louis NRS Jefferson City
NRD Los Angeles NRS Canoga Park	NRD Phoenix NRS Durango	
NRD Miami NRS NW Tampa	NRD Portland NRS Redding	
NRD Minneapolis NRS Crystal	NRD Raleigh NRS Huntersville	
NRD Nashville NRS Conway	NRD Richmond NRS Waldorf	

ADMIRAL'S FIVE-STAR RECRUITERS

December 2010

NRD Atlanta EM2 Patrick Patterson	NRD Nashville BM2 David Smallwood	NRD Portland HT1 Anthony Scaff
NRD Chicago AM2 Bradley Schwab	NRD New England DC2 Patrick Schwebke	NRD Raleigh FC1 Jillian Favors
NRD Dallas OS2 Dwayne Robinson	NRD New Orleans LS1 Roger Givens	NRD Richmond GSM2 Manrique Lara
NRD Denver AM2 David Redd	NRD New York MM1 Jason Maynard	NRD San Antonio AM1 Carlo Norris
NRD Houston AO2 Michael Benoit	NRD Ohio MM1 Thomas Mulligan	NRD San Diego AD1 Khen Reyes
NRD Jacksonville STG1 Robert Moyer	NRD Philadelphia BM2 Idrissa Ndiaye	NRD San Francisco AM2 Justin Lerma
NRD Miami IC2 Kevin Stephens	NRD Phoenix ABF2 Reginald Harris	NRD Seattle NC1 Scott Moren
NRD Michigan HTC Lucio Saraiva	NRD Pittsburgh CTR1 Stephen Zakarauska	NRD St. Louis MM1 Brad Metcalf

January 2011

NRD Chicago AM2 Bradley Schwab	NRD Nashville EM1 Stephen Donahue	NRD Raleigh QM2 Brandon Chandler
NRD Dallas AT2 Justin Pratt	NRD New England GSM2 Justin Bowen	NRD Richmond GSM1 Joseph Ramarumo
NRD Denver AME2 William Podrybau	NRD New Orleans NC2 Larry Tate	NRD San Antonio BM1 Shaun Ingram
NRD Houston HT2 Shawn Landenberg	NRD New York ET1 Amauri Maria	NRD San Diego AO1 Kelly Weader
NRD Jacksonville LS2 Carlos Osorio	NRD Ohio AM1 Wilbur May	NRD San Francisco EO2 Adan Caballero
NRD Los Angeles QM1 James Huang	NRD Philadelphia BM2 Bienvenido Alcantara	NRD Seattle EO2 Kenneth Hoffman
NRD Miami MM2 Robert Barlow	NRD Phoenix AWV1 Jesse Kendrick	NRD St. Louis MM1 Matthew Petrich
NRD Minneapolis GM1 Jeremiah Ketels	NRD Portland YN1 Jennifer Creekmore	

