

NAVY *RECRUITER*

magazine

Supporting Navy Recruiters

*July-August 2012
Volume Sixty Number Four*

PSAs
Getting the Navy into the Local Community

NRD/Phoenix
A Successful Navy Week

Improved Tools
VALOR Introduces a New Way to Recruit

NROTC
Scholarships Awarded to Texas Students

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SOCIAL MEDIA...



Front cover: AB1 Nathaniel Tolentino, left, GST1 Gerardo Vasquez, NC1 Kisha Boyer, and BM1 Esther Gil conduct the opening ceremony as NRD San Diego's Color Guard during the annual National Naval Officers Association conference last August in San Diego. (Photo by MCC Bradley J. Sapp, NRD San Diego Public Affairs)

Back cover: The NRC Color Guard renders flag honors during the christening ceremony of the steamboat American Queen on Beale Street Landing in Memphis, Tenn., on April 27, 2012. The American Queen belongs to the Great American Steamboat Company and will be homeported in Memphis. It is the largest and most opulent steamboat ever built, accommodating 436 guests. (Photo by MC3 Ty C. Connors, NRC Creative Division)

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A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD.™

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From the Admiral



Rear Admiral Earl L. Gay
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

Shipmates:

First, let me congratulate each and every member of this amazing Navy Recruiting Team for a job well done!

As we forge ahead into the final quarter of the FY12 recruiting year, we continue to exceed goals in the active and reserve enlisted programs. We are also striving hard to meet our active and reserve officer goals, with a keen focus on reserve medical and general officer production.

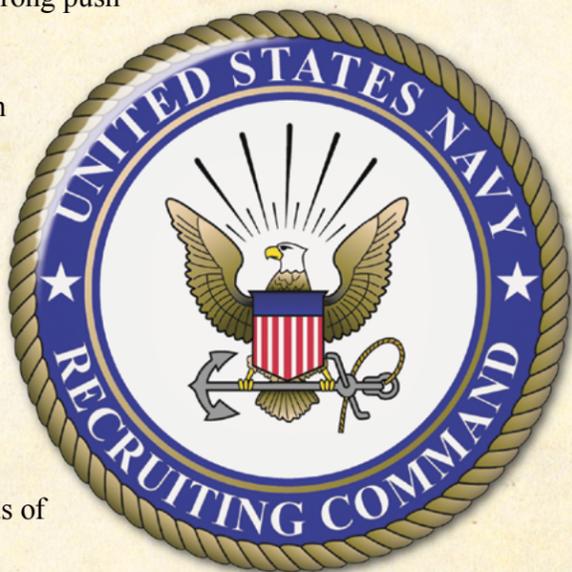
I am extremely proud of the fact that you continue to meet our most critical requirements in production: FIT and quality. All leading indicators remain positive as we strive to reach our 63rd and 64th consecutive months of "Big 5" mission accomplishment. As this edition of Navy Recruiter Magazine hits the streets, your superb planning and effort has laid the foundation for a strong push through the critical summer months!

That said, we cannot rest on our laurels. We must work hard on the specific "eaches" within our enlisted and officer programs and continue our mission to diversify America's Navy to reflect the face of our great nation we serve.

Don't ever forget, America's greatest asset is our people. Navy Recruiting's greatest asset is YOU!

It is an honor to lead this outstanding Navy Recruiting Team! Thanks again to each of you for your hard work and dedication. You have enabled our team to continually meet mission by recruiting quality Sailors today that "FIT" the needs of America's Navy now and into the future.

ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT!



First Accession a Memorable One

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

LOS ANGELES – Recruiters are tasked with bringing in the highest quality men and women into the United States Navy. But for LT Danielle Fischer, her first accession will always be a very special one.

"I remember visiting Adeshola's nursing class and she was the quietest person in the room," said Fischer, recounting their first meeting. "She asked for information about the Navy and started the process that day."

Adeshola Adewunmi was born in Nigeria in 1972. She came to the United States on Dec. 20, 2001, with hopes of a better life for herself and her immediate family.

She met Fischer, a Navy nurse working as a medical programs recruiter at NRD Los

Angeles, while pursuing a nursing degree at West Coast University in North Hollywood, Calif.

"She [Fischer] is one of the best things that has ever happened to me in life," said Adewunmi. "I will never forget the first day I saw her at my school. I went to her that day because something told me that she would be the person that would help me make my dream of becoming a Navy nurse a reality."

Fischer guided Adewunmi through the process of becoming a member of the Navy Nurse Corps for nearly a year. Through the process the two became friends.



Adeshola Adewunmi, an immigrant from Nigeria, is joined by NRD Los Angeles Medical Programs Officer Recruiter LT Danielle Fischer just after reciting the oath of office at a nursing pinning ceremony held at West Coast University in North Hollywood, Calif. Adewunmi is Fischer's first accession. Throughout the recruiting process, the two developed a special bond.

At the pinning ceremony for West Coast University's newest nurses, friends and families gathered to see their loved ones receive their certificates of completion and a small battery-operated candle; the latter representing famed nurse Florence Nightingale

who was called "The Lady with the Lamp" for making rounds at night tending to soldiers in the Crimean War (1853-1856).

After the students lit their candles and recited the nurse's oath, they were officially recognized as nurses.

Shortly after, Adewunmi stood in front of the classmates she'd spent countless hours of classroom and practical instruction with and recited the oath of appointment – becoming an officer in the United States Navy.

See "First Accession" on page 30



NROTC Students Presented Scholarships at NSBE Ceremony

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

PITTSBURGH – Five Navy-bound college students took home more than \$591,000 worth of scholarships during the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) 15th Annual Golden Torch Awards ceremony March 31. The NSBE annual convention concluded with a special awards ceremony honoring outstanding academic achievement, and community and cultural responsibility. The U.S. Navy was honored as the diamond sponsor of the ceremony.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), ADM Jonathan Greenert, provided the keynote address for the awards event.

Speaking on the extensive ongoing relationship between the Navy and NSBE, Greenert noted the distinct similarities of both organizations. “They share the same values as our Navy – values of dedication, leadership, and a commitment to values and that is what we are looking for,” said Greenert.

The Golden Torch Awards are designed to highlight the accomplishments of distinguished black engineers and technical professionals, as well as college-bound students. RADM Earl L. Gay, commander, NRC, joined Greenert in presenting five NROTC scholarship checks to Taykor

Mitchman, Gafar Odufuye, Quincy Benbow, Domenick Brunner and Dominique Wilson in front of more than 3,000 audience members.

In addition, the Gene Washington Champion of Champions award was presented to NRC’s Diversity Director, CDR Roy Harrison. Harrison, in a moment of humility

The events began with a job fair, the first hour of which was specific to those students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. The highly competitive attendees impressed NRD Pittsburgh recruiters, who had no problem finding a multitude of highly-qualified applicants to speak with. A second career fair was held on day two, with an entire hour dedicated to outstanding high school students.



Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, right, and Commander NRC, RADM Earl L. Gay, flank the five NROTC scholarship winners holding their presentation checks that total more than \$591,000. The checks were awarded at the 2012 National Society of Black Engineers Annual Convention at which Greenert was the keynote speaker.



Retired CAPT Anthony Barnes, left; Commander NRC, RADM Earl L. Gay; NCC Steven Martin, NRC Diversity Office; NRC Diversity Director CDR Roy Harrison; CNO ADM Jonathan W. Greenert; and actor Lamman Rucker are photographed with the Gene Washington Champion of Champions Award. Harrison was presented the award for his outstanding service to NSBE at their recent awards ceremony, and he, in turn, presented it to Martin.

representative of many great Navy officers, acknowledged and re-presented his award to NRC’s NCC Steven Martin. The Champion of Champions Award, named after former Minnesota Viking Gene Washington, is presented to one individual each year for their outstanding service to NSBE.

The awards ceremony was the culmination of three days of events featuring displays from hundreds of agencies and companies looking for some of the best and brightest engineering students in the world.

Greenert was pleased at the caliber of students attending this year’s NSBE conference and the opportunity to connect those students to Navy recruiters in attendance.

“The Navy is all about technology – aeronautical engineering, technical engineering, nuclear engineering,” said Greenert. “Every medium we operate in is technical, so it is all about connecting those kids, and having them come in to our Navy and design and repair and maintain our Navy. That is our future.”

Also highlighting the second day of events was a workshop by CAPT Cynthia I. Macri, special assistant to the CNO for Diversity. An accomplished doctor, Macri presented, “Special Delivery! The intersection of Health, Medicine, and Engineering: Adventures in Robotics.”

Macri’s presentation connected the disciplines of engineering and medicine together in a way that was engaging and interactive for all students attending. Using a series of simulation stations, Macri provided opportunities to students to use medical tools and techniques that ranged from surgical manipulation to modern birthing techniques.

NSBE was established in 1975 to increase the number of culturally-responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and impact the community positively.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel – Office of Diversity and Inclusion, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp-diversity or visit <http://youtu.be/TnyUzP6Lzg> for a feature on this year’s NSBE convention.





Public Service Announcements*

PSA Audio Clips
How (15 sec. audio, Spanish language)
How (30 sec. audio, Spanish language)
Start Small (15 sec. Audio)
Start Small (30 sec. Audio)
Start Small (60 sec. Audio)

PSA Video Clips
Start Small (15 sec. Video)
Start Small (30 sec. Video)
Start Small (60 sec. Video)
Like Navy (15 sec. video, Spanish language)
Like Navy (30 sec. video, Spanish language)
Like Navy (60 sec. video, Spanish language)

PSA Start Small Print Ads
Billboard (Large 28 mb)
Print Ad (Large 28mb)
Newspaper-1
Newspaper-2
Newspaper-3
Newspaper-4

PSAs Showcase Navy in Local Communities

Story by MCI Amanda Sullivan, NRC Public Affairs
Photo illustrations by NRC Creative Div. Staff

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – During a time when budgets across the Navy are shrinking, recruiting America’s best and brightest still requires getting out the Navy message across the country.

“It’s been a learning experience,” he said. PSAs can come in many forms including television spots, pre-recorded radio spots or scripts read by the radio show host (called ‘readers’), layouts for print productions including

One tool available to Navy recruiting to help spread the word at little or no cost about the Global Force for Good in local communities is the Public Service Announcement (PSA) program.

Once a government-regulated program that required broadcasters to air a certain percentage of their advertising as free PSAs from non-profit organizations, many television, radio, billboard and even news print publications still offer free air time or print space to non-profit organizations such as the U.S. Navy.



Navy Recruiting Command produced this TV commercial on board Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego Calif., which is available for PSAs. U.S. Navy personnel in the region volunteered to perform as main characters as well as extras on the set. Officers and enlisted personnel represented various career fields and specialties, and also reflect the diversity in the Navy. A commercial production company was contracted to direct, shoot and produce the spot.

newspapers and magazines, digital images for Web sites, and even pre-printed billboards in various sizes.

“There haven’t been too many situations where I needed a PSA in a certain format and there wasn’t one already available for me to use,” said MCI Kimberly Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs officer (PAO).

PSAs are different than standard marketing commercials which are intended to make the viewer do something whether that is buying a product or, in the case of Navy marketing, contact a recruiter. PSAs also serve to inform the general public about a topic and change their awareness level in a way to improve their lives or their community in general.

While the goal of paid advertisements is to sell a certain product, that’s not the purpose of PSAs. “The difference with our PSAs is that they relate to a local community,” said Forbes. “It doesn’t have a specific recruiting message. It’s more about the broad Navy awareness and there is no call to action.”

While technology has made availability of PSAs in various formats more accessible, one challenge remains in getting the products to the local media outlets. “The biggest hurdle is to reach out to the markets,” Forbes said. “I can’t contact every local billboard vendor. That’s where we rely on the local NRDs.”

Whether the marketing department or PAO is handling the program at the NRD level, recruiters can play a very important role in reaching out to local media outlets and vendors. “The PAOs or recruiters in outlying areas should be establishing relationships with these vendors and media outlets,” said Forbes.

You don’t have to deliver 15 tons of food to help feed the hungry.
A simple can of soup will do.



Every year, America’s Navy delivers shiploads of emergency supplies to disaster victims around the globe. But you can make the same impact in someone’s life simply by donating a can of soup to your very own neighbors in their times of need. The Navy does lots of great things every day. So can you.

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The humanitarian work of the Navy is captured in this print image. Developed by the NRC Creative Division staff for PSAs, it is available to NRDs for use in their areas. Most communities have media that are willing to provide PSAs at no charge to the Navy.

Stephens agrees, “The recruiters who are proactive about engaging their local media are usually successful. And these are the same recruiters with a strong COI [center of influence] network and good relationships throughout their schools.” She added that the media outlets can be great sources of information about events in the community,

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so the benefits for the recruiters go well beyond simply promoting the PSAs.

“You do have the recruiters who can touch the media outlets,” Forbes continued. “It goes back to getting involved in your local community. Most recruiters are in or near their hometowns so they have an interest in the local community.”

The Start Small campaign really focuses on how communities can be a local force for good, so it’s an easy sell for recruiters to spread that message without an actual recruiting objective in mind. While the campaign showcases some of the amazing things the Navy does, it challenges individuals to help out in their local community. The message focuses on improving the community through volunteering, not recruiting.

“I think another key element with the PSAs is a little bit of persistence and knowing who to talk to at the media outlet. You have to find the PSA manager,” said Forbes.

The size and population in a certain area can also play a big role in how well PSAs are received by the local media. “You are always going to have the smaller areas that get the most penetration, but there are some larger markets, such as Minneapolis, that also do really well.”

The key to the NRD’s success in Minneapolis? Planning. “Any time I am going out to an event or station visit, I check the map to see if there are any media outlets nearby. If I am traveling around the district, I add an extra day onto my orders to meet with media in the area,” said NRD Minneapolis PAO, MC2 Porter Anderson. “You get told ‘no’ a lot, but you hear ‘yes’ enough to make it worth it.”

In his time as PSA program manager, Forbes says PSAs have saved the Navy more than \$10 million in advertising.

Technology has made it easier than ever for everyone on every level to promote PSAs. Now available on the public Web site <http://extensis.cnrc.navy.mil/>, PSAs for radio and television can usually be burnt to a CD and taken directly to the media station. They can also be emailed. When a new campaign starts, the NRD PAOs are usually sent a large quantity of CDs with the spots which can be handed out by the PAO and recruiters.

“When I get the CDs, I immediately send them out to the recruiting stations to use” said MC2 Chelsea Kennedy, NRD Nashville PAO. NRD Nashville has also had a great success with their local PSA program. “By putting them in the recruiters’ hands, I am giving them another tool to reach out to their community. This can help start a conversation with the local media.”



This is one of the many billboard images available in the NRC PSA inventory. NRDs can obtain the billboards for their local communities to highlight America's Navy – A Global Force for Good.

Navy's Story Presented to Capital City Through 50-50 Program

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

PITTSBURGH – The Navy was center focus at the Pennsylvania state capital recently as RADM Janice Hamby made a three-day stop in Harrisburg in support of the Navy’s 50-50 Program.

Navy’s message and presence to this important city, but shared her personal experiences with a variety of other markets including media outlets such as WHTM TV (ABC affiliate), WITF FM radio and the Patriot-News newspaper.

Currently the Deputy Chief Information Officer for Command, Control, Communications, and Computers and Information Infrastructure Capabilities, Hamby visited the capital city with the new outreach program that features 50 senior Navy leaders in 50 cities throughout the country.

LT Glenn Sircy, with the Navy Office of Community Outreach, said of the program, “It is designed to help build on the United States Navy’s efforts to increase Americans’ understanding of the Navy’s mission, capabilities, and relevance to national security. The program identified 50 select markets across America, emphasizing areas of the country where there is not a significant Navy fleet presence.”

Hamby had face-to-face meetings with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett and Harrisburg Mayor Linda D. Thompson. Hamby was not only able to take the



Visiting in the Pennsylvania Governor's office are LCDR Ben Henemeier, Navy Operation Support Center Harrisburg commanding officer, left; Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett; RADM Janice Hamby; and PS2 Robyn Heim. Hamby recently made a three-day visit to the capital city in support of the new Navy 50-50 Program which is an outreach tool featuring 50 senior Navy leaders visiting 50 cities across the country.

Providing a face for the Navy is only one facet of the program. During her career, Hamby has commanded critical network and information control sites, served on nuclear aircraft carriers, worked information issues at force headquarters in Baghdad, directed global operation of the Navy’s networks, and developed strategy for operations and investments in technology in direct support to the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chairman of the Joint Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh



Given her broad and far-reaching experiences, she was a natural fit to show exactly what the Navy has to offer and what the Navy can do for both the nation and the men and women who serve.

Visiting with the area's educators also afforded Hamby the venue to interact with potential and future Sailors, and develop relationships with prominent businessmen and women in the area. During her visit, she met with the president of Harrisburg University of Science and Technology and civic groups such as the local chamber of commerce, Rotary Clubs, and the local Navy League Chapter. Drawing on Hamby's wide area of expertise, she was the focus for groups like the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania and the Hershey Company executives.



Deputy Chief Information Officer for Command, Control, Communications, and Computers and Information Infrastructure Capabilities, RADM Janice Hamby, was interviewed by local radio personality Scott Lamar on WITF FM radio in Harrisburg, Penn. Hamby answered Lamar's questions as well as those that called in.

For a city whose fleet awareness is limited by its distance from the coast, Hamby was able to show the city what the Navy does.



Phoenix Recruiter is Radio Station's Hero of the Month

Story and photo by MCI Adrian Melendez, NRD Phoenix Public Affairs

PHOENIX – HM1 Aaron Spaulding from Navy Reserve Recruiting Station Phoenix was chosen as radio station KFYY 550 AM's My Military Hero of the month for March.

Spaulding was awarded a \$500 gift certificate for being nominated and will be entered in a drawing with 11 other My Military Hero nominees for a chance to win a new automobile. But he said that one of the coolest parts of being chosen was having his photo on a billboard on Interstate 17 just outside of downtown Phoenix for the whole month of March.

Spaulding's wife, Lety, heard about the contest while listening to the local country music station and immediately thought of nominating her husband.

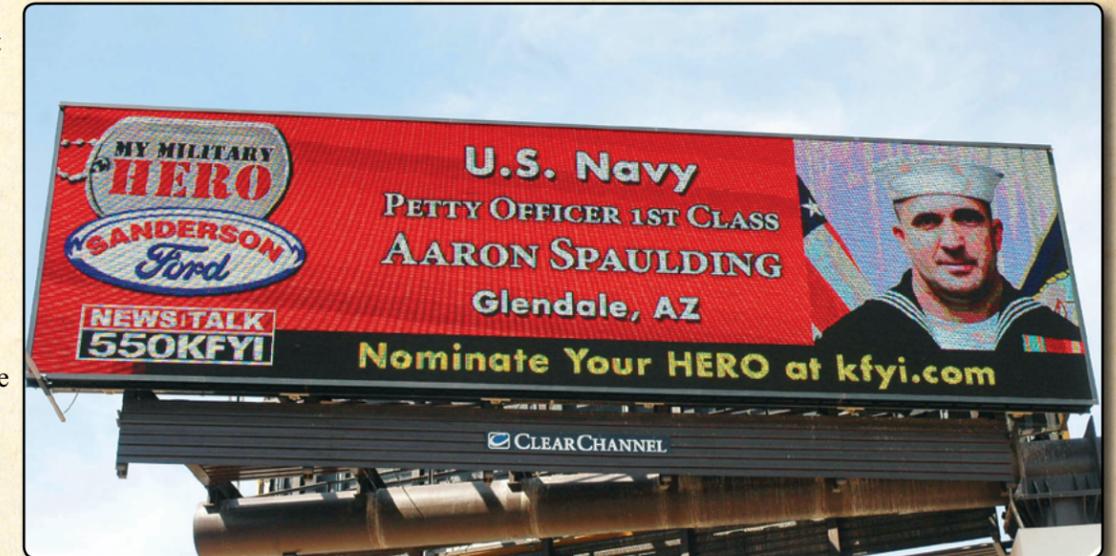
"I had to write a short essay about him and his service to our country and why I thought he should be nominated," she said.

Spaulding was unaware of his wife nominating him for the award, but said she did her due diligence when writing the essay.

"I had no idea she was putting me in for the contest," he said. "I didn't realize how much she had actually written until I read the essay. She went through all my awards and evaluation write-ups to get my career information to put it all together. I was really impressed."

Spaulding's military accomplishments aren't the only thing that makes him a hero. Lety said that it's his dedication to religion, family and country that makes him a hero in her eyes.

"He always looks out for the best interest of others, dedicates his time and energy, and is willing to lay down his life at all times. He is a wonderful Christian father and a devoted husband. His heart is what makes him truly a hero," according to Lety.



HM1 Aaron Spaulding's photo stands high above Interstate 17 outside downtown Phoenix on a radio station's billboard highlighting My Military Hero for the month of March. Spaulding's wife entered him in the contest by writing an essay on why her husband is a hero. Besides being awarded a \$500 gift certificate, he'll compete with 11 other military heroes at the end of the year to win a new automobile.

"It was pretty cool to see myself up there. I was getting phone calls, texts, and Facebook messages from everyone telling me they saw it," said Spaulding.

Even though Spaulding was nominated as the hero for March, he and his wife both agree anyone serving in America's Navy and the other armed services are heroes every day of the year.

"I appreciate my husband's service and sacrifice along with all the other countless families and soldiers. Every one of them should be recognized and they are all heroes," said Lety.



The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band from Cherry Point, N.C., plays at the opening ceremonies at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans program held March 31 at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. FC1 Kristian Medd, center on stage, representing NRD Raleigh's Navy Reserve Recruiting Station in Charlotte, N.C., presents the colors with other military branch members. The event drew more than 62,500 people and featured the Army's Golden Knights parachute team, tributes to honor Vietnam veterans and concerts by Rockie Lynne, George Clinton and The Parliament Funkadelics, and The Charlie Daniels Band. (Photo by Kelly Wright, NRD Raleigh Public Affairs)



Navy Recruiting District Raleigh

Navy Recruiting District Phoenix

ARIZONA RECRUITERS JUDGE AT ROBOTICS COMPETITION



Story and photo by MCI Adrian Melendez, NRD Phoenix Public Affairs

CHANDLER, Ariz. – Recruiters from NRS Chandler took time out of their weekend to interact with the future of America's science and engineering community at the 10th annual regional For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition at Hamilton High School in Chandler, Ariz., March 23-24.

Three recruiters volunteered as judges at the competition, which showcased robots from more than 45 teams made up of students in grades 9-12 from Arizona and New Mexico, as well as teams from Mexico, Brazil and Canada.

Volunteer NCI Craig Amos said he was surprised by the size of the competition, but even more amazed at the knowledge and skill level that the students had to build the machines.

"I'm 30 years old and I feel like I'm learning a whole new side of what's going on, from an educational standpoint, when it comes to science, technology, engineering and math [STEM]," said Amos. "Just to see what these kids can do in a six-month timeframe is amazing."



NCI Craig Amos asks a student from the Brophy College Preparatory School robotics team about their robot at the FIRST Robotics Competition at Hamilton High School in Chandler, Ariz. Three NRS Chandler recruiters volunteered to judge in the regional competition which consisted of more than 45 teams of 9th-12th grade students.

The Sailors were split up into three teams and were in charge of judging each robotics team on creativity, teamwork and sticking to the FIRST Robotics core values:

- We are a team;
- We do the work to get the job done with guidance from our coaches and mentors;
- We honor the spirit of friendly competition;
- What we learn is more important than what we win;
- We share our experiences with others;
- We display gracious professionalism in everything we do;
- We have fun.

Chief judge advisor for FIRST, Cynthia Stong, said she was very appreciative of all the volunteer judges and added that having service members out to see the projects and interact with the students is a great opportunity to show, and talk about, the technical side of the military.

"We have military out at several of our events across the country," said Stong. "It shows the kids that their technology can be used in things you guys [military] are doing."

Stong, who is also a mechanical engineer at Boeing, stressed the need for more mentors in STEM communities to help guide kids to programs such as FIRST and foster creativity and innovation that is strongly needed.

"There's this cliff in front of us where in about five years 40 to 50 percent of our engineers will be retiring. So we're trying figure out how to transfer knowledge between the

older engineers and the kids, and that's exactly what this program does," she said.

Amos echoed the same sentiment as Stong, adding that the presence of the Sailors and conversations with the kids show them that there is a very technical side of America's Navy that they may not have previously known.

"The biggest selling aspect we have when it comes to Navy recruiting is presence. Just being out there with the individuals in the community who are promoting STEM is a huge deal because these kids are who the Navy needs and are our future innovators."

FIRST Robotics is a not-for-profit public charity that designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate youth to pursue education and career opportunities in STEM while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills, and has more than 1,400 youth robotics teams worldwide.

Recruiters Help with NSW/NSO Training Day at Stanford University

By MCI Grant Probst, NRD San Francisco Public Affairs

PALO ALTO, Calif. – Recruiters assigned to NRD San Francisco participated in the district's quarterly Naval Special Warfare/Naval Special Operations (NSW/NSO) Training Day March 4 at Stanford University's Avery Aquatic Center.

The day focused on conditioning NSW/NSO candidates for the rigors of their possible future professions.

In the summer of 2011, the NSW/NSO team at NRD San Francisco initiated a relationship with Stanford's athletic department to utilize the Avery Aquatic Center to train NSW/NSO candidates.

NSW/NSO team leaders NDI Greg Sutherland and former SEAL Shane Ludwig sought to create a conditioning program that not only targets aerobic and anaerobic development, but also conditions candidates to some of the unique challenges relevant to the NSW/NSO communities such as proper fin technique and mask familiarity.

"Our desire was simply to better prepare these candidates for the challenges ahead. We felt that we had an opportunity to affect not only the candidates' basic conditioning, but also their comfort level with fin and mask training. Something as simple as ankle fatigue or not being familiar with breathing techniques while

wearing a mask can negatively impact the candidates' performance later down the road," said Ludwig. "Having the Stanford pool at our disposal to run these fin and mask conditioning exercises is truly priceless."

The NSW/NSO team at NRD San Francisco has been able to facilitate this conditioning program through donations by recruiters and program candidates. Through extensive coordination and by canvassing the NRD to find recruiters willing to donate their personal gear for the duration of the training day, the NSW/NSO team accumulated enough fins and masks for each candidate to train.

"The hardest part is getting the gear for these guys to train with. They love the training. They know it's to their benefit to feel comfortable with a mask on and have well-conditioned ankles," said Sutherland. "The quarterly training at Stanford typically lasts around four hours and by the end of it they are exhausted and hungry for more."

The Avery Aquatic Center has four separate pools: The Maas Diving Center, the Belardi Pool, the Baker Pool, and the Avery Competition Pool. The Avery Competition Pool is 37 meters long, 20 meters wide, can seat over 2,500 fans, has played host to the U.S. Olympic swimming team and countless national and international competitions.



Story by Kelly Wright, NRD Raleigh Public Affairs

RALEIGH, N.C. – NCC Armond Flood has been a Navy recruiter for 10 years. He’s been at NRD Raleigh for eight months and Division One leading chief petty officer (LCPO) for the last six months.

Within the division he leads six stations, 22 recruiters and covers a territory that expands from southwest South Carolina to the mountainous area of North Carolina.

Flood has led his division to numerous awards and accolades, but there is just one award that no one else has received, and he is holding on to it tightly: He is NRD Raleigh’s Swamp Fox.

The history of the Swamp Fox originates from Gen. Francis Marion, a Revolutionary officer from Berkeley County, S.C. It is believed that Marion led the only organized fighting force in action in America in 1780 as Gen. George Washington’s army was at a stalemate outside of British-occupied New York. Due to his irregular



CDR Richard Brantley, left, NRD Raleigh commanding officer, presents the LCPO of the Month award to NCC Armond Flood, LCPO at Division One which consists of six recruiting stations, 22 recruiters and covers parts of North and South Carolina. (Courtesy photo)

methods of warfare, he is considered one of the fathers of modern guerilla warfare.

CDR Richard Brantley, commanding officer, NRD Raleigh, translated the Swamp Fox story and name into an award that highlights an exemplary divisional LCPO who uses unconventional methods for motivating his recruiters towards achieving their monthly goal while maintaining minimum attrition.

Brantley presented Flood with the monthly award in January 2012 and as of April he still held the title.

Explaining why he gave Flood the award, Brantley said, “Chief Flood caught us all by surprise. He came in and as if by magic he’s suddenly the guy everyone wants to challenge. But like the original, no one can seem to catch him.”

When it comes to making sure the Navy stays diverse, it can be a challenge for some recruiters. Flood says it is easier for him being a minority himself, but he also makes himself a chameleon, “You have to know your audience. You have to believe in the product you’re selling. The Navy starts within you. I can change conversations and approaches. I’m adaptable.”

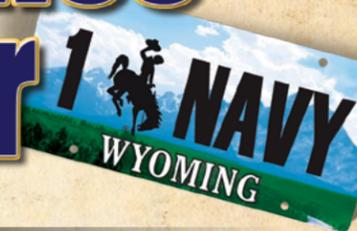
Flood explains that as a leader his actions speak louder than words, “I only know one way to work and that’s hard. I am an energy giver and I try hard to have my people feed off of me. I give my time to them. I show them how to walk, talk and look good in the job of recruiting. I’m at the office before them, so when they walk in and see me, their day is started off right. I show them to do what I do, not just as I say.”

Flood also instills a team spirit that he believes needs nurturing. “One team, one fight. Being a team is like a muscle you have to exercise in order for it to get stronger. I experience their teamwork in action when I walk in and feel their energy,” he said.

Flood also conveys Brantley’s motto of a positive work-life balance. He meets with the entire division over luncheons and holds award ceremonies to make sure the recruiters are not only recognized but shown appreciation for their efforts.



Cowboy State of Wyoming Welcomes Local Men of Valor



By LCDR Charles “Chad” Tidwell, NOSC Cheyenne commanding officer

Editor’s note: For purposes of this article, SWOs have not been named to protect their identities

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – The Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee (MAC), Navy Operational Support Centers Cheyenne and Denver, and NRD Denver teamed up for a three-day community event honoring our ‘men of valor’ in the Wyoming state capitol.

Special Warfare Operators (SOs) attached to Navy Reserve SEAL Teams 17 and 18 traveled to the ‘cowboy’ state for a visit. The combined teams stopped by the three area high schools and visited with 800 students to speak about their personal experiences and the opportunities to serve our nation as a member of one of the military’s most highly trained and specialized fighting forces. The message to the students was to stay in school, study hard,



Team members from NOSC Denver and Cheyenne showcased Navy Special Warfare/Special Operations to the citizens of Cheyenne, Wyo., in conjunction with a special screening of the feature film “Act of Valor.” Events included a welcome by Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, fourth from right. (Courtesy photo)

While watching the trailer for the movie “Act of Valor,” MAC Chairman Bruce Brady was inspired to invite members of the Navy’s elite warriors to the city of Cheyenne. What began as a dream soon became a reality with the help of a very special team. In less than a week, the five-member team had put together special events, starting with an airmen’s breakfast hosted by the 90th Missile Wing of F.E. Warren Air Force Base, and over 48 hours later ending with a visit to the Wyoming Legislature and a meeting with Wyoming Governor Matt Mead.

get a good education and prepare to make a difference in the world. “I had a wonderful time meeting the high school students and seeing the excitement in their eyes when we spoke of the opportunities available to them,” said one of the SWOs.

The main event was a special screening of the recently-released movie, “Act of Valor.” Three screens at a local theater were sold out for the showing. The theater was staged with a SEAL desert patrol vehicle parked outside.

See “Cowboy” on page 30



NJROTC Cadets Compete in State Field Meet

Story and photos by MCC(AW/EXW) Bradley J. Sapp, NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs

LOS ANGELES – In the early morning hours of Feb. 27, nearly 1,000 Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets from 17 high schools gathered on the campus of Santa Ana High School. These units qualified as the top teams throughout the southwestern United States to compete in the Area 11 State Championship Field Meet. The schools geographically encompassed Southern California and as far out as Phoenix, Ariz.



GM2 Jason Singer, left, and ET1 Andrew Cox, recruiters with NRD San Diego, speak to students attending the NJROTC Area 11 State Championship Field Meet about programs and opportunities of joining the Navy.

The field meet tests cadets individually and together as a unit in a variety of ways including military bearing, military knowledge, armed and unarmed formation drills, and physical fitness. Approximately 30 Navy and Marine Corps judges from various commands were invited to observe and score the events.

As a guest speaker and award presenter, Commanding Officer, NRD San Diego, CDR Tara McArthur-Milton says she was honored to be a part of this event. "It's inspiring to see how dedicated and passionate these cadets are to the NJROTC program," said McArthur-Milton.

The NJROTC program teaches the cadets about discipline, perseverance, respect, higher education, healthy living and a possible career opportunity in today's military. "These are all qualities that make for a good citizen and regardless of whether or not they decide to join the military, they are on the right path for a successful future," added McArthur-Milton.

See "NJROTC" on page 30



Troy High School's NJROTC Regimental Commanding Officer, Cadet CAPT Mark Kim, accepts the NJROTC Area 11 State Championship Field Meet first place trophy presented by NRD San Diego's Commanding Officer, CDR Tara McArthur-Milton during the annual event. Troy's NJROTC unit has won this field meet five consecutive years.

Phoenix Recruiters Conclude Successful Navy Week

Story and photo by MCI Adrian Melendez, NRD Phoenix Public Affairs

PHOENIX – Sailors from NRD Phoenix wrapped up Phoenix Navy Week 2012 on March 31, flawlessly executing months of planning for the six-day celebration of America's Navy through more than 80 different events across the Valley of the Sun.

Throughout the week Sailors from NRD Phoenix, Navy Operational Support Centers Phoenix and Tucson, USS Ford (FFG 54), Explosive Ordnance Mobil Unit 1 (EODMU 1), USS Constitution, Navy Band Southwest, Navy Office of Community Outreach and Navy Parachute Demonstration Team, the Leap Frogs, participated in numerous school visits and community events to showcase the brave Sailors in today's Navy and to show the public what it means to be part of the Global Force for Good.

"I think it went really well," said MM1 Douglass Boykin, leading petty officer at NRS Surprise, one of the 13 stations that took part in the various events in the Phoenix area.

Boykin said that he was very excited and happy about how well the students and staff at Willow Canyon High School's Navy Day in Surprise, Ariz., received the America's Navy Simulator and Suburban, EODMU 1, and the Navy Band Southwest rock band "The Destroyers."

"We did really well spreading Navy awareness and talking to the students about what we do and our experience in the Navy," said Boykin. "Several of the STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] students came up to



James Woods, assigned to the U.S. Navy parachute demonstration team, the Leap Frogs, lands on the football field at Desert Ridge High School in Gilbert, Ariz., during a special event at the school March 28. More than 2,000 students from the high school and Desert Ridge Junior High School packed the stands to see the team perform. The Leap Frogs' visit was part of the recent Phoenix Navy Week.

me to thank us for coming out to the school. It was a very positive experience."

One of the most popular events of the week was the Leap Frogs who performed two demonstrations at local schools to an audience of more than 3,200 students and staff.

"Having the Navy Leap Frogs come to Desert Ridge High School was such a wonderful experience, and truly the event of the year," said Pier O'Brien, career center coordinator at Dessert Ridge High School in Mesa, Ariz. "The performance that the Leap Frogs put on for our students was top notch. The 3,000 students who attended could not take their eyes off of the [performers] and continued to talk about the experience long afterward. We hope to have them back again."

See "Phoenix" on page 30

VALOR Sales Method Arms Recruiters with Improved Tools

By MCI Amanda Sullivan, NRC Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – In an effort to ensure recruiters have the most effective tools to recruit the best and brightest the nation has to offer, the NRC Training Department (N7) is introducing a new sales method that will replace Personal Selling Skills (PSS) previously used by recruiters across the country. The new method Value-Oriented Recruiting, or VALOR, takes into account the changing recruiting environment along with the attitudes of our target market.

“From my perspective – for a smarter recruiting force we have to take a look at the changing times,” said NCC Jason Hickey, National Training Team (NTT) inspection coordinator. In doing so, VALOR puts the focus on building a relationship between the applicant and the Navy that is not only positive but will continue through Recruit Training Command and beyond. “Valor gives us the ability to look at what the [prospects] really want and can our organization give them what they really want?” said Hickey.

Unlike PSS, created by Achieve Global for recruiting across different industries, VALOR is created and owned by the U.S. Navy and includes Navy recruiting language and information.

VALOR was developed from the input of leadership and field recruiters along with feedback from prospects, applicants, future Sailors and Sailors already in the Navy. Additionally, the new method is built around market research concerning our target market and the current recruiting environment.

Hickey emphasized that VALOR makes you look at the Navy overall. It is not just about following a conversational road map; instead it’s about knowing all your resources and knowing your product while utilizing the technology available such as the MRIs (mobile recruiting initiatives).

“Sales is different in the Navy,” said NCCS Ray Ketschmer, N7 field trainer. “We aren’t selling a car or a computer—we are selling a lifestyle.” So instead of merely showcasing all the benefits of Navy life, VALOR involves recruiters sitting down with applicants and

having a two-way conversation about what the applicant wants, what they need, and how the Navy will provide them with the tools to accomplish those goals. During the process, the recruiter is creating a profile that will act as a guide for the applicant as they begin their Navy career.

“It feels good to know that we will be touching every Sailor and effecting their perception of the Navy for years to come,” said NCC Jason Carlin, VALOR master trainer. By identifying the values that are important to the applicant, recruiters can begin incorporating the Navy core values into the application process in a way that will support all recruiting mission areas including enlisted, officer, medical, special operations, and nuclear power.

In addition to play a major role in the development of the method itself, actual Navy recruiters from both Region East and Region West appear in the training videos (see related article on the next page). The Navy core values are also applied to the method helping applicants align their own values with that of the Navy even before the Sailorization occurring in boot camp.

The roll-out of VALOR began in May with chief recruiters (CRs) and other leadership from NRDs around the country attending Proof of Concept and Revised Content Courses on the new method. Here the CRs were able to give feedback and adjust the method based on their experiences in recruiting.

At the beginning of June, more than 130 instructors were taught how to train recruiters on the new method during a two-week instructor training course. Every few weeks over the summer, master trainers will visit NRDs to provide intensive training to every district by the fall.

The training process is spread out over many months to ensure a smooth transition for recruiters for whom PSS is ingrained in their day-to-day operations. “We are in the military. We say ‘yes, sir’ and follow the order,” said LCDR Romadel de las Alas, deputy of curriculum at N7. “But it’s not that easy with this.”

For career recruiters, PSS has been a way of doing business for years and a way of life that extends beyond

working hours into their personal interactions. “You don’t just turn on a switch; you have to plan it out,” continued de las Alas. “You aren’t just switching a process; you are changing the entire way of thinking within individuals.”

But those who helped develop and implement the new sales method know the transition is worth it. “I know that the recruiters out there are really going to like this product,” said NCC Willie Frisson, VALOR master trainer. Frisson, who has worked in recruiting for more than a decade, has worked with other sales methods and is confident that the VALOR method will be effective. “This will be my third

sales methodology and I really like this one. It seems like you are getting on a more personal level.”

To ensure a successful transition, leadership and recruiters are encouraged to communicate throughout the chain of command about support, training timelines, and concerns.

“Communication is the key to getting VALOR online and operational,” said RADM Earl Gay, commander, NRC. “Only with your active participation will VALOR truly improve the way we do business!”

LA-based Recruiter Completes VALOR Training Videos

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

LOS ANGELES – NRS Norwalk’s Leading Petty Officer, NC1(SW/AW) Kelliann Hart, was selected as one of two recruiters to serve as on-camera talent for NRC’s new sales initiative.

VALOR (Value-Oriented Recruiting) is being rolled out as NRC moves to computer-based recruiting tools.

“Being selected to represent NRD Los Angeles was an honor,” said Hart. “I still can’t believe it.”

Hart, along with GM1 Nicholas Campos from NRD San Antonio, were selected from many submissions from the national field during an open audition.

“The audition video was very easy,” said Hart. “We used the built-in video cameras on our Mobile Recruiting Initiative [MRI] computers to record a practice script and say a few words on what we like about recruiting.”

Hart was flown to San Antonio to work with Advanced Business Learning, the contractor responsible for the curricula. While there, she taped three different training videos.

“It was a very long day. I flew in at 0800, taped all day and was back by 2130,” said the St. Mary’s, Jamaica, native. “But when I look back, we got a lot done and it was a very good day. I’m excited to see how it all turns out once they roll it out.”

According to RADM Earl L. Gay, commander, NRC, VALOR is the future of Navy recruiting.

“We are moving away from paper-based operations in favor of computer-based tools [MRI and NMCI],” said Gay. “This major change touches every facet of the recruiting domain and is in line with the Recruiting Force 2020 strategy.”



NC1 Kelliann Hart and GM1 Nicholas Campos pose in a promotional photo for the upcoming NRC Value-Oriented Recruiting (VALOR) sales methodology initiative. (Photo courtesy of ABL)

NRC Training Department Helps NRDs Achieve

Story and photo by MCI Amanda Sullivan, NRC Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – NRC’s Training and Quality Assurance Department (N7) knows most in the field form their opinions on the team based off experiences during inspections. While this is one of the more visible functions of the department, they want recruiters in the field to know they have a lot more to offer.

“People think we are all about hitting people [on inspection items],” said LCDR Romadel de las Alas, N7 curriculum deputy. “All we are looking for is compliance; we are not looking for them to fail.”

Instead, N7 is in place to ensure that NRDs and recruiters have the tools needed to complete the mission and do so according to the directives. “The misperception is that we are the bad guys,” said NCC Jason Hickey, inspection coordinator at N7. But he says N7 should be utilized as a valuable resource for various forms of training. “N7 does just about every kind of training that’s out there.”

N7 focuses on a blended learning experience, bringing together web-based, video, face-to-face lectures and role-playing, and other learning methods to maximize the benefits of their training. “It allows people to have different methods,” said Sandra Ogden, director of Education and Curriculum Development. “Some people need to hear it, some people need to see it, and some people need to touch it and to do it to understand.”

N7 is constantly looking for new ways technology can enhance the training experience. De las Alas explains that using a variety of formats and capitalizing on technology, N7 also tries to make the training as accessible as possible. “I encourage people to go to the Facebook page and preview the videos and articles. We try to create a social network on that page where knowledge is spread and shared freely.” The group page “Training News You Can Use” can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/140562412642577/>.

Besides developing and implement training for just about every aspect of the recruiting mission, N7 trains

command trainers (CTs) at every NRD to act as liaisons between the districts and N7. “The CTs are very important to all of NRC. They are our conduit and spokespersons. They are how we understand what needs need to be filled,” said de las Alas.

The curriculum development process starts with an instruction or regulation. N7 looks at how recruiters across the nation interpret the instruction to fit their geographical region’s culture. “The way you interact with people in one area of the country is different than the way you interact in another part of the country,” according to Ogden.

The process relies greatly on two-way communication to and from the field. Requests for assists, trends in inspection discrepancies and information from the CTs all provide N7 with the key issues that districts may be struggling with so that they can develop relevant training products. The goal is to ensure 26 very different districts are all working based off the same directives. “All districts are different — no doubt about it. But all districts need to understand what the directives are,” de las Alas said.

Most individuals in a district identify N7 with one of the most visible and potentially one of the most stressful interactions: Command inspections. While it can feel threatening to have an inspection team come in and critique an individual’s hard work, the goal is always to ensure quality is consistent across the NRDs and is in line with directives in place.

“The inspection team is a quality assurance and compliance inspection,” said Hickey. “We identify strengths and weaknesses internally and then provide training assists on key areas identified.”

Once a letter is sent to an NRD indicating they will be inspected in two weeks, Hickey decides what divisions and stations the team will visit. The goal is to inspect a sampling of about 60 percent of the command.

The intention of the inspection isn’t simply to rate how well a command is performing each task but focus on areas where the NRD can improve and identifies areas where N7 may need to provide additional training.

The inspection team now also conducts paper tests given to station LPOs and LCPOs, and recruiters.

Before or after an inspection, CTs can request face-to-face, on-site (‘assist’) training, normally lasting a week, from N7 for intensive training for any problem area.

NRDs face major challenges in cultivating and maintaining organizational knowledge due to the target market, cultures and attitudes in the civilian world constantly changing. Also, commands are limited to the amount of face-to-face training they can conduct due to geographical and budget constraints.

Another challenge NRDs face is a problem faced throughout the Navy: Every three years someone transfers and a replacement arrives. N7 helps with finding the best practices to assist NRDs maintain organizational knowledge as well as share it with other districts.

By providing a multitude of training options, N7 hopes to help NRC, the NRDs and each individual recruiter overcome these challenges.

LCDR Romadel de las Alas, NRC N7 curriculum deputy, prepares the camera for recording a training video about Military Entrance Processing Stations. N7 works with minimal equipment to produce a variety of training methods for use at the NRDs.



Reserve ENS Lawrence J. H. Schulze, U.S. Navy Campus Liaison Officer, hands a little girl Navy items at University of Houston’s Frontier Fiesta. The university recognized the military with a military appreciation day. Frontier Fiesta is a student-run, student-led festival hosted by the university to promote scholarship, community, and education in students, staff, and faculty, as well as the Houston community. A diverse showcase, Frontier Fiesta transformed the campus into a fully-functional town called “Fiesta City” March 22-25. The event featured free, live concerts nightly, variety shows by student organizations, carnival booths, multicultural performances, BBQ cook-off and Bake Fiesta, a baking competition for various dessert categories. Money raised at the fiesta goes to 10 scholarships offered to incoming freshmen at the University of Houston. (Photo by MCI(SW/AW) Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)

Three Students at Texas High School Receive NROTC Scholarships

Story and photo by MCI(SW/AW) Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs

HOUSTON – “Pressure” was the one word three students at Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugarland, Texas, had in common when describing the recent college opportunities they received from the military.

Eric Abney, Shawn Cleary and Jaquala Couch each received \$180,000 Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarships. Abney was selected for Yale University; Cleary for The Citadel; and Couch for Texas A&M.

“I would not want to be the person sitting on the selection board,” said MAC Barbara Vasquez, NRD Houston

NROTC coordinator. “We take pride in each application submitted with anticipation and excitement of these students’ selections each year. Currently, we have a selection rate of 43 percent which is well above the nation’s average.”

Abney and Cleary also received appointments to the Naval Academy, and Cleary received an Air Force ROTC scholarship to Texas A&M.

Applicants are selected based on SAT scores, extracurricular activities, essays, and community service, as well as recommendations from teachers.

“I have been focused all through school,” said Couch. “It’s a big relief off my shoulders and I know it’s a relief to my mom that I have money for college.”

Cleary and Couch are members of the high school NJROTC (Navy Junior Officer Training Corps) while Abney is a member of the baseball team and band.

“My dad and I were outside practicing baseball,” said Abney. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do, so he suggested applying for a military scholarship. It wasn’t something I had ever thought of doing.”

Abney’s father is a Vietnam veteran and his grandfather is a World War II veteran. “I come from a family history of military service,” said Abney. “I am completely flattered that such prestigious organizations [Yale and the Naval Academy] would choose me.”

Cleary is commanding officer of the Stephen F. Austin JROTC and also comes from a family of military service.

“My dad and grandpa were also in the military,” said Cleary. “I think with my JROTC training, coupled with my family history of military service, I will make a good officer.”

“I think it’s wonderful he has all these choices. Our house is on a high right now,” said Cleary’s mother, Tammy Cleary. “My whole family is excited!”

When Couch found out she was awarded the scholarship, she was finishing up her final exams before the holiday break, and retired LCDR Ed Sellards, NJROTC senior Naval Science instructor, interrupted class to speak to her.

“He first told me I didn’t get one of the other scholarships I had applied for,” said Couch. I was about to get upset when he told me I got the NROTC scholarship. I thought, ‘OH MY!’”

Couch did not know anything about the military. “After I went on a military base and I saw everyone’s duty and dedication, I knew I wanted to be a part of the organization.”

Couch is also known for her leadership skills within the NJROTC unit, acting as the operations officer.

“She is a driver, a leader and she leaves friendships at the door,” said Sellards. “She has earned this respect all on her own.”

“I have had the distinct honor to have mentored hundreds of cadets in my 16 years as a senior Naval Science instructor, and I have always stressed to cadets and parents that the NJROTC Program’s goal was to prepare them to be solid citizens of our nation. Having two of my cadets choose to serve their nation as military officers makes me extremely proud of them and it also reassures me that our country will be in great hands in the future. It’s a great feeling knowing that their commitment was nurtured within the program. This is the key reason why I know I am making a difference,” said Sellards.

“I wish Abney would have been in NJROTC because he is an outstanding young man with many talents,” continued Sellards. “I am most certain that our nation will benefit highly from all three of these great Stephen F. Austin graduates.”

All three students realized that preparing for life after high school does not begin after graduation. It begins long before. Preparation is more than obtaining good grades; it is also about community service and extracurricular activities.

Aside from NJROTC, these students’ other involvements include playing tenor saxophone in the band, baseball, Eagle Scouts, National Honor Society, 4-H, Fort Bend Outdoor sports, Girls State American Legion Auxiliary leadership and church daycare.

“I am extremely proud of her beyond the financial aspect,” said Fatema Weekly, Couch’s mother. “I know the work she has put in with studying, NJROTC and working. I am just so proud!”

Abney is torn between aviation and surface warfare as well as between Yale and the Naval Academy.

“I see two lives I could have. One being a part of the first NROTC Unit at Yale since the 1970s or the Naval Academy,” said Abney. “I just know all my hard work in high school has paid off now.”

Cleary definitely wants to be a pilot and Couch plans to go the Surface Warfare route in the Navy.

“These opportunities are wonderful,” said Stephen Abney, Eric’s father. “You can guide your children as much as you can, but in the end you have to give them wings and let them decide their futures.”

NROTC scholarship recipients have to be in the top of their graduating class, score higher on the SAT than the minimum required, write essays, show leadership through sports or JROTC, and receive strong evaluations and recommendations from their school staff.

“This significant accomplishment not only demonstrates the outstanding NJROTC Program at Stephen F. Austin High School, but that all branches of military are involved in the school,” said Vasquez. “Also, the students here are taking advantage of the programs the military has to offer for outstanding high school graduates.”

The mission of the NROTC Program today is to develop young men and women morally, mentally, and physically, and to instill in them the highest ideals of honor, courage, and commitment. The program educates and trains young men and women for leadership positions in an increasingly technical Navy and Marine Corps. Currently there are 59 NROTC units/consortiums that are hosted at 71 schools throughout the United States.

The NROTC Program is available at over 150 colleges and universities that either host NROTC units or have cross-town enrollment agreements with a host university. Selected applicants for the program are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process, and receive full tuition and other financial benefits at many of the country’s leading colleges and universities.



Three students at Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugarland, Texas, Jaquala Couch, left, Shawn Cleary and Eric Abney, each received \$180,000 NROTC scholarships. Abney was selected for Yale University, Cleary for The Citadel, and Couch for Texas A&M. Cleary and Abney also received appointments to the Naval Academy.

Commodore Addresses Female Future Sailors' Boot Camp Concerns

Story and photo by MCI(SW/AW) Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs

HOUSTON – Joining the Navy and shipping off to boot camp can be scary for anyone, but entering the military as a female adds many concerns.

CAPT Voresa E. Booker, commodore, Navy Recruiting Region West, visited NRD Houston April 10 and addressed the Houston metro area female future Sailors.

Other area female recruiters explained that if recruits do not have short hair when they get to boot camp, they will get a haircut upon arrival. "You want to make sure you have a short style you like before you go to boot camp," said NCC Tina McCarty. "Otherwise, the Navy will give you a haircut and you might not like it."



Female future Sailors in the Houston metro area are spellbound as they listen to the commodore, Navy Recruiting Region West and NRD Houston Sailors address their concerns about boot camp. The speakers answered their questions and eased their fears about the beginning of their Navy experience.

"Do I have to cut my hair? Can I wear makeup at boot camp? Can I wear nail polish in uniform? Can I become a mom and be in the military?" was asked by many new Delayed Entry Program female future Sailors.

While females can have long hair and wear makeup in the military, "Its best to have a maintenance-free style at boot camp," said Booker. "You won't have time nor will you care how your hair and face looks."

Many of the young females wondered if they could get married and have a family while serving in the Navy.

"The Navy will support you in having babies, but it's best to get through your initial military training which includes boot camp and your follow-on schools before you start a family," said CDR Kiera Vernon, NRD Houston assistant operations officer. "It's best to plan marriage and family around deployments and work schedules."

Vernon also explained that boot camp and school are all about the individual and everything else comes later. "Focus on you during this time," she said.

The question was asked if whether or not it was difficult to be stationed with your spouse if you marry someone in the Navy.

"I was a detailer before this job, and the Navy really tries to assist in spouse collocation," said Booker. "It's not a guarantee, but it happens in most cases."

Many wondered what they could take to boot camp; how they would get daily essentials; and what if they got sick.

"The Navy takes care of its Sailors," said MAC Barbara Vasquez, NRD Houston Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps coordinator. "You will have everything you need at boot camp. You will have an opportunity to go to the store for essentials, and there is medical care for when you are sick."

The boot camp experience can be an intimidating thought for many people. A few questions ranged from personal hygiene and exercise requirements to general questions about the Navy itself.

Vasquez explained that she only remembered bits and pieces of her boot camp experience. "Boot camp is to teach you basic life principles such as teamwork and time management," said Vasquez. "It's only eight weeks of your life."

Booker also discussed how she rose through the ranks to become a female captain. Like the females at the meeting, she joined as an enlisted service member. However, she did have a Bachelor in Business Administration, so she turned in an officer packet at her first command.

"I grew up in Jackson, Tenn.," she said. "I often didn't know where I was getting my next meal and 30 years later look at me!"



LT Wilbert Dixon, officer recruiter, and other NRD Houston Sailors recently volunteered at the USS Texas (BB 35) Museum located in La Porte, Texas. NRD Houston has an ongoing community relations restoration project with USS Texas, the oldest surviving battleship afloat. She was launched May 18, 1912, commissioned March 12, 1914, and decommissioned in 1948. A veteran of World Wars I and II, she is now a National Historic Landmark under the stewardship of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Permanently anchored on the Buffalo Bayou and Houston Ship Channel, the museum is open to the public. (Photo by ET1 Matthew Busby, NRD Houston Public Affairs)



NRD San Diego TEAM RUNS IN RAGNAR RELAY RACE

Story and photo by MCC(AW/EXW) Bradley J. Sapp, NRD San Diego Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO – Twelve Sailors assigned to NRD San Diego completed the 203-mile Ragnar Relay Race in Southern California recently. Starting in Huntington Beach on Friday morning, April 20th, they ran all day and through the night until crossing the finish line Saturday afternoon. Teams were made up of 12 runners with each person responsible for three legs each. Depending on the course, each runner's total ranged from 13-21 miles.

A firm believer in having a culture of fitness within the Navy, ENC Cordon Phillips organized and led the San

DieGo Getters to finishing this grueling race. His concerns prior to the race were keeping the team motivated, remaining injury free and training healthy. Previously participating in multiple half marathons, Phillips thought the Ragnar Relay Race would be the perfect way to prep for a full marathon and have some fun at the same time.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training --- the single largest endurance sports training program for charity --- is the official charity of the Ragnar Relay Race.

Also no stranger to the fitness lifestyle, ABH2 Benjamin Odea participated to test his limits. Having a course that took him through the streets of Corona, Odea conquered four miles of hills in dry heat that reached over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Odea said, "Knowing my team was waiting for me at the next check point motivated me."



NRD San Diego personnel recently completed the 203-mile Ragnar Relay Race. Starting in Huntington Beach, Calif., this team of 12 crossed the finish line on the beach in Coronado. The team, San Diego Getters, was comprised of Chief Recruiter NCCM Patrick Anders, back left, NC1 Joseph Minneman, STG2 Larry Sehorn, LT Danielle Woods, MM2 Rafael Lara, NC1 Archie Anz, NCC Anne Mendez, ENC Cordon Phillips, NRD San Diego Executive Officer CDR Brandon Marsowicz, ABH2 Benjamin Odea, GSM1 Gerardo Vasquez, front left, and EO1 Fernando Alvarez. They placed 95th out of 594 teams.

Recovering from a shoulder injury and without any sleep, STG2 Larry Sehorn began his second leg at 11 p.m. His most memorable moment during the race was on his last leg. While running along the Pacific Coast Highway, he and another runner kept pushing each other to run faster and harder. Just as he thought he had nothing more to give, motivation came. "A random text from a teammate urging me on drove me to sprint the last half mile," said Sehorn.

Awesome accomplishment, crazy, exhausting, exhilarating were just some of the feelings described at the end of this

demanding evolution. For Sehorn it was the opportunity to be a part of a team of truly inspiring people. Odea completed the race with a more profound insight into the other team members with stories shared during the trip. And for Phillips, he wants to see two teams in the next Ragnar Relay.

The San Diego Getters finished 95th out of 594 teams with a time of 30 hours, 44 minutes and 21.8 seconds.



Thousands of supporters lined the streets of downtown Houston on April 7, cheering and waving American flags to show their appreciation for Iraq veterans at a welcome home parade. The parade continued into the Minute Maid Park, home of the Astros baseball team. The Astros handed out free tickets to veterans and their relatives, and honored them in a pre-game ceremony. Sailors from NRD Houston and Naval Support Operational Support Center Houston participated in the parade. (Photo by MCI(SW/AW) Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)



“First Accession” continued from page 5

“This swearing in is very special to me,” said Fischer as she held back tears. “Adeshola is my first accession into the Navy and I’m honored to call her my sister. Welcome to your new family.”

For her first words as an officer, Adewunmi made special mention of her mentor.

“I want to thank LT Danielle Fischer,” said Adewunmi. “She has always been there for me, giving me all the support I needed. I have always looked up to her and she has never disappointed me in anyway. She has been my inspiration and my joy. I hope that one day I will be mentoring other people the way she helped me.”

“Cowboy” continued from page 17

Inside, the teams, dressed in operational clothing and gear, interacted with a multitude of families who had come out for the evening, fielding questions from the audience at each screen before the movie began.

SOs across the country have referred to the film as a slice of life depicting a sampling of capabilities that the Navy’s SO community possesses. The teams joked that much of the real-life SEALs experience is under the cover of darkness, however watching a black screen under stealth-like silence with an occasional whisper or hand signal would make for a pretty boring Hollywood movie.

One SWOC stated, “I really enjoyed the interaction with the community at large. The overwhelming support and enthusiasm was incredible, so HOO-YAH Wyoming! Thank you for the support!”

It was a most memorable evening as both the older and younger generations shared a time together and

“NJROTC” continued from page 18

Last year as well as a few previous years, it was the unit from Troy High School that took top honors. So it wasn’t a big surprise to them when they declared victory once again for the fifth year in a row as Area 11 State Champions.

“A positive attitude overcomes many obstacles and is the key to success. Our cadets have always risen to the challenge whether they are volunteering in Fullerton, Calif., or winning our Super Bowl,” said CDR Allen Stubblefield, Naval Science instructor at Troy High School.

“Phoenix” continued from page 19

As the week wound down and the last few events were completed, many of the recruiters were very satisfied and happy with the success of all the events and the amount of awareness and conversations about the Navy they were able to spread throughout Phoenix.

As she took time to thank her husband and children, Adewunmi explained her career choice.

“I joined the United States Navy because I want to give back to this great country that has helped me and my family in so many ways,” said Adewunmi. “I came to this country with nothing, but today I have everything I dreamed of, thanks to God and the government of this country. To take care of military men and women and their families medically is the smallest thing I can think of doing for this country.”

remembered the sacrifices that all uniformed military personnel made to ensure our nation’s freedom.

On the final day, members of the teams were treated with a visit to the Wyoming Capital and Legislature which was in session. They had the opportunity to converse with Mead in his office and then observed proceedings in the senate and house where both chambers paused to recognize the SOs, including one mom of a local Cheyenne High School graduate and Navy SEAL currently stationed as a Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL instructor in California.

One SWOC put it best, “The standing ovations we received from the Wyoming House and Senate were really for all our other Navy brothers and sisters who are out there all over the world, standing watch, ready to fight the good fight. We few represent all of them. The people of Cheyenne really know what it is like to serve our country. They exemplify a city truly reflecting the Navy ethos of honor, courage and commitment.”

After the scores were tallied, once again it was Westview High School that came in second place.

No strangers to the national exposure, these qualifying schools were among the top 25 schools competing at the NJROTC Nationals held on board Naval Air Station Pensacola April 13-14. Troy High School placed fourth overall and Westview High finished 25th.

“It’s very important that we have these types of Navy Weeks here in Phoenix,” said Boykin. “This wasn’t just a chance to show what the Navy does, but also a chance to show the community that we are here in Phoenix and everywhere else throughout the country. We’re not just near water and on ships. We’re part of the community.”

The District's Top Stations

April 2012

NRD Atlanta - NRS Stone Mountain
NRD Chicago - NRS Schaumburg
NRD Dallas - NRS Garland
NRD Denver - NRS St. George
NRD Houston - NRS Woodlands
NRD Jacksonville - NRS Kissimmee
NRD Los Angeles - NRS Palmdale
NRD Miami - NRS Fort Pierce
NRD Michigan - NRS Indianapolis North
NRD Minneapolis - NRS St. Cloud
NRD Nashville - NRS Knoxville
NRD New England - NRS North Andover
NRD New Orleans - NRS Spanish Fort
NRD New York - NRS Hackensack
NRD Ohio - NRS Toledo
NRD Philadelphia - NRS Toms River
NRD Phoenix - NRS Las Cruces
NRD Pittsburgh - NRS Cumberland
NRD Portland - NRS Ontario
NRD Raleigh - NRS North Charleston
NRD Richmond - NRS Newport News
NRD San Antonio - NRS Bandera
NRD San Diego - NRS Temecula
NRD San Francisco - NRS Merced
NRD Seattle - NRS Sandpoint
NRD St. Louis - NRS Effingham

May 2012

NRD Atlanta - NRS Cartersville
NRD Chicago - NRS Aurora
NRD Dallas - NRS Abilene
NRD Denver - NRS Glenwood Springs
NRD Jacksonville - NRS North Jacksonville
NRD Los Angeles - NRS Glendale
NRD Miami - NRS Port St. Lucie
NRD Minneapolis - NRS Omaha
NRD Nashville - NRS Collierville
NRD New England - NRS Middletown
NRD New York - NRS Downtown Brooklyn
NRD Ohio - NRS Columbus North
NRD Philadelphia - NRS Hagerstown
NRD Phoenix - NRS Roswell
NRD Pittsburgh - NRS Stroudsburg
NRD Portland - NRS Ontario
NRD Raleigh - NRS Richland Northeast
NRD Richmond - NRS Virginia Beach
NRD San Antonio - NRS Victoria
NRD San Diego - NRRS 32nd Street
NRD San Francisco - NRS San Jose
NRD Seattle - NRS Lewiston

Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters

April 2012

NRD Atlanta - LS2 Latonya Hicks
NRD Chicago - BU2 Frederick Silloway
NRD Dallas - FC1 Daniel Tetak
NRD Denver - AM1 Brian McCool
NRD Houston - AD2 Anderson Castrillon
NRD Jacksonville - YN2 Willie Sheppard
NRD Los Angeles - MM1 Joshua Krider
NRD Miami - STG1 Jeremy Tiggs
NRD Michigan - MM1 Christopher Bloks
NRD Minneapolis - EM1 Matthew Cavanaugh
NRD Nashville - ET2 Derrell Tribble
NRD New England - AE1 Peter Tripp
NRD New Orleans - AT2 Keith Rotton
NRD New York - GSM2 Brian McAllister
NRD Ohio - AM2 Ryan Allchin
NRD Philadelphia - FC2 Kyle Handy
NRD Phoenix - IC2 Dennis Reyes
NRD Pittsburgh - EA2 James Redden
NRD Portland - BM1 John Armstrong
NRD Raleigh - DC2 Lashaunya McNeil
NRD Richmond - ABH2 Dwayne Black
NRD San Antonio - AT2 John Jensen
NRD San Diego - QM2 Kaseem Young
NRD San Francisco - EM2 John Galendez
NRD Seattle - MM1 Jeffrey Martin
NRD St. Louis - SW2 Joshua Weinkein

May 2012

NRD Atlanta - LS2 Latonya Hicks
NRD Chicago - ABE2 Manuel Garduno
NRD Dallas - IC2 Richard Raymond
NRD Denver - GSM2 Erik Johnson
NRD Jacksonville - LS1 Osmel Barcanas
NRD Los Angeles - BM2 Irma Farfanserrano
NRD Miami - CS1 Enny Mercado
NRD Minneapolis - MM2 Casey Koehler
NRD Nashville - AT2 Joseph Ward
NRD New England - MM2 Julian Reynolds
NRD New Orleans - MA1 Christopher Williams
NRD New York - MM1 Marshall Lugo
NRD Ohio - STG2 Lancer Ewing
NRD Pittsburgh - MM1 Andrea Padias
NRD Philadelphia - EM1 Matthew Hughes
NRD Phoenix - ABH2 Nafiy Owens
NRD Portland - HT1 Mathew Price
NRD Raleigh - DC2 Lashaunya McNeil
NRD Richmond - AM2 Alfredo Contreras
NRD San Antonio - STS1 John Escobedo
NRD San Diego - FC1 Robert Callow
NRD San Francisco - ABH2 MarcIrwin Camposanto
NRD Seattle - MM1 Jeffrey Martin

