

# NAVY **RECRUITER**

*magazine*

*Supporting Navy Recruiters*

**September-October 2011**

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*Explains Military Medicine*

**Navy Family Tradition**  
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**STEM**  
*The Root of New Learning*

**Medical Facility Named**  
*Honoring a Hospital Corpsman*

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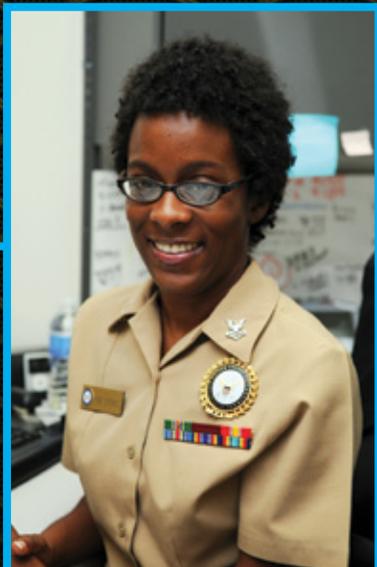


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**Back cover:** HM3 Davien Fields, left, from Savannah, Ga., and LT Frederick Rumford, from Northbridge, Mass., conduct a dental exam aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76). *Ronald Reagan* and Carrier Air Wing 14 are deployed to the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of responsibility conducting close-air support missions as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by MC3 Kyle Carlstrom)

AMERICA'S  
**NAVY**

A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD.™



Navy Recruiting Team:

As we head for the finish line in FY11, we are poised to complete one of the best recruiting years ever. Projections show that we will meet, or exceed, all active and reserve enlisted goals and sub-goals, as well as all of our “Big 5” enlisted mission areas for the 53rd month in a row. This is an awesome accomplishment!

In active and reserve officer recruiting, we are tracking to meet our active general and medical officer goals, but due in part to high retention on the active duty side, we will fall short of our mission in several reserve officer areas. This isn't to say we aren't successful in reserve officer recruiting; we are, and we are very close to meeting the overall FY11 goals. It gives us added incentive as we begin the new FY12 recruiting year.

Getting the word out nationally that we are “hiring” is a daunting task, and getting the word out locally can be a challenge too. This is where your skills as a recruiter, a communicator and as a Sailor shine through. We must all work hard to ensure that we continue to be recognized across the nation not only as a global force for good, but also as an employer of choice.

We continue to emphasize our three focus areas as they are the foundation, the tools and the processes that will allow us to continue meeting mission in an increasingly challenging environment. We will strive to inform, inspire and hire the best and brightest for service in America's Navy. We will ensure our Recruiting

Force has the resources today and is prepared for tomorrow through the RF 2020 initiatives. And we will continue to ignite awareness and build trust with America as the face of the Navy to the Nation. We have great people doing great things. FIT and quality continue be our watchwords. Keep the press on as we close out FY11 and head into FY12.



Rear Admiral Robin L. Graf  
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command



This is my last letter to the Recruiting Force as your Commander. It has been a tremendous two years serving with you at Navy Recruiting Command and with our recruiters in the field. As Rear Admiral Gay assumes command, I know each and every one of you will continue to “recruit our reliefs” in strong fashion.

My husband, Tim, and I thank each of you for your outstanding dedication and commitment to our Navy's most important mission – recruiting! May God bless you and your families as you strive to do your part in building America's Navy – A global force for good.



# NAVY SURGEON GENERAL Explains Military Medicine to MED STUDENTS



Story and photo by MCC(AW) Paul DeLaughter,  
NRD New England Public Affairs

**WORCESTER, Mass.** – Navy Surgeon General VADM Adam Robinson, Jr., recently gave a lecture to medical students, hospital faculty and medical recruiters from NRD New England at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

The speaking engagement was designed to help health care professionals understand the importance the Navy places on its medical community and to highlight the work Navy medical teams do around the globe. Robinson also took some time to offer advice to the medical students in the crowd.

“As [medical professionals] we’re called upon to do a dramatic and increasingly difficult amount of work,” said Robinson. “[This work] revolves around the lives of individuals, human beings ... that we have an absolute spiritual, moral and ethical responsibility to care for in the best way possible and in the highest traditions of the profession of medicine.”

He said ‘service’ is the mindset all health care providers need to be in;

not military service specifically but service of some kind. He referenced service in hospitals, in the community or wherever a person may be so they may give to other people.

“You need to base service as the preeminent part of your life,” he said. “I think service is the manifestation of love for your fellow human beings.”

Robinson told the crowd of his path to military service. Coming from a medical background, he never thought he would end up practicing medicine in the military. However, he noted, he needed some way to pay for his tuition.

“You don’t know what you don’t know,” he said. “There are lots of opportunities in the world that we should avail ourselves of or at least be able to make an informed decision if we don’t avail ourselves of those opportunities.”

The lecture then turned to discussion of the Navy’s humanitarian efforts around the world. He spoke of the Haitian disaster and the Navy’s recurring missions to Central and South Americas and the Caribbean with Operation Continuing Promise.

He said the Navy is proficient when dealing with kinetic events; however, the non-kinetic events or, “soft events” as he described them, still have room for improvement. “The kinetic events are what win the war but we need to know how to then win the peace,” he said.

Humanitarian efforts are important to national defense, he said, because by building relationships we are also building security. “The return on investment is measured in the security we develop and the relationships we develop,” he said. “The cost of



Navy Surgeon General VADM Adam Robinson, Jr., recently spoke to medical students at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester, Mass., where he entertained questions from the audience.

goodwill can be immeasurably important as an asset in our ability to understand others and to have them understand us.”

Robinson expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to appear before the group and speak of his experiences in the Navy.

“It is important that I talk to anyone in the country about what we in Navy medicine and what we in the Navy do,”

he said. “The only way we can run our Navy and Navy medicine is to have a volunteer force that comes from the men and women from the heart of America. It’s my absolute honor and pleasure to come and show this uniform ... and for [the people here] to understand what opportunities are available to them in our great Navy so that they may serve our nation as well.”



AD1 Roger Pacquette, left, AM2 Keven Yabann, and HT1 Jeffrey Sarver are all smiles while getting served fried fish and hushpuppies at NRD Houston’s Family Day Picnic held at the First United Methodist Church Westchase in Houston on June 25. The event was catered by Tailgate with a Hero, a ministry of the Mission Bend United Methodist Church located in west Houston. (Photo by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)



The look on JaQualen Stegall’s face shows how much he is enjoying the inflatable obstacle course at NRD Houston’s Family Day Picnic in June. (Photo by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)

# YOUNG PETTY OFFICER COMPLETES MASTER DEGREE PROGRAM



Story and photo by MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender, NRC Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** – When you think of someone in the Navy earning a master’s degree, most people automatically think of a senior enlisted person or an officer as the likely graduate.

For a single, young second class petty officer at NRC, the thought of earning her graduate degree never crossed her mind until nearly a year into her tour.

“I came into the Navy with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration,” said YN2 Tashana Stokes, an Operations Department yeoman. “I never considered going for my master’s degree until I got to NRC. They kept talking about tuition assistance and how much free time you have. So I enrolled in a 12-course master degree program for Human Resource Management.”

Her desire became a reality when she completed her 12-course degree program in less than two years.

“It didn’t happen overnight,” explained Stokes, while adjusting her reading glasses. “I started taking one class at a time; it was really a big undertaking. When I began taking two courses at a time, the writing for each class almost became overwhelming. One class required a 35-page paper comparing three separate companies. It took a lot of research and time before I had it finished. Luckily, we knew about it when we started the course, so it gave us time to work toward it.”

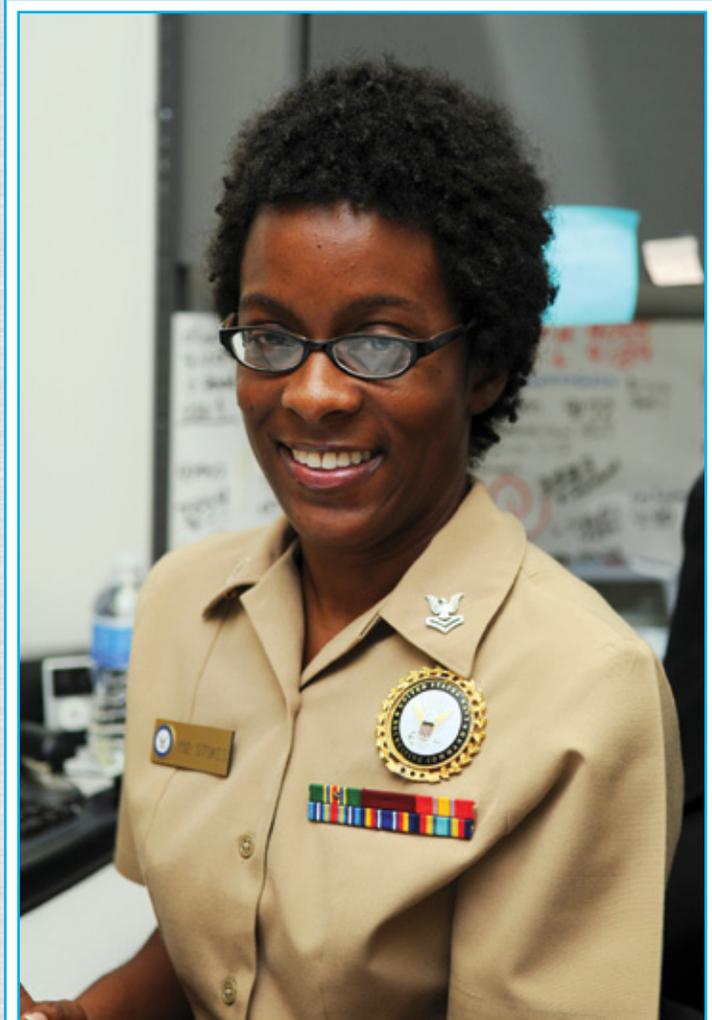
With a master’s degree soon to be in hand, Stokes has plenty of new doors opening for her, including pursuing a doctorate.

“I’m trying to keep my options open,” described Stokes. “Doors are opening for me even more so now that I have my master’s completed, but I’m trying to focus solely on what to do next. I have 10 months left before I can reenlist, so really the sky is the limit.”

Stokes went on to say how she is considering commissioning programs, a government service job, or

any other good opportunity that comes her way in the human resource field.

“I love to work in this field,” said Stokes. “It’s interesting to work with people and in human resources. I find it fascinating.”



YN2 Tashana Stokes, who works at NRC's Operations Department, will receive her Master of Human Resource Management diploma Sept. 9. She used the Navy's tuition assistance program and Montgomery GI Bill to obtain this monumental accomplishment at such a young age, furthering her family's tradition of higher education accomplishments.

Earning a degree is the first step to creating new opportunities for a Sailor in any rating, but the road is not always easy trying to balance a day of work, family and schoolwork on top of all that.

“Anyone trying to get their degree, from an associate to a doctorate, needs to be advised that if they put their mind to it they can do it,” said Stokes. “Stay focused; don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do it. It is difficult to finish college, but the key to success is to stay motivated. For me, one of the hardest challenges to overcome was my patience. I always wanted the class to pass. Then came the stress of balancing work with school.”

Stokes was able to complete her degree program with Navy tuition assistance (TA) and her Montgomery GI Bill.

“I used the Navy’s tuition assistance, however it didn’t cover the entire cost of each course,” explained Stokes. “TA only covers \$750 per course. I had to supplement the cost with money from my Montgomery GI Bill, so I didn’t pay out of pocket.”

One more piece of advice Stokes had was targeted at single Sailors like herself.

“I don’t have a family and I have plenty of time on my hands,” said Stokes. “If you’re a single Sailor, there’s no excuse why you can’t earn your degree. While education is not for everyone, anyone can succeed in getting a degree. If they have the drive to do it, they’ll succeed.” Accomplishing a feat not many junior Sailors ever imagine beginning has left Stokes with a sense of pride

that was evident in the way she sat discussing her journey.

“I feel good,” described Stokes with a small smirk. “I admit I am a little proud. I’m not an arrogant person. I’m very humble. I just plan to keep living, taking one day at a time and moving forward in my life. Now that I’ve earned the degree, I’m now going to use it to pursue my goals. It’s a huge accomplishment for me. I may not pursue my doctorate for a while; maybe sometime in the future.”

While Stokes has completed the courses for her degree, she will not be a graduate until Sept. 9 when she will receive her diploma commemorating her achievement.

“I’ve come full circle,” said Stokes. “I have submitted my degree package and I’m waiting to get it back. For right now, I’m just thankful and grateful for being able to overcome such a big challenge. God allowed me to get through it.”

Stokes went on to say how her religion and family also influenced her motivation.

“My religious faith is my number one personal motivator,” explained Stokes. “My mother is a close second. I’m not the first in my family to earn their degree, nor am I the first to earn a master’s degree. Many members of my family have higher education and that was one of the things that motivated me to complete mine. Education is an important part of our family and it’s something I’ll encourage my own children to pursue.”



On his recent visit to Navy Recruiting Command, MCPON(SS/SW) Rick D. West was briefed on operations of the Creative Production and Visual Information Division by CDR Brent Phillips, left, director, Advertising and Marketing Department, and MCC George Kusner, Creative Branch leading chief petty officer and graphic designer. West viewed the latest division products, including graphic designs, posters and videos. He also visited other NRC departments and interacted with staff members. (Photo by MC3 Ty C. Connors, NRC Public Affairs)

# AMERICA'S NAVY

## A LOCAL FORCE FOR GOOD.



Story by MC3 Ty C. Connors, NRC Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** – In the wake of a year of turmoil and unprecedented weather events which have buffeted the continental U.S., America's Navy – A global force for good has also proven itself to be a local force for good.

From tornadoes in Joplin, Mo., and Tuscaloosa, Ala., to flooding along the Mississippi watershed, Sailors and recruiters from around the country have continued to answer their nation's call.

"Recruiters are the face of the Navy in our local communities," said CDR David James, executive officer, NRD Nashville. "Our Navy's ethos of a global force for good was most recently manifested by the selfless assistance our shipmates provided during the horrendously destructive storms the Mid-South faced this spring of 2011. A few of our shipmates had their homes and belongings completely destroyed yet still rendered help to those in need. Forms of aid varied from donations of goods to on-site assistance and cleanup. Bravo Zulu to all that rallied to assist our local communities under desperate conditions. You proudly represented the Navy, a global force for good."

Recruiters from Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Huntsville, Ala., coordinated to deliver seven trailer loads of supplies to tornado-affected citizens in Toney, Ala.

"I would give you the shirt off my back if I knew it would help you," said EM2 Steven Daugherty, a recruiter from NRS Murfreesboro. "I was raised in the country; it is how we are."

Daugherty estimates that he and FC1 Tristan Whitson from NRS Huntsville collected about \$25,000 worth of items including clothes, dishes, baby bottles, and toys through word of mouth and social media Web sites.

"It is unreal the amount of support that is out there if you reach out," said Daugherty. "I was blown away by the amount of people willing to come out and help."

The students of Naval Recruiting Orientation Unit (NORU) Enlisted Recruiter Orientation (ENRO) Class 11-340 in Pensacola, Fla., donated \$700 to purchase water and non-perishable food for distribution to the Tuscaloosa tornado victims. They rented a trailer and stocked it with a half pallet of water

Members of NORU ENRO Class 11-390 spent 48 off-duty hours assisting in cleanup in Pleasant Grove, Ala., after it was devastated by a tornado. Additionally, the class raised \$1,230 to assist the community in recovery efforts. (Courtesy photos)



and various food items which equated to 1,400 pounds of food. They also engaged in assisting the stricken community after they received permission to do so from local relief personnel and hand delivered items like baby diapers, various toiletries and non-perishable food as well as pizza.

NORU ENRO Class 11-390 dedicated 48 off-duty hours of humanitarian aid to the tornado victims of Pleasant Grove, Ala., which was hit hard by the tornado that displaced thousands of its residents. Through their personal donations, the students of class 11-390 raised \$1,230.

Recruiters from St. Louis, Mo., traveled to Livingston County, Ky., just outside of Paducah, Ky., where they assisted with flood aid by filling, tying, transporting and placing sandbags, and evacuating people and property from flood-threatened areas.

"One guy was trying to save his house and everything he owns by himself against a flood," said MM1 Joseph Renn, NRD St. Louis nuclear programs recruiting

coordinator. "He just couldn't do it. I hope that someone would help me if I was in the same predicament."

"You have to help out in your community," said QM2 Christopher Swann, a recruiter out of Paducah. "It's just what you do. I felt bad that my house was in a better place than most when so many others were losing their houses I did all I could to help out as many people as I could."

"We can't do it alone," Renn said. "It's just like on the sub[marine]. We are a family. We all play our individual roles, but when a casualty happens, if we don't work together we all die."

Navy recruiters do not simply help young men and women find careers in service to their country; recruiters are also part of their communities nationwide. Whether it is volunteering in the community, supporting Scouting, mentoring students or responding to disasters, they are a local force for good.



NRC's newest simulator made a stop at the command's headquarters in Millington, Tenn. recently. On hand for the unveiling were Marty Gill, Navy simulator #3 exhibit support/driver, left; Cornell Galloway, NRC Events Marketing Branch manager; RDML Robin Graf, commander, NRC; Dave Garrison, NRC Event Properties and Assests manager; and Joe Tripoly, Navy simulator #3 manager/driver. The tractor-trailer with gimble-enhanced, point-of-view simulator was available for more than four hours for NRC staff and other commands at Naval Support Activity Mid-South to tour and experience. Simulators travel the nation at various high traffic events, providing young men and women an opportunity to experience the Navy's high-tech environment. The simulator currently features the Navy video presentation, "Feel the Rush." (Photo by MC2 Michael B. Lavender, NRC Public Affairs)

# Student Among First Females in Prestigious Submarine Officer Program



By MC1(SW/AW) Joseph Seavey, NRD St. Louis Public Affairs

**CHAMPAIGN, Ill.** – As part of the Navy’s policy change allowing women to serve aboard submarines, a University of Illinois student was recently selected to become a future nuclear submarine officer.

Carpentersville, Ill., native Kristin Schoemaker, currently a rising junior at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, was accepted into the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NUPOC) Program following her successful completion of a rigorous selection process, which included several technically-oriented interviews at the Naval Reactors Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

“I chose submarines because of the nuclear technology on a submarine,” said Schoemaker. “And the environment of a close knit community working together to achieve a purpose. I became interested in submarines after touring the USS *West Virginia* [SSBN 736] in Kings Bay, Ga.”

Schoemaker, an avid outdoors enthusiast whose hobbies include hiking, camping, snowboarding, canoeing, and rafting, has always had an interest in nuclear energy and participates in the American Nuclear Society and the U.S. Women in Nuclear organizations on the University of Illinois campus.

“I always had a profound interest in the nuclear industry,” said Schoemaker. “When I heard of the [NUPOC] it was the perfect opportunity for me to serve my country as a leader and advance my skills as a nuclear engineer.”

Female officers will be assigned to guided missile attack (SSGNs) and ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) on both the East and West Coasts. These platforms have more living space than smaller fast attack submarines (SSNs) and require no modification, allowing the Navy to move quickly on integrating female officers in submarines.

“It is an awesome opportunity to be able to participate in becoming one of the first groups of women on a submarine,” said Schoemaker. “I will be able to not only serve my country but lay a path for women of future generations interested in going to sub school.”

After graduating with her bachelor’s degree in nuclear engineering and completing the Navy’s Officer Candidate School (OCS), she will embark upon a 15-month submarine officer training pipeline, which consists of Nuclear Power School, prototype training, and the Submarine Officer Basic Course.

“After OCS I will attend 24-week Naval Nuclear Power

School in Charleston, S.C.,” said Schoemaker. “And then I will be sent to a 26-week Nuclear Power Training Unit also in Charleston, S.C., then Submarine Officer Basic Course, a 12-week course in New London, Conn.”

The NUPOC Program pays full-time college students up to \$5,610 per month while they complete their degrees then guarantees them a job as a naval nuclear officer after they graduate.



NRD St. Louis Officer Production Officer LT Charles Richards congratulates Kristin Schoemaker after her oath of enlistment. With the recent change in policy, Schoemaker will be one of the first women to serve on U.S. Navy submarines. (Courtesy photo)



# Sons to Carry on Family Navy Tradition



Story and photo by Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs

**DENVER** – NRD Denver’s command trainer, NCC Joshua Follansbee, recently enlisted two of his sons into the Navy.

Kyle, 19, had been talking about joining the Navy for the past five years, yet it was his younger brother Matthew, 18, who surprised everyone when, out of the blue, he enlisted through the Delayed Entry Program ahead of Kyle.

Both sons cited their admiration of their father and how he provided for the family throughout his 20-year career.

World travel ranks high on the list for Kyle, while the prestige of affiliating with the submarine service was key to Matthew’s decision. Their mother, Laurie, a

former storekeeper third class in the Navy Reserve, fully supports her sons’ commitment to the Navy.

Both recent high school graduates, they are focusing their summer on preparations for boot camp. This includes studying the Start Guide, memorizing the General Orders of a Sentry and getting plenty of exercise.

Their father has enlisted the aid of the NRD Denver Chief Petty Officers Association to ensure his sons benefit from the mentoring experience of the command’s senior leaders.

Follansbee said, “I’m proud that my sons are carrying on the Navy legacy. They’ll gain valuable experience

over the next few years and return to the workforce with truly marketable skills that their peer group will not have.”



Kyle, left, and Matthew were recently enlisted into the Navy by their father, NRD Denver’s command trainer, NCC Joshua Follansbee. The young men’s admiration of their father and his 20-year Navy career were big influences in their decision to join the Navy themselves.





# Sailors Bring it Home at Fenway



Story by MC1(AW) Paul DeLaughter, NRD New England Public Affairs  
Photo by EM1 Thomas Avery, NRS Northern Connecticut

**BOSTON** – A team of Sailors from NRD New England, the USS *Constitution* and one dependent spouse participated in the second annual Run to Home Base fundraiser at Fenway Park. The 16-person team joined over 2,000 other runners to help raise 2.6 million dollars for the Run to Home Base Program.

The Red Sox Foundation along with Massachusetts General Hospital started the Run to Home Base Program as a means to further research and treatments for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). This collaboration serves the New England area by identifying, motivating and clinically treating service members, veterans and their families impacted by the invisible wounds of war.

The Home Base Program serves the nation as a leader in finding and implementing new treatments for PTSD and

TBI. Working in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, the Home Base Program addresses many of the unmet health and rehabilitation needs of veterans and their families.

All runners were required to raise a \$1,000 entry fee to participate in the unique 9K run through Boston. Most would consider this is a steep price in comparison to a local weekend 5K. However, the finish line at this race was home plate at the oldest



Team NRD New England finishes the second annual Run to Home Base at Boston's Fenway Park. The run raises money and awareness for the research and treatment of post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries.

major league ball field in the country – Fenway Park. Active duty service members were allowed to join the cause for a \$50 discounted rate.

“This is a great cause and a great opportunity,” said Cmdr. Jeff Wilcox, NRD New England’s commanding officer and one of the runners. “This directly benefits our Sailors and Soldiers coming home with war-related injuries. Not to mention being on the field at Fenway where so many greats have played ball.”

QM1(SW/AW) Steve Jackson, NRD New England’s NROTC program manager, said, “Running in formation with the Navy colors leading the pack was motivating not only to the team but other runners on the course as well. It was great to hear other runners screaming, ‘Go Navy.’ To have people rooting us on like that lets you know they appreciate what we do every day.”

EM1(SS) Dan Macomber, the command’s nuclear field coordinator, said he grew up a Red Sox fan and everyone back home in Maine is jealous of him being on their home team’s field.

“It was great being down on home plate, but it was really inspiring seeing so many veterans out there on the course,” Macomber said.

According to Wilcox, between this year and last year’s runs, over \$5,000,000 has been raised for this cause.

“Five million dollars in only two days of execution,” he said. “It really shows what the people of New England are capable of and how much they care about their service members fighting overseas.”



BM2 Aaron Romo and EN2 Ivan Agosto, recruiters at Navy Recruiting District Houston, speak to children ages 5-14 at First Methodist Houston Church Summer Camp about the importance of being creative and learning about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Each week students learned about the different military services. They also sent letters to service members to express their appreciation. (Photo by MC1 Kimberly Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)

# Recruiters Volunteer at Tampa Homeless Shelter



Story and photo by NC1 Christy Miller, NRD Miami Public Affairs

**TAMPA, Fla.** – NRD Miami recruiters stationed in the Tampa, Fla., area recently lent a helping hand to those in need at the Metropolitan Ministries’ homeless shelter.

“This program was a very positive experience for all who volunteered. Sometimes the little things are what counts,” added Touchton.



On a recent hot Friday afternoon, a group of motivated Sailors met to help at-risk families and homeless members of the community cope with their suffering while promoting their dignity and instilling a sense of self-sufficiency by outreaching and volunteering to help sort food cans designated for families in need, working in kitchens and sorting clothing.

“Lending a helping hand, sorting out food baskets and speaking to these families really gave me a sense of what it means to say America’s Navy. Now I get it,” said AWC Wilson Touchton, leading chief petty officer, NRS Brooksville, Fla.

Metropolitan Ministries is an organization that cares for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in the community. They have sheltered over 101 families and 38 single women and have served over 20,000 outreach families with 61,500 children. They also provide over 26,000 families with holiday assistance. None of this would be possible without the 16,000-plus volunteers and the hundreds of man-hours donated.

“I volunteer because it feels good to give back to those who need it. Because I have been in a position to depend on others and it helps give me peace and assurance that I’m helping others in need and doing my part. Hopefully, they will be able to pass this to someone else who is in need,” said BM1 Lee Watkins, recruiter, NRRS Tampa.

Volunteer opportunities consist of working in the warehouse with food or clothes or even working in the kitchen. The NRD Miami Sailors who volunteered were spread throughout the ministries’ organization, some even worked in an outreach capacity.



AT1 Brant Pendleton, NRRS Tampa recruiter, carries a crate of canned goods destined for needy families while volunteering his services at Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa. The organization cares for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. They’ve sheltered over 101 families and 38 single women, and served over 20,000 outreach families with 61,500 children. They also provided over 26,000 families with holiday assistance.

# STEM:

## The Root of *New* Learning



Story and photo by MC3 Ty Connors, NRC Public Affairs

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** – Navy Sailors and Memphis students recently shared a learning experience on the University of Memphis campus.

Active-duty enlisted personnel and officers, and Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) trainees assisted the Shelby County Schools and Memphis City Schools in presenting the Shelby Summer Scholars Institute (SSSI), a local expression of the federally-funded Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program.

STEM is more than simply a new name for the traditional approach. STEM education attempts to transform the typical teacher-centered classroom by encouraging a curriculum that is driven by problem-solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and requires students to actively engage a situation in order to find its solution.

“I am amazed and inspired as I watch the students rise to the challenges of the STEM academy curriculum,” said Navy Personnel Command’s MMCS Walter R. Mathis, Jr., Navy enlisted volunteer coordinator for the SSSI.



RPC Sheronica Prater, who works in NRC’s Operations Department, shares a laugh with a student at the Shelby Summer Scholars Institute (SSSI), a local expression of the federally-funded Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program. The SSSI seeks to ignite interest among Memphis students in STEM courses and professions. The recently held institute provided hands-on experiences in a number of the core areas of the STEM Program.

Locally Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mid-South is a founding member of the Mid-South STEM Alliance (MSSA). MSSA works with the University of Memphis, Memphis City Schools, Shelby County Schools and local industry to establish and maintain K-12 STEM Programs within the Mid-South region.

Sailors and Marines from NSA Mid-South and the

University of Memphis NROTC generously donated their time and energy to this summer’s program.

“Based on things that several volunteers have said, I believe that they [the Sailors] are generally inspired

by the level of interest that the students express in the STEM disciplines and in the Navy,” said Mathis. “The students always ask questions about the Sailor’s job and experiences. The volunteers are motivated Sailors and interacting with the students seems to energize them even more.”

SSSI seeks to support that mission by igniting student interest in STEM courses and professions. The program provided hands-on experiences in a number of the core areas of the STEM Program.

“The students from the STEM academy are the future of our nation,” said Mathis. “Regardless of whether or not they choose to serve in the armed forces, the students that develop a creative problem-solving mindset will be the future leaders of America.”

SSSI students studied earthquakes and worked to build earthquake-resistant homes, designed robots that could navigate mazes, and created submarine unmanned vehicles.

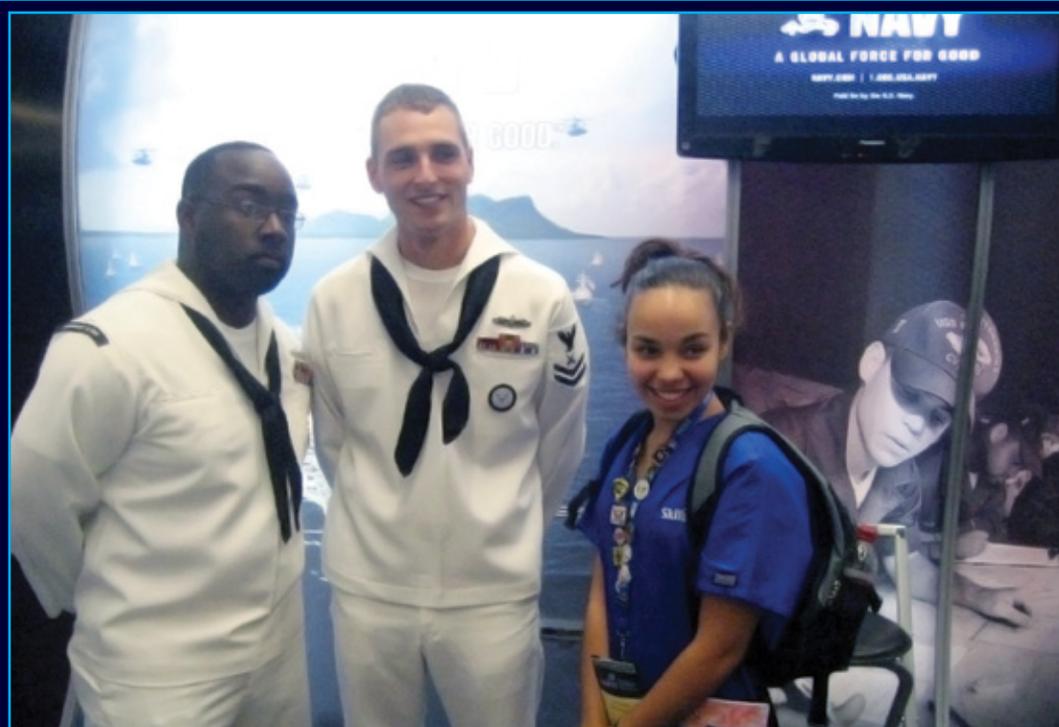
“I think that they [the students] leave with an increased interest in the STEM disciplines and an increased understanding of how the STEM disciplines are used in real-world situations,” said Mathis. “I also hope that they take away a sense of empowerment and self-confidence so that when they see a problem, they believe that they can find and implement a solution.”

“If America is to maintain our high standard of living, we must continue to innovate,” says Dr. Michael Brown, former Nobel Prize winner for medicine and the Paul J. Thomas Professor of Molecular Genetics and Director of the Jonsson Center for Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. “We are competing with nations many times our size. We don’t have a single brain to waste. Math and science are the engines of innovation. With these engines we can lead the world. We must demystify math and science so that all students feel the joy that follows understanding.”

In a keynote speech June 15 at the 2011 Naval STEM Forum in Alexandria, Va, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus outlined the Navy’s plan to double STEM funding in an effort to develop and retain naval STEM professionals to maximize the benefit to the Navy and Marine Corps.

“I have committed to doubling the Navy’s investment in STEM education over the next five years,” Mabus said. “We are going to double it in a targeted and innovative way so that we reach the maximum number of people and have the maximum impact.”

“Today, more than ever before, science holds the key to our survival as a planet and our security and prosperity as a nation,” said President Barack Obama. “It’s time we once again put science at the top of our agenda and work to restore America’s place as the world leader in science and technology.”



GSM2 Michael McAnderson, left, and GM2 Branden Wheeler discuss the benefits of a Navy career with a high school student during the annual SkillsUSA Conference in Kansas City, Mo. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives that works to ensure America has a skilled workforce. (Photo by CDR Clay Mason, NRD St. Louis executive officer)

# Hosts 140 Educators for Tour



Story and photo by MCC Steven Zurell, NRD Seattle

**SEATTLE** – NRD Seattle's Northwest Division hosted more than 140 educators, school counselors and their families for a tour of Naval Station Everett and USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) recently.

The recruiters' idea for a tour became a reality in the span of only two weeks. It was a way for the recruiters to show teachers and counselors what it is like to be stationed as a Sailor on board a naval station.

"We wanted to bring the educators here and show them what it is like so they can take that experience back to their students that might be interested in joining the military," said BM2 Robert Bridgewater, a recruiter in Monroe, Wash.

The base opened their facilities to the educators, showing off their world-class dining facility, enlisted bachelor housing and The Commons recreation facility. Their last stop on base was the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *Abraham Lincoln*.

"I loved seeing the hangar deck and flight decks, learning about all the technology and manpower it takes to move the aircraft around and to have successful take-offs and landings," said Beth Porter, principal of Snohomish High School.

Tour participants were impressed with not only the ship but the Navy personnel that make it all happen.

"I very much appreciated the opportunity for a bit of behind-the-scenes tour and information to deepen my admiration for the men and women who serve our country," said Porter.



MC3 James Cellini, left, answers questions aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) while escorting a group of local school teachers and counselors. The educators were guests of NRD Seattle for the tour which gave them an opportunity to see what Navy life is like at Naval Station Everett and an aircraft carrier.

# Navy Recruiting District HOUSTON Division 9

## Volunteers at Homeless Shelters



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

**HOUSTON** – NRD Houston Division 9 Sailors recently volunteered at local homeless shelters.

Star of Hope is a Christ-centered facility dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men, women and their children. Positive life changes are encouraged through structured programs which focus on spiritual growth, education, employment, life management and recovery from substance abuse.

“The Navy is actually helping with our Summer of Hope Program today,” said Scott Arthur, director of public relations. “Homelessness is not seasonal. People tend to give during the holidays or the winter, but not so much during the summer months.”

Sailors were divided between the Men’s Development Center and the Women and Families Emergency Shelter. They served food during lunch as well as helped prepare food for other meals.

“Volunteering gives us a chance to build camaraderie within the division as well as give back to the community, so it’s our goal to plan something every month,” said NCCS Albert Armijo, Division 9 leading chief petty officer. “Seeing the Navy here made many of the people happy too. Some said ‘Go Navy’ as they came through the lunch line.”

The shelters offer emergency care, life recovery programs and independent living programs. The programs offer anything from just a place to sleep, food,



Navy Recruiting District Houston Division 9 Sailors volunteered to serve food during lunch at the Star of Hope Men’s Development Center in Houston. The center is a Christ-centered facility dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless men, women and their children. Positive life changes are encouraged through structured programs which focus on spiritual growth, education, employment, life management and recovery from substance abuse.

personal development, and education to transitioning into the workforce and independent living.

“I’ve never seen how a homeless shelter works,” said OS2 Lionel Durham. “It’s a new experience for me to see those who don’t have much, and being here really makes me appreciate what I have.”

Star of Hope has more than 11,000 volunteers a year and is funded through donations, grants and foundations.

“The percentage of families with children in shelters and transitional living [in Houston] almost doubled between 2009 and 2010 from 11.5 percent to 21 percent,” said Arthur.



# Counselors Consult Recruiters at Seattle Conference



Story by MCC(AW/SW) Steven Zurell, NRD Seattle Public Affairs  
Photo by Michael Thurman, NRD Seattle Education Services Specialist



**SEATTLE** – Sailors from NRD Seattle represented the Navy at the American School Counselor Association's annual conference in Seattle.

The conference is a chance for counseling professionals from around the country, elementary to college level, to gather for professional development as well as providing an opportunity for recruiters to reach out to the counselors and answer their questions.

The counselors' questions came in all shapes and sizes, from the basics about where the recruiters had been stationed and what their rates entail, to more specific questions about recruiting like what the current availability of jobs is in the Navy or even how to get a recruiter to speak at their school.

Many of the counselors were attracted to the Navy's booth by recruiters in their dress white uniforms who stood out in the crowd and ensured that the Navy's presence was known.

"I was glad that I had a contingent of Sailors with real stories to tell. I can't praise these Sailors enough for their efforts," said

Michael Thurman, NRD Seattle's Education Services Specialist.

NRD's national convention display provided a great backdrop for recruiters to promote the Navy's programs and made it one of the most popular booths at the convention.

One of the highlights, in addition to the wealth of career information available from the recruiters, was the display's iPad that was used to navigate the Navy.com Web site and its Life Ops page, giving counselors a tool to take back to share with their students.



ABF2 Rodney Barkers discusses Navy opportunities with a visitor at the annual American School Counselors Association conference held in Seattle. NRC's national convention display was a perfect backdrop for recruiters to use while discussing Navy programs and answering questions from school counselors.

# Recruiter Goes to the Mat for Wrestling Team



Story by MCC(AW/SW) Anthony Briggs, Jr., and YN3 Valerie Grayson, NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs

**LOS ANGELES** – Always give back, whenever, wherever you can. This philosophy is center stage for DC2 Carlos Medina-Sanchez, a recruiter stationed at NRD Los Angeles (LA).

His passion for freestyle wrestling helped him form a girls wrestling team at La Puente High School.

As a youth, Medina-Sanchez found his way into some trouble, and his family was worried about his path to adulthood. It was his mother, Shondraya Medina, whose tough love helped him turn it all around. She introduced him to wrestling by taking him to see his uncle compete. He was in love with the sport immediately but his grades prevented him from competing.

“I made him prove himself freshman year; if he could get his grades up, he could wrestle,” said his tough-loving mother.

He worked hard on his grades, earning an opportunity to wrestle his sophomore year, where he lost every match. “How he stayed in love with that sport, I’ll never know,” said Medina.

Medina-Sanchez stuck it out for the last two years of high school, improving his grades and his character for what he would become today. After graduating high school, he returned to his high school as a coach, in addition to attending college and working full-time.

While wrestling in college, he learned about opportunities to wrestle in the Navy. He was sold on the decision when he learned the Navy would help him finish paying for college plus give him the opportunity to compete and see the world.

When Medina-Sanchez left for the Navy, his wrestling gear went with him.

While stationed on USS *Duluth* (LPD 6), he wrestled against much larger Marines and Sailors. A fellow Sailor recorded all his matches to show his mother when he returned home on leave. At that point, a request chit was approved and he was issued orders to the Navy Region South Pacific Wrestling Team, where he competed in local, state, and international tournaments.

“To see him succeed at so many things that he puts his mind to has made me so proud,” said his mother.

Fast forward to present day.

La Puente High is in the middle of a blue-collar neighborhood. The school’s academic record leaves much room for improvement. Most of the students in this LA suburb are predominately Latino. This is Medina-Sanchez’s fertile ground, not just as a Navy recruiter, but as a mentor and a leader.

It wasn’t long before Medina-Sanchez found his way to the gym – more specifically, the wrestling team.

In his first year at La Puente High, the male-dominated wrestling team had just two females. These two brought in three more girls, making what Medina-Sanchez called “The Phantom Five.”

“The first five – that’s a team,” said Medina-Sanchez. “Realistically, five people could possibly win a tournament and we knew these five would be the nucleus.”

During the first year, these underdogs filled in for the boys' weight classes. The Phantom Five stood their ground, taking on the male competition with several girls boasting 5-2 records.

"Every single girl during their first year beat a guy. There wasn't a girl on the team that didn't have a win over a male competitor," said Medina-Sanchez. "They were very proud of their accomplishments for the first year."

At the end of the season, the coach promised those who stuck with him in the summer of 2010 would have a chance at being one of the top two in their weight class statewide. The five girls began to bring in their friends, and the La Puente team grew to include 20 girls and 20 boys. The Warriors spent the entire summer training and conditioning for the upcoming wrestling season. Medina-Sanchez would open the training room at 6 a.m. to work out with the team before starting his day recruiting at his office located in the Puente Hills Mall.

"I told them that winning at a meet meant working hard, and harder than their opponents. If they wanted to compete against the best in the state they had to be dedicated. We added swimming and cross-country running to our workout routine and got ready for the season. Before I knew it, we were at our first all-girls tournament with 18 girls," said the coach, beaming with pride. "And, we came back with medals."

The Lady Warriors had made a name for themselves in a very short time, training in an auxiliary room without air conditioning that proved too small to house a regulation-sized wrestling mat. The room not accommodating both the boys and girls to train at the same time meant splitting up during practice; when the girls were on the mat, the boys were working out in the gym, and vice versa.

Looking at the irregular shapes that should be circles on the mats taped together using duct tape one might

think La Puente isn't serious about their wrestling, but that point couldn't be more further from the truth. The lack of size in the wrestling room has proven to be an advantage for the Warriors. With the reduced size, team members had to learn how to perform in a small area, which meant that when they competed on a regulation mat they were at an advantage.

"When we realized that we couldn't train on a regulation-sized mat, we told our team they would be more effective in close quarters. They could use that as an advantage," said Medina-Sanchez. With that, the little program that could was getting the attention of other schools in the area.

By the end of the 2010-2011 season, West Covina High School, the number one girls wrestling team in the



HT1 Jeffrey Sarver, left, NRD Houston, and Travis Davis, Battleship *Texas* Museum restoration planner, work to open a hatch. NRD Houston Sailors are assisting with ongoing restoration to return the battleship in LaPorte, Texas, to her 1945 condition at the end of World War II. (Photo by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)

state, requested a meet against the La Puente team before the state qualification meets. This proved a pivotal moment for the team and their coach. “We knew our girls were good and winning state [California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) championships] was our next goal.”

In order to qualify for state, a wrestler must be in one of the top 12 spots of CIF Southern Sectional to continue on to the state-championship. The Lady Warriors qualified four with three alternates.

At the Southern Sectional, the Warriors’ best finish belonged to one of the girls. She placed second, making her the number two seed out of the southern section of California. It was that success which inspired this young lady to write a story on coach Medina-Sanchez.

“She could have picked anybody. The fact that she picked me touched my heart,” he said.

As a result of hard work and dedication, La Puente placed eighth from a field of 141 at the 2010-2011 CIF championships. Warriors wrestling head coach Michael Nguyen sees the addition of Medina-Sanchez as an asset to the entire team.

“He has the ability to instill confidence for a task they think might not be possible,” said Nguyen. “When I came to La Puente he had been volunteering for two years and his success was evident. He goes out of the realm of coaching. I was told that the school wasn’t really open to military recruiters because they were only trolling for warm bodies. Carlos changed how the school regarded recruiters and the military in general. He cares about the welfare of these kids and it shows.”

Medina-Sanchez and his family have reached out to the girls wrestling team. His mother and wife, Christine Medina-Sanchez, play motherly roles, something lacking for some of them. His mother travels from Bakersfield to La Puente in support of the Warriors, providing advice and healthy snacks for the girls.

The La Puente Lady Warrior wrestlers and coaches have grown beyond a team; it is now a close-knit family.

“The money offered that was to be given to coach Medina-Sanchez from the school was differed and put right back into the program,” said assistant coach Jim Lane. “Unitards [the wrestling uniform] for boys are cut differently. They are not appropriate for the girls and we knew the school couldn’t afford them. Carlos stepped up and purchased them so they wouldn’t feel uncomfortable while wrestling. If a kid needs wrestling shoes and can’t afford them, he’ll take them to the store to get them

shoes. He has definitely inspired me and helped me get that excitement for the sport again.”

Medina-Sanchez takes pride in his coaching and in the Phantom Five that grew to a whole roster of a team.

“I know that when we go to a tournament we’re coming home with a first place, along with a handful of seconds, thirds and fourths.

Medina-Sanchez has pushed the girls to wear their hard-earned medals at school to show people that they are an integral part of the wrestling team.

“Unfortunately, the girls [on their own] are not a sanctioned team because there is no girls league,” said the coach. “We are currently trying to change this by raising awareness with other local area high schools. It’s not that we don’t want to compete against the boys; one of our Lady Warriors racked up a 9-2 record against the boys in her weight class. We want to create a [girls] league so they can be recognized. I think there’s enough support now, but to make it solid we need a bit more.”

Medina-Sanchez’s passion is not only to coach these girls but to give them a chance to continue this through college, and to simply give them a chance to go to college with a scholarship.

Phantom Five-member senior Blanca Flores is one of the many success stories that has emerged from La Puente. She received a full academic scholarship to the University of California, Santa Cruz where she hopes to take after her coach in starting a wrestling career.

“He’s my favorite coach,” said Flores. “He’s inspired me to do so much. Seriously, he’s like my second dad.”

The Warriors decided to honor their coach early in 2011. Organizers brought together female high school wrestlers from the local area for a girl’s tournament and named the event after the Medina-Sanchez family. “We knew we wanted to do something special to say thank you to Carlos and his family,” said Nguyen.

“When I found out the tournament was named after my family, I was speechless – which is something very hard for me,” joked Medina-Sanchez.

As he thinks about his future, he’s sure of one thing: He will one day return to La Puente High.

“I don’t care what it takes. If I’m 41 when I get out of the Navy, I’m coming back to this town. I’m coming back.”



# LA-based Chiefs 'Anchor Up' to Build Home



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

**LOS ANGELES** – Chief petty officers from NRD Los Angeles (LA) recently assisted in the construction of a new home in Lawndale, Calif.

The two-bedroom home, in the working-class LA suburb, is being built by Habitat for Humanity with the help of volunteers and civic groups.

“As an organization, our mess is always looking for ways to give back to the community,” said Chino, Calif.-native NCC Brian Burch. “Knowing we’re helping to give a family a place to call home feels very nice.”

Habitat for Humanity uses donations from local and national donors along with labor from volunteers to build or refurbish homes for families who meet their income criteria.

“The partner families who are selected as recipients are required to contribute physically as well as financially to the construction of their home,” said Chris Untiet, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles’ AmeriCorps Faith and Community Relations coordinator. “They see their home up close at each stage of construction and that sweat equity really gives them a sense the home is truly their own.”

The NRD LA chiefs were responsible for assisting with framing walls and securing ceiling beams which will run throughout the length of the single-story home. “Getting the beams up took a lot of coordination,” said NCCS Anthony A. Murphy from Glendale, Ariz. “It’s pretty neat seeing the house at this stage [of construction] because when we come back [at the dedication ceremony] we’ll be able to watch the family get the keys to a home we helped to build.”

The more than 100 volunteer hours dedicated to the project is one of many

community outreach projects the command is involved in.

“We recognize that ‘big Navy’ is America’s global force for good and we look at what we’re doing here in LA as a ‘local force for good,’” said NRD LA’s Operations Officer, LT Jason Julao. “We live here and giving back to our communities here helps to ground us as good neighbors and good friends.”



The NRD Houston Color Guard presented colors June 14 at the First United Methodist Church Summer Youth Camp during their Flag Day celebration. While ABF2 Kenneth Cranston, left, holds the American flag, AD1 Jarrett Clewis explains what the stars, stripes, and colors signify. (Photo by MC1 Kimberly Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)





# 60 Seconds

*from the Force Master Chief*



Story and photo by MC3 Ty Connors, NRC Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** – “The thing about Navy recruiters is that recruiters are the best communicators that we have in the Navy. However, we tend to be the worst communicators with each other,” said Master Chief Earl Gray, Force Master Chief (FORCM) of NRC.

FORCM is actively engaging this obstacle with standard procedures and with an innovative new approach.

“My challenge is how to be a better communicator from where I sit,” said Gray.

FORCM uses multiple methods to facilitate communication between NRC, the 26 NRDs, and more than 1,400 NRSs around the country and the world. Like many Navy commands, he and his staff communicate through site visits, conference calls, and email correspondence.

The innovation that Gray has brought with him from his previous command to NRC is “60 Seconds from the Force Master Chief,” a weekly email that he describes as “a direct, informative line of communication.”

“The most important thing you have in life is time. Once it is gone you can’t get it back,” said Gray. “I want to make very good use of your time whenever I say something to you. If you can afford to have one minute of your life, to get something for you, then it will be helpful.”

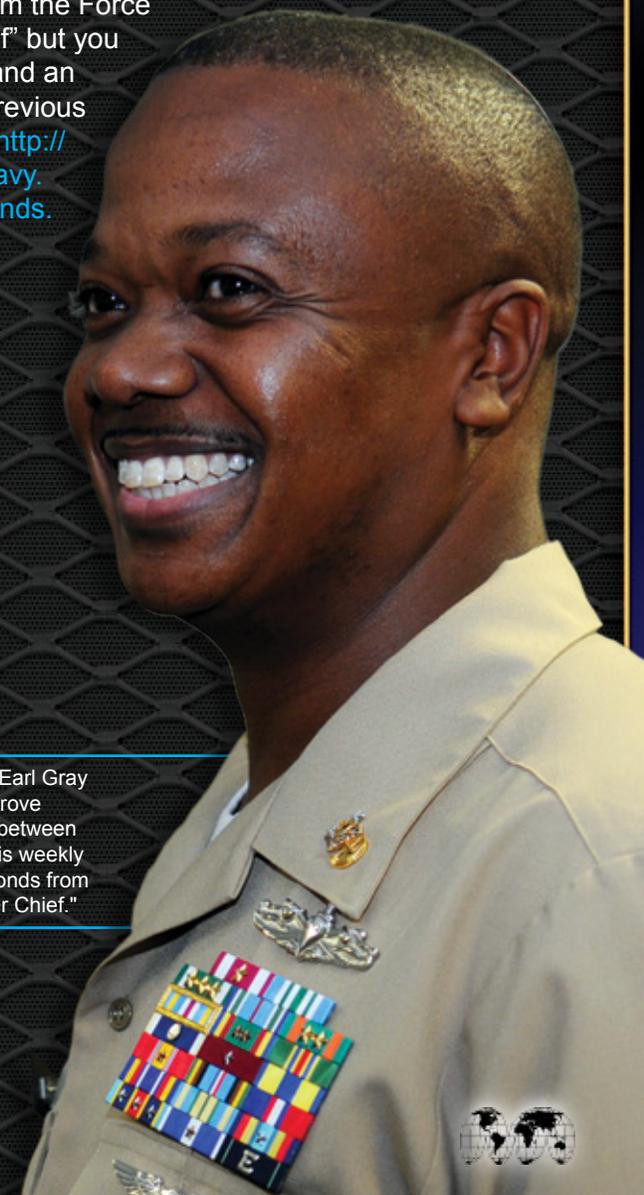
“Trying to sort through an average of about 500 emails a day in my inbox, I wanted to create a document that when you opened it, it was easy,” said Gray. “I wanted something that will be very quick and will be very impactful.”

“I tried to create a document that goes out every week and is a quick read and has very relevant information,” said Gray. “That document is not something that comes from just my brain, it has input from every department

here at headquarters, as well as everyone across the field. The ‘60 Seconds from the Force’ is, in fact, from the entire force, not necessarily something that comes just from me, because we are all one team here. The information exchange is good for everyone.”

Each member of NRC receives a personal email each Friday containing that week’s “60 Seconds from the Force Master Chief” but you can view it and an archive of previous releases at [http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/60\\_seconds.htm](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/60_seconds.htm).

NRC’s FORCM Earl Gray is striving to improve communication between recruiters with his weekly emails, “60 Seconds from the Force Master Chief.”



Navy Recruiting District

# JACKSONVILLE

# Recruiter Commissions DOCTOR



By LTJG William A. Salter, NRD Jacksonville

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** – A special direct commission officer (DCO) commissioning ceremony took place July 9, 2011, aboard Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

LTJG Bill Salter, officer recruiter with NRD Jacksonville, administered the oath of office to Dr. Demetria Bell-Bryant of Willacoochee, Ga., who was commissioned under the Navy Reserve DCO Program as an ensign with a human resources designator.

Bell-Bryant's initial reserve assignment is with Navy Reserve 4th Navy Expeditionary Regiment, Jacksonville. She is currently an educator with the Atkinson County, Ga., School System.

Attending the ceremony were Bell-Bryant's husband, Daryl, daughters Demeria (age 10) and Decaria (age 7); her parents, Mr. and Mrs. DeLouis Bell; and her uncle, Army Reserve Sgt. Dante Griffin, all from Willacoochee.

Bell-Bryant said, "I am honored to be commissioned as a Navy officer. My oldest brother is a retired Navy CPO and when I attended my younger brother's graduation from Marine boot camp about four years ago, my desire to become a Navy officer quickly developed into a goal. I am very honored and thankful. Having my family here to support me during this special occasion means a lot to me. I am even more excited because my uncle was here to give me my first official salute."

The U.S. Navy Reserve Direct Commissioning Program allows university-educated professionals, between ages 19 to 42 (or older, in some cases), the opportunity to be appointed as an officer in the Navy Reserve. Most DCOs hold advanced degrees, i.e., masters or doctors, and/or significant civilian work experience. In recent years, the number of direct commissions offered by the Navy Reserve has increased due to the need for skilled officers to augment Navy active duty forces. The Direct Commissioning Program serves the expanded needs of



LTJG Bill Salter, left, presents new ENS Demetria Bell-Bryant with her commissioning certificate on board Naval Station Mayport, Fla. Her husband, two daughters, parents, and uncle were in attendance at the commissioning ceremony to witness the fulfillment of Bell-Bryant's goal of becoming a Navy officer. (Courtesy photo)

the Navy in certain officer skill areas such as science, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, intelligence, supply-logistics, engineering, public affairs, chaplains, oceanography, and merchant marine affairs.



# LOS ANGELES RDAC

## Members Praised for Local Support



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

**LOS ANGELES** – Members of the Los Angeles Recruiting District Assistance Council (RDAC) were recently honored at a ceremony in Culver City, Calif.

The RDAC assists the NRD's efforts by opening doors with business owners and other civic leaders by promoting a Navy conversation. They also assist local recruiters at Delayed Entry Program meetings, and speaking with parents of future Sailors about Navy life and what it means to serve.

Members received a personal letter from the commanding officer as well as a few small tokens of appreciation for their assistance in helping the district make goal for over 40 consecutive months.

"I love the interaction with our future Sailors," said retired QMC(SS) Rogelio Hermosillo. "It's important for me to

give back because someone sat down with me when I was in their shoes."

The importance of giving back was also echoed by NRD Los Angeles CMDCM Wayne Marcus. "We are always looking for ways of promoting a Navy conversation and our RDAC members are always speaking about the opportunities the Navy can bring to an individual," said Marcus. "And the fact that they are volunteers speaks volumes as to how much they give back to Navy and the community."

"The work you have done and continue to do have been phenomenal," said NRD Los Angeles Commanding Officer, CDR Christopher N. Collins. "I want to personally thank you for the doors you've helped to open and I appreciate all the work you've done on behalf of Navy recruiting."



RDML Robin Graf, commander, Navy Recruiting Command, front row second from right; CDR Ross Budge, commanding officer, NRD St. Louis, front row center; and FORCM Earl Gray, far left second row, spent time with the chief petty officers mess and wardroom during a visit to NRD St. Louis. (Official U.S. Navy photo)

# Engineering Students Tour Aircraft Carrier



Story and photo by MCC(SW/AW) Steven Zurell, NRD Seattle Public Affairs

**SEATTLE** – NRD Seattle and USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) hosted a tour for 13 engineering students from the University of Washington to provide a glimpse of career opportunities available in the Navy.

Professor Jim Hermanson, Ph.D., chair of the aeronautics and astronautics department at the university, approached the NRD about setting up the tour for his students because of his prior experience with the Navy.

Hermanson was invited to take part in an educators orientation visit a few years ago where he had the opportunity to embark on USS *San Francisco* (SSN 711) and experience Navy life at sea. He frequently talks about Navy opportunities with his students, but wanted them to experience what the Navy is like aboard a ship firsthand.

“I often advise students during both informal discussions and formal classroom presentations to seriously consider the military as their next career move,” said Hermanson. “I make sure they’re aware of the many opportunities the Navy and the military in general offer engineering graduates, including the unique benefits: travel, advancement opportunities, great employee benefits, and the chance to work with the ‘real thing’ in terms of hardware and systems.”

The students’ tour started in USS *Abraham Lincoln*’s hangar bay for a welcome and safety brief before heading out to explore the ship. The first stop was an arresting gear engine room

where they learned about the hardware and systems behind landing an aircraft aboard a ship at sea.

Other stops on the tour included the ship’s bridge, flight deck and fo’c’sle to see other engineering highlights on the ship.

“I think the students were impressed with the size and capabilities of *Lincoln*,” said Hermanson. “Being engineers, they talked a lot [after the tour] about the practical aspects of carrier operations, such as the aircraft, launch/arrest equipment, resupply, ship’s power and propulsion.”

The students, who are studying a range of different types of engineering, enjoyed their experience on the tour. One was so motivated afterwards that he immediately made an appointment with a recruiter to look into applying for Navy officer programs.



An aviation boatswain's mate from USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) Air Department explains the Mark 7 Mod 3 arresting gear engine to a group of engineering students from the University of Washington. NRD Seattle's engineering officer recruiters invited the group to tour the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier to give them an opportunity to see what Navy life is like aboard a Navy vessel.

# Military Medical Facility Named for Colorado Corpsman Killed in Iraq



Story and photos by Dan Puleio, NRD Denver Public Affairs

**DENVER** – The mourning of HM3(FMF) Christopher “Doc” Anderson’s passing has long since been replaced with a rejoicing for the immeasurable positive influences his life imbued on so many.

July 8, 2011, marked a quantum leap for the inspirational significance the spirit of Anderson will impart on the men and women in military health professions.

This date marked the dedication of a premier medical training facility, one of the largest in all of military medicine. Named Anderson Hall, this state-of-the-art 225,000 square foot, four-story complex is located at Fort Sam Houston, Joint Base San Antonio. Through these doors will pass more than 12,000 U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard corpsmen and medical technicians each year.

As part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act, the Navy closed facilities at Great Lakes, San Diego, and Portsmouth, Va., to support this sweeping initiative.

Commander, Navy Medicine Support Command, Jacksonville, RDML Eleanor Valentin stated, “When I

first joined the Navy I never dreamed that I’d be integral to such a history-changing initiative. It is an honor to be a part of events today.”

So how did Anderson, a young corpsman killed in action during his first deployment to Iraq, get selected to have this champion facility named after him?



Retired ETC(SEAL) Rick Anderson and his wife, Debra, join RDML William Kiser, commander Medical Education and Training Campus (METC), Fort Sam Houston following the July 8, 2011, dedication of METC’s Anderson Hall. The four-story training facility was named in memory of their son, HM3(FMF) Christopher “Doc” Anderson, who was killed Dec. 4, 2006, in Iraq while serving with the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

RDML William R. Kiser, Commander, Medical Education and Training Campus (METC), Fort Sam Houston, answered that question in his speech to the 300 family, friends, METC staff, Marines, Sailors and veterans assembled at the dedication ceremony.

“The giving of a name embodies an encapsulation of the hopes and dreams for that being named... heritage, hope, expectations, dreams. And so today we are here to name this building after an American hero, HM3(FMF) Christopher Anderson, with the expectation that the same sense of courage, dedication and focus that energized that young man will find a home here, in the lives of those who give this building life, and in the lives of those young men and women, of all services, whose educations will be shaped here and who will leave here to go forth and serve,” said Kiser.

By all accounts, Anderson was a remarkable young man. The son of a former NRD Denver recruiter, he was a future Sailor at NRD Denver who was a natural leader. By the time he returned to NRD Denver after boot camp and before HM “A” School, he had already referred four people into enlisting in the Navy. He was promoted to E3 and presented a Navy Achievement Medal, highly unusual for such a junior Sailor.

One of the many heroic actions by Anderson involved his platoon sergeant, Marine Sgt. Gregory Edwards, who was on patrol clearing home after home when he got word of a possible improvised explosive device (IED) placed on a military caravan route nearby. Edwards and the platoon left the house search to inspect the area. He was the fourth person to cross the same path when the IED exploded 18 inches from him.

Both of Edwards’ legs and left hand were shattered. Anderson was called immediately and the first on the scene. He was given full credit for saving his sergeant’s life and was later awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat “V” (Valor) for his actions.

On Dec. 4, 2006, Anderson was killed by a mortar attack on the Marines’ compound in the Al Anbar province of Iraq.

Anderson’s father, retired ETC(SEAL) Rick Anderson stated on that fateful day, “Christopher gave his life in the defense of his nation, his local community, his brethren Marines and his family. Christopher wanted all his life to make a difference in this world and in his short 24 years accomplished more than most will ever accomplish in a lifetime.”

Kiser echoed those words by saying, “Our calling, both in the military and as medical professionals, involves setting aside self-interest and tending instead to the interests of those who are most broken, most wounded,



RDML Eleanor Valentin, commander, Navy Medicine Support Command, Jacksonville, discusses the Anderson Hall dedication with retired Marine Sgt. Gregory Edwards, one of the ceremony guest speakers. HM3(FMF) Christopher Anderson was credited with saving Edwards’ life after an IED exploded and shattered both his legs and one of his arms. The premier medical training facility was named in honor of Anderson during ceremonies recently in San Antonio.

most desperate, even when it involves personal risk... especially when it is hard and involves personal risk.”

It is indeed the spirit of “Doc” Anderson that embodies the finest attributes of the Navy corpsman, his passion for life, competitive spirit and seemingly endless sharing and uplifting contributions that will forever live on to inspire the hundreds of thousands of students toward the challenges that lie ahead, both as military and medical professionals, as they set out to make their mark on America’s future.

“Doc” was a great son, a great Sailor and corpsman, and in the truest sense of the word, a great American patriot.



# THE DISTRICTS' BEST STATIONS

## JUNE 2011

NRD Atlanta  
NRS Macon

NRD Chicago  
NRS Hyde Park

NRD Dallas  
NRS McKinney

NRD Denver  
NRS Castle Rock

NRD Houston  
NRS Beaumont

NRD Jacksonville  
NRS Tallahassee

NRD Los Angeles  
NRS Downey

NRD Minneapolis  
NRS Cedar Rapids

NRD Nashville  
NRS Bartlett

NRD New England  
NRS Albany

NRD New Orleans  
NRS Slidell

NRD New York  
NRS Bayridge

NRD Ohio  
NRS Elyria

NRD Philadelphia  
NRS Center City

NRD Phoenix  
NRS Mesa

NRD Portland  
NRS Gresham

NRD Raleigh  
NRS Cary

NRD Richmond  
NRS Fairfax

NRD San Antonio  
NRS South Corpus Christi

NRD San Diego  
NRS Temecula

NRD San Francisco  
NRS Modesto

NRD Seattle  
NRS Everett

NRD St. Louis  
NRS Florissant

## JULY 2011

NRD Chicago  
NRS Aurora

NRD Dallas  
NRS Lawton

NRD Denver  
NRS Longmont

NRD Houston  
NRS Humble

NRD Jacksonville  
NRS Kissimmee

NRD Los Angeles  
NRS Santa Monica

NRD Minneapolis  
NRS Lincoln

NRD Nashville  
NRS Cleveland

NRD New England  
NRS Bangor

NRD New Orleans  
NRS Spanish Fort

NRD New York  
NRS Tribeca

NRD Ohio  
NRS Toledo

NRD Philadelphia  
NRS Lancaster

NRD Phoenix  
NRS Roswell

NRD Portland  
NRS Beaverton

NRD Raleigh  
NRS Salisbury

NRD San Antonio  
NRS Brownwood

NRD San Diego  
NRS Santa Ana

NRD San Francisco  
NRS Livermore

NRD Seattle  
NRS Sandpoint

NRD St. Louis  
NRS Overland Park

# ADMIRAL'S FIVE-STAR RECRUITERS

## JUNE 2011

NRD Atlanta  
ABH2 Dollneisha Pope

NRD Chicago  
AT1 Jason Harry

NRD Dallas  
MM2 John Ballard

NRD Denver  
AM2 Steven Wieck

NRD Houston  
ET2 Hunter Billiu

NRD Jacksonville  
EM2 Jerel Forshee

NRD Los Angeles  
MM1 Ferlin Espinal

NRD Minneapolis  
ABH2 David Brown

NRD Nashville  
BM2 Brandon Orr

NRD New England  
STG1 Paul Sorensen

NRD New Orleans  
AT2 Keith Rotton

NRD New York  
AO2 Bryan Adams

NRD Ohio  
AT2 Cory Massengill

NRD Philadelphia  
MM1 Jaewlaye Sherman

NRD Phoenix  
BM1 Damion Evans

NRD Portland  
GSE1 D.J. Crittenden

NRD Raleigh  
EN2 Joe Lawrence

NRD Richmond  
LS1 Sarah Patton

NRD San Antonio  
BM1 Craig Boone

NRD San Diego  
CTT2 Johnathan Williams

NRD San Francisco  
LS2 Anthony Solis

NRD Seattle  
EN2 Wade Houston

NRD St. Louis  
AD2 Rodney Parsons

## JULY 2011

NRD Chicago  
CTT1 Latrina Crummie

NRD Dallas  
UT2 Deston Woodlee

NRD Denver  
AD2 Kristoffer May

NRD Houston  
ABF2 Damon St. Ann

NRD Jacksonville  
CTR1 Mary Francis

NRD Los Angeles  
MM1 Ferlin Espinal

NRD Minneapolis  
STG1 Damien Falkner

NRD Nashville  
GSM2 John Pinkston

NRD New England  
FC1 Christopher Gorham

NRD New Orleans  
EM2 Robyn Pitman

NRD New York  
CTR2 Fasil Azbite

NRD Ohio  
STG2 William Bamforth

NRD Philadelphia  
AC1 Joshua Abramowitz

NRD Phoenix  
EM2 Esteban Vasquez

NRD Portland  
QMC Rafael Saladin

NRD Raleigh  
OS2 Gabriel Evans

NRD San Antonio  
MM1 Darrell Bengé

NRD San Diego  
EM2 Jaime Cabrera

NRD San Francisco  
LS2 Michael Burford

NRD Seattle  
DC2 Christopher Henke

NRD St. Louis  
AE1 Eugene Buffard



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