Future of the Fleet

RECRUITER

Top Navy Recruiters Honored at NORU with the Bakarian Award

Latest Graduates Head to the Fleet

CNRC Change of Commands

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From the Admiral

Recruiting Nation,

I've had the great honor of assuming command in mid-July. My wife, Colleen, and I are very excited to join the recruiting family. We are coming from San Diego and are eager to get out and meet as many of you that we can.

First and foremost, let me say THANK YOU! Over my years in the Fleet, I've seen the good work you've done is getting the best and brightest from across the country to join our ranks. The quality of the Sailors you've put in is a testament to your hard work and dedication to building the force of tomorrow.

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS! You are the weapons system of recruiting and without you we can't meet our goal: to build the Navy our Nation Needs. It's not an easy task, but I am confident that we will do it because you all are tough, tenacious, and intelligent. We will overcome any and all challenges as a recruiting team together.

Our target goals will increase as the Fleet grows over the next several years, but our quality should not suffer with this. Your leadership team is updating every policy we can (bonuses, waivers, etc) to help you out, now we need you to find the leads and close the deals. Always remember, we are recruiting our own future shipmates.

Take care of each other and lead by example. You are inspiring lives and transforming civilians into Sailors, our greatest strength.


dtc
Rear Adm. Brendan R. McLane
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command
New Commander Takes Helm of Navy Recruiting Command

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kyle Hafer, Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) Rear Adm. Brendan R. McLane relieved Rear Adm. Peter A. Garvin as the leader of Navy Recruiting during a change-of-command ceremony held at Naval Support Activity Mid-South, July 17.

Garvin took command of NRC on July 7, 2017, relieving Rear Adm. Jeffrey W. Hughes. During his tour at NRC, Garvin was responsible for the entire spectrum of the Navy’s recruiting effort, leading a recruiting force of more than 6,100 officers, Sailors, civilians and contractors around the world. Under Garvin’s direction, NRC recruited more than 43,360 of America’s best and brightest men and women into our active and reserve enlisted ranks and commissioned more than 3,380 officers into the U.S. Navy.

Garvin also oversaw the transformation of five Navy Recruiting Districts (NRD) into the new recruiting model Navy Talent Acquisition Groups (NTAG). On his watch, he also made great strides in expanding the recruiting force and implemented over 30 new initiatives that resulted in over 3,500 Future Sailors enlisting in the Navy who otherwise would have been turned away.

Garvin graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1990 and has since gone on to serve aboard five Navy ships, to include commanding officer of the USS Carney (DDG 64).

Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke served as the presiding officer for the change of command ceremony and gave remarks as the guest speaker for the event. Burke thanked Garvin for his leadership and contributions to the Navy.

“I’m happy to be here today to celebrate the accomplishments of the Navy Recruiting Command team under the leadership of Rear Adm. Pete Garvin,” said Burke. “Thank you for making it look easy when we all know it wasn’t. More importantly, thank you for being a friend and inspiration to everyone on this team – including me. It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve alongside you.”

He also welcomed McLane and his family, as he takes command of the recruiting enterprise.

“Men and women of recruiting nation: what you have accomplished during my time working for you is nothing short of extraordinary,” said Garvin. “I am honored to be part of the Navy recruiting team,” said McLane. “This is a very exciting time for our Navy and together we’ll ensure our recruiters keep their competitive advantage and continue to excel at recruiting the Navy the Nation Needs.”

McLane graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1990 and has since gone on to serve aboard five Navy ships, to include serving as the commanding officer of the USS Carney (DDG 64).
Recruiting Regions East and West Change Hands

In two separate ceremonies, the helms of Navy Recruiting Regions East and West changed hands as the outgoing commanders both retired following more than 72 years of combined military service.

In a ceremony that took place July 19, Capt. William T. Cox Jr. was relieved by Capt. James D. Bahr as the Navy Recruiting Region East commander. Then on Aug. 10, Capt. Jason L. Webb was relieved by Capt. Glenn J. O’Loughlin as commander of Navy Recruiting Region West. The ceremonies also served as retirements for Cox and Webb.

“Today is a special day in many ways,” said Cox, who began his service as an enlisted electronics technician in the submarine community in 1983. He was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1988 and went to Auburn University. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1992, and he was designated a naval aviator in 1995.

“I worked hard, I showed up on time, and when the doors of opportunity opened, I went through them,” he said, reminiscent of his 35-year career. “I have served on submarines, air craft carriers, and piloted helicopters. I have flown in the mountains of Fallon, Nev., and the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan. I had the privilege of commanding my own squadron and thousands of Sailors that make up Navy Recruiting Region East. I have no regrets.”

Cox became commodore of Region East in August 2015. Under his leadership, Region East enlisted approximately 30,000 Sailors and commissioned 3,000 officers, both active and reserve. He also assisted in the transformation of two of the 13 Navy Recruiting Districts (NRD) that fall under Region East into the new recruiting model Navy Talent Acquisition Groups (NTAG).

Rear Adm. Jeffrey Hughes, deputy chief of naval personnel/commander of the Navy Personnel Command, and former commander, Navy Recruiting Command, served as the presiding officer for the ceremony. “In your 35-year career, you have transcended and enriched generations within the Navy,” Hughes said regarding Cox. “You have been a constant and a catalyst for great change and have made our Navy significantly better throughout the course of your career.”

Cox’s relief, Bahr, started his career from the enlisted ranks in 1992, when he joined as a machinist mate. Bahr was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy four years later and has a extensive history of commands. Prior to assuming command of Region East, he was the commanding officer of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 12, a fleet replacement squadron flying the MH-60S helicopter out of Norfolk, Va.

“I am honored to assume command of Region East,” said Bahr. “To the tremendous Sailors and officers out there in the field, I look forward to working with you and providing the support you need in these challenging and exciting times.”

During the change of command at Region West, Webb wrote the closing chapter to a 37-year career that began with him working through the enlisted ranks to chief petty officer, before pursuing his commission as an officer. He became commander of Navy Recruiting Region West in July 2016, and under his tenure, the Region collectively enlisted more than 40,000 Sailors and commissioned 3,000 officers both active and reserve.

Webb also assisted in the transformation of three of the 13 NRDs that fall under Region West into the new recruiting model NTAGs. These NTAGs are the future of Navy recruiting and have already resulted in thousands of young men and women joining our ranks, according to Rear Adm. Brendan R. McLane, commander, Navy Recruiting Command, and presiding officer for the ceremony.

“You have inspired thousands of people and gave them a great shot at an incredible career and life in the United States Navy,” said McLane. “You have left a lasting legacy and will be missed.”

During his career, Webb held numerous leadership positions from officer in charge to several commanding officer billets. These roles all have one thing in common: developing and leading people. Webb is passionate about the recruiters he has led and the people he has worked with.

“They are the team of teams, with leaders who are tackling the toughest of challenges across the western half of the United States and Pacific across Japan,” said Webb. “I can honestly state that no one in our Navy cares for their Sailors and works harder to inspire their team to success, then the leaders we have in our Navy Recruiting Districts and Navy Talent Acquisition Groups.”

Webb’s relief, O’Loughlin, brings a diverse career history and most recent experience as prior deputy commodore of Navy Recruiting Region East.

“I’d like to thank all of Region East for a great tour,” said O’Loughlin. “I truly love Navy Recruiting in its purest form out in the field.” O’Loughlin continued, “I believe my role is to get out the field, as much as possible, to speak with and be around the people that make this enterprise move and bring great ideas to headquarters.”

With O’Loughlin at the helm of Region East and Bahr at Region West, Navy recruiting command is on course to reach higher goals set for recruiting. This year leadership is facing a 44 thousand accession goal. Both Region commanders say they are up for the challenge and look forward to leading their teams to success.
NRD Houston All Female Color Guard Leaves ‘Chills’ at Women Vets Day Event

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chris Fahey, Navy Recruiting District Houston Public Affairs

In a room as quiet as night and filled with women veterans, Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Houston’s all-female color guard performed an honoring of the colors that left nearly 150 people in the room motionless, some with noticeable tears in their eyes, and goosebumps all around.

“It left me with chills, complete chills,” said Romaine Barnett, a Navy veteran and lead coordinator for the June 8th Camo to Couture Awards and Fashion show held at the Water’s Edge Event Center in Clearlake, Texas. The support we received from the recruiting district’s female color guard was beautiful. Their performance was well organized and exactly what we expected to see from our active duty sisters.”

Barnett said they designed the event to commemorate and honor the contributions of women in the military. State legislature was passed last year, noting June as the official month for Women Veteran’s Day throughout Texas. The fashion show was the first of several events designed to honor these women.

“At one point, women weren’t allowed to serve in the military,” said Barnett. “As the years passed, we were allowed to join in supporting roles, then in leadership roles and leading up to today where women have the opportunity to serve in nearly every role there is.”

Barnett echoed many other women veterans at the event who feel recognition of their past and current achievements is still not where they would like.

“These events are designed to place the spotlight firmly on our role and what we have achieved,” added Barnett. “NRD Houston is committed to excellence and places priority on supporting diversity centric events that highlight the service of all service members, past and present,” said NRD Houston commanding officer, Cmdr. Joshua Bailey.

NRD Houston seeks out quality candidates throughout the surrounding areas, helping the Navy meet their hiring goals while also conducting volunteer activities designed to help give back the city of Houston and the surrounding communities they serve.
At Navy Orientation Recruiting Unit (NORU), the Navy’s newest recruiters graduated from the five-week training course and are ready to go out across the country and start work, August 17. NORU is the Navy’s only recruiting schoolhouse and is responsible for the instruction of enlisted and officer personnel in professional sales, prospecting techniques, marketing, applicant processing, recruiting terminology, leadership, ethical behavior and activity analysis. According to Cmdr. Mark E. Yates, officer in charge of NORU, without knowledgeable and talented Sailors in recruiting, the Navy’s manpower would plummet. Sailor retention would suffer due to an increased workload on Sailors in the Fleet who would have to make-up for low manning. This is why the Navy selects the best and most qualified Sailors for this task, and it is why their training is so important for the future of the Fleet.

Rear Adm. Brendan McLane, commander, Navy Recruiting Command, was the ceremony’s guest speaker, and during his speech he made sure everyone present understood the importance of what they were undertaking and how it affected the future of the Navy’s force.

“Going out and getting us new Sailors is so vitally important,” said McLane. “With our goals and our Navy increasing in size, every recruiting station out there, and the Fleet itself, really needs you.”

Motivation is a key part of being a successful recruiter; a Sailor’s ability to get up every day and seek out that next Future Sailor regardless of possible rejection is key to how well they do.

“To lead by example, you need to stay positive,” said McLane. “When you come to work every morning you have a choice to either motivate everyone else or demotivate them, so stay positive, and lead from every level.”
Future Sailors from the Talent Acquisition Onboarding Center (TAOC) Reno, Nevada take the oath of enlistment during a swearing-in ceremony at the Reno Rodeo on June 22, 2018.

On a warm, night in Reno, Nevada, fifteen Future Sailors stood before the crowd, ready to take the oath of enlistment at the Reno Rodeo as part of Reno Navy Week June 22.

Four members of the group did not need to look far to find supportive family and friends, they just looked next to them.

Cousins Angelina and Dakota Donald went two years without seeing each other, because of a family fallout. They didn’t even communicate over social media, as that was something Angelina was never allowed to have.

A chance meeting at their grandmother’s changed that, and there the girls exchanged numbers and began texting and talking.

The cousins never realized how similar their lives were until a fight at their grandmother’s house brought everything to the front.

“We called out each other’s parents,” Dakota said. “We yelled and cried,” added Angelina. “It was thirty minutes of throwing things at each other. I’ve never cried so much.”

“It was like World War III in our house,” Dakota interjected, both of them now able to laugh about the moment.

Afterwards, they realized how similar their lives actually were. Dakota’s father and Angelina’s mother were both absent, each cousin is or will be an older sister to a newborn and now they are both in the Delayed Entry Program. Angelina joining in the advanced electronic computer field program and Dakota as an aviation boatswain’s mate.

Justin and Haley Mardis might be brother and sister, but they are not very similar. They are, however, very competitive.

“Haley tries to one-up me on some things and I try to one-up her,” said Justin, who is the older sibling by two years.

Their competitiveness goes back to when Justin played Pop Warner football. What young Justin did during practice, Haley did on the sidelines. While her older brother tried to deflect from her success, she was quick to mention where she excelled.

“Your coach said I was faster than you,” she said. Aside from speed, the younger Mardis was also taller until junior high school.

“The fact she was taller made me so mad,” he said, upset that his younger sister bested him at something he had no control over.

Haley walked into the recruiting office first, but Justin counters that, since he joined shortly after high school, he should be considered first.

They did not decide together. In fact, neither knew the other was speaking with a recruiter.

“We wound up talking to the same recruiter and didn’t even know about it,” Haley said.

They may not have been together in the office, but they both stood tall in formation during the Reno Rodeo, raising their hands and taking the oath of enlistment.

As for being together during their career, it is something that has come up in conversation. Big brother is a bit pragmatic about the idea.

“I wouldn’t have to use leave to go see her,” he said. “Even though she drives me crazy.”

“That’s the little sisters’ job,” Haley fired back.

On June 22 all four listened to the roars, cheers and adulation from the crowd. Angelina and Dakota both smiled, sharing yet another identical experience under the Reno night. Soon, Justin will enter under the Airman Professional Apprenticeship Career Track program and Haley in the nuclear propulsion field.

Their Navy careers will probably be very different, but they will find a way to stay competitive.
I think it is extremely important for young women to be seen as equals in the crowd at the women’s soccer games. It wasn’t lost on Fink the large number of young girls who don’t grow up around the military, believe that you have to fit a certain mold to serve, and I hope that I can change that perception.

Fink was on the field for the pre-game ceremonies of the two games, Australia vs. Japan and United States vs. Brazil, presenting the trophy that the four teams would battle it out for. Thousands of young people in the stadium, and many more watching on TV at home, would see her in her summer white uniform, a shining example of the diversity in the U.S. Navy.

“My favorite part of the event was the USA Team win,” she said. “The entire event was amazing, from the support staff to the actual game, I loved every minute of it.”

Having grown up in a Navy family, Fink spent her childhood living in different locations all around the country but one constant in her life was soccer. “As a former soccer player, I never in my wildest dreams thought I would take part in such an empowering and enriching event,” she said. “It was a huge honor to be selected to take part in the Tournament of Nations ceremonies.”

In Chicago August 2. Many of the best women’s soccer players in the world were on the field. In the middle of it all was Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Chicago’s enlisted recruiting production officer, Lt. Kortney Fink. Fink, a 2010 graduate of The Citadel, had been selected to present the trophy and medals at the final leg of the 2018 Tournament of Nations between the women’s national teams from the United States, Brazil, Australia, and Japan.

Having grown up in a Navy family, Fink spent her childhood living in different locations all around the country but one constant in her life was soccer. “As a former soccer player, I never in my wildest dreams thought I would take part in such an empowering and enriching event,” she said. “It was a huge honor to be selected to take part in the Tournament of Nations ceremonies.”

Fink was on the field for the pre-game ceremonies of both the United States vs. Brazil and Australia vs. Japan matches. In the middle of the field, she was on the stage, presenting medals to all of the members of the winning team.

The policy change allows Sailors to retain their benefits to eligible family members. The provision for a Sailor to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits remains unchanged.

Sailors could transfer education benefits to their family members. The provision for a Sailor to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits remains unchanged.

Sailors with more than 16 years of credible service who have not completed the transfer eligibility by July 12 will not retain the ability to transfer education benefits to eligible family members.

The policy change allows Sailors to retain their eligibility to transfer education benefits even if they have not served the entirety of their obligated service commitment through no fault of their own. This means if a Sailor fails to fulfill their service obligation because of a “force shaping” event (such as officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion, or enlisted personnel involuntarily separated as a result of failure to meet minimum retention standards, such as high-year tenure) the transfer of benefits to a family member would not be impacted.

All approvals for transferability of the Post-9/11 GI Bill continue to require a four-year commitment in the Armed Forces and, more importantly, the member must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of election.


For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.
Coastal Riverine Group (CRG) 1 Training and Evaluation Unit 3 conducting reload on a .50 caliber machine gun during a simulated small boat attack exercise. (Photo by Chief Boatswain’s Mate Nelson Doromal Jr.)

Eye on the Fleet

above: Lt. John James, left, administers the oath of enlistment to a Sailor from U.S. 5th Fleet’s Task Group 52.3 during Eagle Response 18.

above: Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Karla Mendez jumps into the water during a swim call aboard the Blue Ridge-class command and control ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) in the Mediterranean Sea, July 22. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Justin Stumberg)

below: Civil service mariners attached to the dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7) send cargo lines to the guided missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) during an underway replenishment at sea, July 17. (Photo by Bill Mesta)
Top Navy Recruiters Honored at NORU with the Bakarian Award

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Adm. Brendan R. McLane presented 11 Sailors with the highest award in Navy recruiting, the Master Chief Anthony George Bakarian Award, August 16.

In attendance, were widow Diane Bakarian and one of their three daughters, Allison.

“When you join the Navy you always hear about being part of something bigger than yourself,” said Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Stephen Hunter, an award recipient from Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Richmond. “Winning this award and coming here being honored for my accomplishments really brings it home.”

The award is named after Master Chief Navy Counselor Anthony George Bakarian who was very influential in the world of Navy recruiting. He was an experienced Fleet Sailor and veteran of the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, serving on USS Horne (DLG 30), USS Chicago (CG 11), USS Enterprise (CVN 65), and returned back to USS Horne (DLG 30) prior to converting into the Career Recruiting Force community. He took his field experience and applied it to recruiting, working as the Chief Recruiter at Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Columbia and NRD Albuquerque, where he was the enlisted runner-up to recruiter of the year.

“His legacy of recruiting still lives in these halls right here at NORU,” said McLane. “His professionalism, imagination, and superb leadership had a substantial impact on all aspects of the recruiting enterprise.”

The common theme shared by these successful recruiters is how they view the Future Sailors, respecting them as individuals with feelings, goals and stories. Future Sailors aren’t just a number to fill a quota. These top recruiters go the extra mile for each individual they recruit, because they want the best candidates to join them in naval service.

“I believe in authenticity,” said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jacob Hayden, a recipient from Navy Talent Acquisition Force (NTAF) Mid-South. “When you tailor-make each conversation to that individual, they’re going to believe in you because you believe in them.”

Navy recruiting is facing many modern challenges such as low unemployment, a limited number of qualified American citizens, and an expanding number of ships needing to be crewed. Because of this, high-quality recruiters, like those receiving the Bakarian Award, are integral to our national security and to completing the Navy’s mission around the world.

“It’s always good when you get this type of positive reinforcement and recognition,” said Lt. Cassandra Wilson, an award recipient from NRD Miami. “It definitely motivates me to get back out there and achieve more and do better.”

Bakarian saw the value of recruiting, and he created a legacy of professionalism, imagination, and superb leadership that has had a substantial impact on the recruiting enterprise as a whole.

Satisfied parents are the Navy’s best advertising,” Bakarian said in a 1986 New York Times article. To pursue this type of word-of-mouth recruiting, he dedicated himself to the families of those he put in the Navy, and recommended that he and the recruiters remain available to parents for up to six months to a year after they leave for basic training.

“We are all forever grateful for his wisdom, guidance and dedication to inspiring thousands of individuals to serve in our great Navy,” said McLane. “Master Chief Bakarian would be very proud of your dedication and the impact you make every single day.”

The Sailors who received the award are as follows:

Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford’s (CVN 78) Chiefs Mess conduct colors on the ship’s flight deck in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the chief petty officer rank. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cat Campbell)
The Navy announced the expansion of hair styles for women along with several other uniform policy changes and updates in NAVADMIN 163/18.

Among the several hair style changes is the authorization for women to wear locks. The NAVADMIN provides specific and detailed regulation on how locks can be worn.

Women are also authorized to wear their hair in a single braid, French braid, or single ponytail in service, working and physical training uniforms. The ponytail may extend up to three inches below the bottom edge of the of the shirt, jacket or coat collar. The accessory holding the ponytail must not be visible when facing forward, and be consistent with the color of the hair. The hair cannot be worn below the bottom of the uniform collar where there are hazards such as rotating gear.

Women may now wear a hair bun that does not exceed or extend beyond the width of the back of the head.

Other uniform changes include the approval of the Navy Optional Physical Training Uniform (OPTU) that consists of a navy blue high performance shirt and five-inch running shorts. The uniform is expected to be available at Navy Exchange Uniform and Customer Care Centers starting October 2018. Navy is also developing a standard navy blue Physical Training Uniform (PTU) that will be phased into the seabag issue at Recruit Training Command in the next 12-18 months.

The black relax-fit jacket (Eisenhower Jacket) has been designated a unisex item and Sailors can wear the men or women’s jacket sizing that best suits their uniform requirements.

To allow for greater visibility female Sailors have the option to wear identification badges on the right side above the pocket of their uniforms.

Wear testing of the improved female officer and chief service uniform skirts and slacks will be complete this summer. Improvements include a straight line service skirt, and redesigned khaki and white service slacks with lower waist and reduced rise (waist to top of the inseam). These items are expected to be available at Navy Exchange Uniform and Customer Care Centers at the end of the year.

An improved black leather safety boot (I-boot 4) for optional wear with all Navy working uniforms and coveralls will be for sale at designated fleet concentration locations beginning this October. The boots were selected based on Sailor feedback and the 2017 Navy Boot Study. New uniform policies are the result of fleet feedback and the ongoing efforts to improve Navy uniforms, uniform policies and Sailor appearance.

The Navy Uniform mobile app will be updated in late July. The update will include all of Navy Uniform regulation illustrations, policies and NAVADMINs. The expanded uniform app’s goal is to provide one-stop uniform policy access and ability to submit uniform questions links to Navy Exchange online uniform sales via the app.

For complete information on these uniform policies, details, guidance, and where to direct questions see NAVADMIN 163/18 at www.npc.navy.mil.


For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.
Navy Recruiting Chiefs from the Bronx Marry in Front of Manhattan Skyline

Two chief petty officers who grew up a mile from each other in the Bronx tied the knot in July when they held their wedding next to the Williamsburg Bridge in Brooklyn.

“We came to New York to get married and start a family,” said Chief Yeoman Loureann Laureano, a high school graduate of Evander Childs Educational Campus. Even though they grew up so close, they met while hanging out with mutual friends in Washington D.C. eight years ago.

The chiefs currently serve together recruiting and mentoring Future Sailors at Navy Recruiting District New York, but built their relationship while serving aboard different aircraft carriers in Norfolk, Virginia.

“We had been engaged since 2012, but due to deployments, ship schedules and work, it was hard to get to this point,” said Chief Aviation Support Equipment Technician William Cepeda, a high school graduate of George Washington Educational Campus. Their previous two ships, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), shared pier locations when they were home ported on the naval base.

“It took a lot of effort from the both of us to make it work as well as always keeping in mind the current situation was only temporary at the time,” said Laureano. The pair said separation was the biggest challenge for a dual-military couple.

The Sailors were both selected for promotion and went through chief petty officer initiation in 2016, though again in separate duty stations. Laureano said she wanted to experience recruiting duty and now they are able to work and be around their families.

“We’ve always wanted to have a nautical themed wedding and when we saw The W Loft we fell in love with the place to the point where we changed our Memorial Day weekend wedding to July, because The W Loft was available,” said Laureano. The venue in next to the Williamsburg Bridge in Brooklyn has waterfront views of the Manhattan skyline and was the perfect size for them.

“Just like any other normal couple, we have had hard times due to being in the Navy, but somehow we have made it work and today we are happily married and looking forward to starting a family,” said Cepeda.

Navy Recruiting District New York covers 7,700 square miles and includes NYC’s five boroughs, Long Island and the northern half of New Jersey. The recruiters’ mission is to recruit, mentor and ship the most highly qualified men and women for service in America’s Navy.

Story and photo by Chief Petty Officer Travis Simmons, Navy Recruiting District New York Public Affairs
Navy Recruiting Provides Opportunity for Texas Educators to Learn More About Their Navy

Story and photos by Burrell Parmer, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio Public Affairs

Navy Awareness is an important element in recruiting America’s best and brightest for naval service. To assist the recruiting effort in Central and South Texas, nine educators and counselors, along with support personnel from Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Antonio, visited naval commands in support of an Educators Orientation Visit (EOV) July 10 - 13.

The EOV is a Navy Recruiting Command program with a main focus of showing educators the various facets of the Navy and the many career paths available to students. According to Jozabad Palacios of Mission, Texas, an assistant principal with McAllen High School in McAllen, he had minimum knowledge of the Navy. "Before my visit to the naval units in San Diego, I had no knowledge of any specific duties or actions of which the U.S. Navy was responsible for," said Palacios. "As an administrator at a large 6A high school, I have a duty to the students and the community to keep them well informed of higher education and other opportunities to include the military service."

The highlight of Palacios’ trip was visiting Naval Medical Center San Diego. "The amount of education and training these individuals possess exceeded my expectations," said Palacio. "Furthermore, seeing the operational aspect of it all provided more of a realization that there is no other place that compares to real-world training provided by the Navy."

Additionally, the group visited the Damage Control/Firefighting School at Naval Base San Diego, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 75 at Naval Air Station North Island, BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL) Training and Assault Craft Unit at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, and the Los Angeles-class submarine, USS Annapolis (SSN 760) at Naval Base Point Loma.

The highlight of the EOV for Michael Moore of Chicago, a health science teacher at Smithson Valley High School in Spring Branch, was listening to the stories of the Sailors and support personnel about their careers and lives in the Navy. "Everyone had unique stories, career paths, and interests," said Moore. "It was extremely beneficial for me as an educator, because I can speak to a student from a different perspective now and I can recommend additional options outside of what I previously counseled students about."

Participants showed interest in learning more about the Navy and to ensure that Navy career information is available in their schools. Juan Rodriguez, the Education Services specialist for NRD San Antonio, stated that the NRD's return on investment has always proven fruitful. "Each year we have had counselors join or apply for both officer and enlisted programs, both active and reserve components," said Rodriguez, a retired master chief navy counselor. "It provides educators and other youth influencers the opportunity to better understand America's Navy as opposed to just formulating a made-up concept of who we are." Palacios stated that more teachers and counselors should attend the EOV. "Having a general knowledge of what Sailors are tasked with will help them provide detailed information for a student, should they be asked," said Palacios. "Educators, counselors, and administrators should take advantage of this opportunity for the experience will definitely change the perception that they may have of our military."
Retired Rear Adm. Alene B. Duerk, the Navy’s first female admiral, passed away July 21. She was 98 years old.

“It took 197 years and a forward-looking Chief of Naval Operations, Elmo Zumwalt, to break with tradition before Alene Duerk became the first woman admiral in the U.S. Navy,” said Naval History and Heritage Command Director Sam Cox. “But the credit goes to Duerk. From the crucible of caring for wounded Sailors, Marines and prisoners of war during World War II in the Pacific, she blazed a trail of stellar performance in tough jobs, serving as an inspiration for an ever increasing number of women officers who have followed her path.”

Born in Defiance, Ohio, on March 29, 1920, she received nursing training at the Toledo (Ohio) Hospital School of Nursing, from which she earned her diploma in 1941. From there, Duerk entered the U.S. Naval Reserve and was appointed an Ensign in the Nurse Corps.

“Alene Duerk was a strong and dedicated trail blazer who embodied the very principles that continue to guide Navy medicine today,” commented Vice Adm. Forrest Faison, Navy surgeon general, upon learning of her passing. “She will forever be remembered as a servant leader who provided the best care to those who defended our nation, honoring the uniform we wear and the privilege of leadership.”

Her first tours of duty included ward nurse at Naval Hospital Portsmouth in Virginia, Naval Hospital Bethesda in Maryland and sea service aboard the Navy hospital ship, USS Benevolence (AH 13), in 1945.

While anchored off the coast of Eniwetok, Duerk and the crew of the Benevolence would attend to the sick and wounded being brought back from the Third Fleet’s operations against Japan.

Upon cessation of hostilities on Sept. 2, 1945, Duerk and the Benevolence crew took on the task of repatriating liberated Allied prisoners of war, an endeavor that solidified her commitment to nursing and patient care.

Years later, when asked about her service for the Library of Congress’ Veteran’s History Project, Duerk said, “The time I was aboard the hospital ship and we took the prisoners of war, that was something I will never forget . . . that was the most exciting experience of my whole career.”

Thereafter, Duerk was assigned to Naval Hospital Great Lakes until being released from active service in 1946.

In 1951, Duerk returned to active duty serving as a nursing instructor at the Naval Hospital Corps School in Portsmouth, Va. and later as inter-service education coordinator at the Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Her skills in ward management, surgical nursing and mentoring would be put to use over the next two decades while serving at hospitals in San Diego; and Yokosuka, Japan; at the Recruiting Station in Chicago; and in Washington, D.C.

In May 1970, following assignments as assistant for Nurse Recruitment in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) and assistant head of Medical Placement Liaison (Nurse Corps) at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Duerk was appointed director of the Navy Nurse Corps.

“The time I was aboard the hospital ship and we took the prisoners of war, that was something I will never forget . . . that was the most exciting experience of my whole career.”

Over the next five years, Duerk provided direction for the Nurse Corps, updating policies affecting Navy Medicine and expanding the sphere of nursing into ambulatory care, anesthesia, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology.

Her selection to the rank of rear admiral was approved by President Richard Nixon on April 26, 1972. The first woman to be selected for flag rank, she was advanced on June 1, 1972.

Rear Adm. Duerk retired in 1975, but remained a strong advocate for Navy nursing through the remainder of her life.

Duerk was awarded the Navy Reserve Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with bronze star, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp and the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star.

Duerk’s biography offers greater insight into her service, it can be found online at the website of the Naval History and Heritage Command here: http://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity/women-in-the-navy/first-female-flag-officer.html

See the entry on Duerk at the Library of Congress Veteran’s History Project online here: http://memory.loc.gov/digibib/vhp/bib/natlib.afc2001001.28852

The Naval History and Heritage Command, located at the Washington Navy Yard, is responsible for the preservation, analysis and dissemination of U.S. naval history and heritage. It provides the knowledge foundation for the Navy by maintaining historically relevant resources and products that reflect the Navy’s unique and enduring contributions through our nation’s history, and supports the fleet by assisting with and delivering professional research, analysis and interpretive services. NHHC is composed of many activities including the Navy Department Library, the Navy Operational Archives, the Navy art and artifact collections, underwater archeology, Navy histories, nine museums, USS Constitution repair facility and the historic ship Nautilus.

For more news from Naval History and Heritage Command, visit www.history.navy.mil.
Admiral’s Five-Star Recruiters For June 2018

NRD Atlanta - BM2 Marcelle Hooton
NRD Chicago - BM2 Collin McCaslin
NRD Dallas - ABF1 Skylar Thomas
NRD Houston - MR1 Juan Montelongo
NRD Jacksonville - A22(SWI/AW) Andoria Jackson
NRD Miami - GM2 Jonathan UrracaBatista
NRD Michigan - LS1 Jeffrey M. Shuck
NRD New England - OS1 Ralph Cacchiotti
NRD New Orleans - NS1 Doby Timothy Carson
NRD New York - CT1 Michael T. Wilson
NRD Ohio - AB2E(AW) Amen Garcia

The District’s Top Stations For June 2018

NRD Atlanta - NRS Jonesboro
NRD Chicago - NRS Green Bay
NRD Dallas - NRS Cedar Hill
NRD Houston - NRS Humble
NRD Jacksonville - NRS Kissimmee
NRD Los Angeles - NRS East Bakersfield
NRD Miami - NRS Temple Terrace
NRD Michigan - NRS Lafayette
NRD Nashville - NRS Alban
NRD New Orleans - TAOC - New Orleans
NRD New York - NRS Newark
NRD Ohio - NRS Lexington

Admiral’s Five-Star Recruiters For July 2018

NRD Atlanta - BM2 Marsell James
NRD Chicago - BM2 Collin McCaslin
NRD Dallas - ABF1 Skylar Thomas
NRD Houston - MR1 Juan Montelongo
NRD Jacksonville - A22(SWI/AW) Andoria Jackson
NRD Miami - GM2 Jonathan UrracaBatista
NRD Michigan - LS1 Jeffrey M. Shuck
NRD New England - OS1 Ralph Cacchiotti
NRD New Orleans - NS1 Doby Timothy Carson
NRD New York - CT1 Michael T. Wilson
NRD Ohio - AB2E(AW) Amen Garcia

The District’s Top Stations For July 2018

NRD Atlanta - NRS Jonesboro
NRD Chicago - NRS Glendale Heights
NRD Dallas - NRS Richardson
NRD Houston - NRS Greenspoint
NRD Jacksonville - NRS Ocala
NRD Los Angeles - NRS El Monte
NRD Miami - NRS Port St. Lucie
NRD Michigan - NRS Grand Rapids
NRD New England - NRS Worcester
NRD New Orleans - TAOC - Baton Rouge
NRD New York - NRS Tribeca
NRD Northern Plains - TAOC - Minneapolis
NRD Ohio - NRS Lexington

From the Archives

October Begins CNRC’s Transition To NMCI

The Navy Recruiter October 2002

The transition is expected to occur between October and December for personnel at Navy Recruiting headquarters, the Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit (NROU), Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) and recruiting regions. Field recruiters can expect to see the NMCI transition between January and March, when recruiting numbers are typically lighter. At its completion, the new intranet network will bring 7,000 authorized seats to the Navy Recruiting Command. Each “seat” consists of a computer and a windows operating system. All computers will be uniform Navywide.

The new intranet network will provide Sailors and Marines a secure method of operating online and allows all commands to communicate via a common operating system. Maintenance also will be affected by NMCI. Under the current system, Sailors are tasked with the upkeep of their command’s computer networks. Under NMCI, contractors at a central location in Norfolk, Va., will be charged with maintaining the system.

The heightened security of the NMCI network means Sailors and Marines will not have access to many web sites they had access to in the past. The ability to download data from web sites also will be constrained under NMCI.

According to Information Systems Technician Master Chief Susan Alders, NMCI will enable Navy Recruiting to keep pace with the rest of the Navy while performing its critical recruiting mission. “People don’t always like change, but the end result will be a good thing for the Navy and the Marine Corps,” said Alders. For more information on NMCI, go to www.nmci-isf.com.
Recruiting Duty Is For You

Benefits of Serving as a Navy Recruiter

--- High Job Satisfaction ---
- Learn specialized communication and corporate-level sales tactics at NORU in Pensacola, Florida
- Recruiters inspire lives, transform civilians into Sailors and start them on careers in the United States Navy.

--- High Promotion Opportunities ---
- Selected E-4s can reenlist using the STAR program and advance to E-5 upon graduation from NORU.
- MAP is awarded more than any other command in the Navy.
- Fleet and CRF Recruiters have greater opportunities to advance.

--- Earn More Money ---
- Recruiters have the ability to earn SDAP level 7, which is a higher level of SDAP than any other billet in the Navy.
  - Earn up to $525 a month.

www.cnrc.navy.mil/navy-recruiter-magazine