

June 2014

Issue 2

**N**ASHVILLE  
RD  
Newsletter



# NRD

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# Commander's Corner

Shipmates,

This is my final contribution to our newsletter, so I wanted to pass my sincere appreciation of your hard work and effort during my tenure here in Nashville.

Thank You!!

I cannot begin to describe the tremendous pride I have had in serving as your Skipper. The enduring professionalism and heart you have shown this past year is truly inspiring. Our third quarter closed with our NRD achieving every assigned production goal - on glide slope for a phenomenal fiscal year. None of this would have been possible without the outstanding effort that each one of you puts into your job every day.

Thank you again for everything you have done, I look forward to seeing NRD Nashville continue to set the bar for the rest of Navy Recruiting!

— Skipper Barnard

TEAMWORK



STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC1(SW/AW) TIMOTHY WALTER

In a vast room filled with exhibits for Fortune 500 companies like General Electric, Dow Chemical and Google, a steady stream of young students and qualified engineers filed under a tent marked with five simple words: A global force for good.

They came from all across the country with some nearing the completion of one, and sometimes two, degrees in fields such as electrical and mechanical engineering. Others were still waiting to enter high school. But what connected them at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville on March 28, was a community of people who shared a common heritage and common goal - encouraging and assisting the country's next generation of African-American engineers.

At the 40th annual National Society of Black Engineers convention, hundreds of attendees sought out the tent marked with those five words and many met a Navy officer who embodied the goal and passion of the society. Dressed in his service dress blue uniform, Lt. Matuwo Olufokunbi was all smiles as wave after wave of students stopped to talk with him and other recruiters at the Navy Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) exhibit.

The young people could learn about undersea robotics or laparoscopic surgery with one of the Navy's hands-on simulations but most wanted to talk about their possible future in the military. And Olufokunbi, with his animated gestures, was visibly motivated to answer their questions.

"It's kind of like a dream come true to see black engineers out there trying to better themselves



Chief Electronics Technician Jonathan Wallace, right, stationed at Navy Recruiting District Nashville, speaks with a convention attendee during the 40th annual National Society of Black Engineers convention at Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville.

and make themselves competitive for the workplace,” said Olufokunbi.

As an American born abroad in Nigeria, Olufokunbi was excited to mentor young African-American engineers to follow in his path. His journey began in the Navy when he was recruited out of Dallas, Texas, as an enlisted electronics technician. He was then selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral program, which enabled him to earn an electrical engineering degree at Old Dominion University in Norfolk and continue serving as a nuclear field officer.

As such, he was entrusted with the responsibility to safely and effectively manage the operation of a nuclear reactor on a Navy vessel.

“This event means a lot to me. There is a lot of talent here and to just see my people in this kind of environment is fulfilling,” he said. “Being an engineer myself, I get the opportunity to mentor some of these students. They don’t even have to join the Navy. It’s all about their professional development. But it’s important for them to know that there is a black engineer serving in the nuclear program



Convention attendees visit the Navy recruiting exhibit during the 40th annual National Society of Black Engineers convention. The National Society of Black Engineers promotes the recruitment and retention of African-American engineers and is one of the largest student-run organizations in the country.



and to let them know that this is available to them. I like to say that I am here to spread the good news.”

Hundreds of young African-Americans heard that good news during the society’s 40th annual convention titled, “Engineering and Leadership in Harmony.”

Officer recruiters from Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Nashville actively promoted the Navy’s different career fields to the attendees, particularly the nuclear field. Chief Hospital Corpsman Kevin Campbell, the medical officer recruiter for NRD Nashville, said he was encouraged to see so many highly qualified engineers and students from around the country who were interested in serving in the military.

“It’s a great opportunity to be here to speak to people about opportunities in the Navy, specifically to African-American engineers,” he said. “For those that are going on into higher education, I let them know that we have officer positions that relate directly to what they want to do.”

Campbell added that as an African-American, he was proud to participate in the Navy’s effort to create a diverse workplace.

“I’m glad that the Navy is reaching out to this



Lt. Shannon Wright, center, and Lt. Robert Whitecotton speak with a convention attendee during the 40th annual National Society of Black Engineers convention at Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.





side of the overall American community. I think in the end it makes the Navy better by having diverse opinions and diverse experiences working in our field,” he said.

For Lt. Robert Whitecotton, who works closely with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) to coordinate awareness, the event was a true success.

“The importance of being here at NSBE is continue the partnership that we have carried on for nine years and continuing to recruit the best and the brightest that they have to offer,” said Whitecotton.

He said the caliber of the students involved in the organization is easily summed up in the types of questions that they posed to the officer recruiters.

“They are already talking about graduate school and the industry and not just what class they are taking next semester. That is huge for us,” he said. “We need people to ask the right questions earlier on, so that when they do graduate, they are making an informed decision. We really would like them to have the goal of being in the Navy early on in their college experience.”

He added that talented engineers with initiative and positive energy are key to the future of the Navy and its missions.

“With all the technologies that we have, we need people to help us develop it, maintain it and evolve it to keep us at the forefront of the world, to make us a better organization and to help us protect the interests of the United States.”

The NSBE was founded in 1975 and has nearly 30,000 members, making it one of the largest student-governed organizations in the country.



## **STARTED TOGETHER**

Sailors from Division one and two of Navy Recruiting District Nashville and future submarine and medical officers participate in the bi-annual Physical Readiness Test at the Air National Guard base in Alcoa, Tenn.

# XO Notes

Team Nashville,

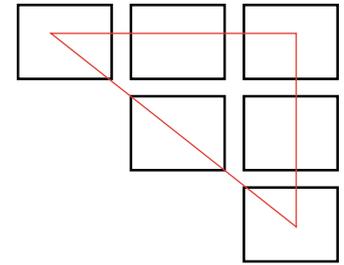
We had a great quarter, which saw our production on both missions increase tremendously. As we look back on the first half of 2014, your hard work and effort has lifted the District to new heights. With that success, we still managed to stay in compliance with Big Navy regulations, executing a near-perfect PFA, significantly improving Spring Advancement Exam scores across the board, and taking time to train and mentor one another.

There has been a tremendous amount of turn-over, and your performance at boards is showing a better-trained work force. Keep the press on documentation and follow-up. Attention-to-detail is critical in a sales environment, so know what you expect your Future Sailors to know - Chain of Command. The annual Leading Petty Officer Conference will be run by Navy Recruiting Command's Training Department. For those attending,

take time to digest the information and pass it on back to your recruiters in your respective stations.

Again, thank you for what you do to make America's Navy a Global Force for Good. Our nation needs you to be ready to return to sea duty when your tour is up. Your talent makes all the difference.

- XO



STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC1(SW/AW) TIMOTHY WALTER

Most people don't wear a hard hat to paint a wall. But he proudly did with an anchor on front. If his combat boots and camouflage pants didn't give it away, then his shirt, which celebrated a deployment of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, certainly did.

Chief Equipment Operator Mike Moretti loves being a member of the Navy Construction Battalion (CB), commonly referred to as "Seabees." And he loves to help out those in need. So even though the house he was painting will belong to someone else, for a few hours on April 16, he was at home on the construction site.

That is why Moretti responded simply when one of his Sailors requested volunteers for a Habitat for Humanity project in La Vergne, Tenn.

"You can count the Seabee in for construction jobs," said Moretti, a native of Jacksonville, Fla.

Admittedly, he would have preferred to dig a foundation or build a wall from cut timber, but he was just as happy to be on a construction site again after being away from his beloved battalion for the past six months. Currently serving as a recruiter for Navy Recruiting District Nashville, he now helps to bring in the next generation of Seabees and Sailors from the area around his station in Murfreesboro, Tenn. But on this day, he



Personnel Specialist 1st Class Paul Burke, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Jeremy Goodman and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Jason Leaf, all recruiters from Navy Recruiting District Nashville, pose for a photo outside of a Habitat for Humanity home in La Vergne, Tenn., where they volunteered their time to paint the interior walls and doors.

could be a Seabee again. And whether it was patching holes or pushing a roller, the glow in his eyes was hard to miss.

“Getting a chance to go back into construction whether it be painting or groundwork is always good, and being able to give back to someone in need is what Habitat for Humanity is all about,” Moretti said.

But he wasn’t the only Sailor from NRD Nashville to put in time at the yellow house on Miles Street. Three other Navy recruiters joined him and a small team of local volunteers. Lively banter echoed off the bare walls just as easily as the paint rolled on them. The smell of drywall and fresh wood competed against the second coat of white latex as they all joked about how many projects they needed to finish in their own homes. Yet each admitted how rewarding it was to give their time for the sake of someone else.

“I am helping out this family that is established in this community and wants to stay here and could use a little bit of extra help in their life. These are good people and I’m sure they will do their part to pay it forward,” said Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Jeremy Goodman, a native of Charleston, S.C., who is currently serving as a Navy recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting Station Murfreesboro.



Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Jeremy Goodman paints a door inside the home.



Chief Equipment Operator Mike Moretti patches holes inside the home.



Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Jason Leaf paints a door inside the home.



Personnel Specialist 1st Class Paul Burke, left, helps load lighting fixtures into the home.



Chief Equipment Operator Mike Moretti, left, patches holes while Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Jason Leaf paints a door inside a Habitat for Humanity home in La Vergne, Tenn.

Just a few weeks before the Sailors arrived at the construction site, Goodman was driving through Murfreesboro, when he saw a Habitat for Humanity store and decided to ask if there were any projects going on in the area. The volunteer coordinator informed him of the current builds and Goodman set out to do what he does best - recruit Sailors. Except this time, he was searching for those Sailors that were already in the Navy.

When he put out the request for volunteers, he had a slight problem. He had

too many for the number of available openings at the project. The solution for Goodman was as simple as it was practical - make volunteering about more than just one opportunity. He said he is already helping to organize Sailors for future projects.

"I want this to be a regular thing," Goodman said. "I want my Murfreesboro Recruiting Station to be involved with the Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity," he said.

He has plans to encourage participation not only from his fellow recruiters but also the future Sailors that are preparing to join the Navy. He said

efforts like this help inform the opinions of the community as well as develop Sailors into the examples and leaders they need to be.

"We can show the community that we have local roots while still managing to be America's global force for good," he said.

Habitat for Humanity International was founded in 1976 and has helped build or repair more than 800,000 houses around the world.

# NRD ACHIEVEMENTS

**EM2 Ishmael Gordon**  
passes Leading Petty Officer Board



**LS2 Amy Wiser**  
passes Leading Petty Officer Board



**FC1 Daniel Billowitz**  
receives a letter of commendation



**LS2 Amy Wiser**  
receives a letter of commendation



**LT Thomas Reichhart**  
receives first gold wreath



**OS2 Shawn Ring**  
passes Advanced Recruiter Board



# NRD AROUND THE DISTRICT

## CMC at Columbia H.S.



Master Chief Paul Corey, command master chief of Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Nashville, serves as the guest of honor during a Pass-in-Review of a Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit at Columbia High School.



Command Master Chief Paul Corey conducts an inspection of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit.





# CMC SPEAKS

Great Americans,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families doing well! Thank you for all that you do every day. What a great summer this is turning out to be so far. Please make sure that as you all enjoy these beautiful weekends that you exercise good ORM practices.

The Chief Petty Officer results should be out by the end of July. Good luck to all selection board eligible First Class Petty Officers.

There have been recent changes to the Transition, Goals, Plans, and Success (TGPS) workshop. If the Navy is to fund your travel to TGPS you are required to attend TGPS at the closest military base, regardless of the branch of service.

As we prepare for the Change of Command, I would like you all to join me in a heart-felt "Thank You" to Skipper Barnard for his leadership to our district. Skipper Barnard is going just a few hours down the road to be the Deputy Commodore of Region East. Welcome aboard to Skipper Hernandez. Skipper Hernandez and I look forward to traveling around the district to visit you all.

As always, I sincerely appreciate your hard work and dedication to our Navy and NRD Nashville.

I will see you about the deckplates!

- CMC

# NRD REENLISTMENTS



AEI Ryan Dillon

FCI Steven Johndrow



# NRD FROCKING

**MM1** Dustin Goodman



**DC1** Curtis Iverson



**AWRCS** Xipetotec Thorngate



# NRD DEPARTING

**NCC Tony Peraza**



**NCC Nolita Whiten**



**NC1 Christopher Tucker**



**ATI Harold Rainey**



**MM1 Christopher Terrazzano**



**MM1 Bryan Headlee**



**FC1 Daniel Billowitz**



# NRD DEPARTING

AEI Eric Britt



BM2 Jorge Miguel



# NRD AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Division 4 Meets the Commodore, Region East

**CAPT Christopher Heaney**



# NRD AROUND THE DISTRICT



Sailors assigned to NRD Nashville conduct the 1.5 mile run at Sharp Springs Park in Smryna, Tenn.



Sailors assigned to NRD Nashville conduct the push-up portion of hte PRT at Sharp Springs Park in Smryna, Tenn.



Cmdr. Jaime Hernandez, executive officer of Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Nashville, speaks to Sailors assigned to NRD Nashville prior to conducting the Navy's bi-annual PRT.

# NRD AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Running the Course

THE CLOCK



Sailors conduct the 1.5 mile run portion of the PRT.



Sailors conduct the curl-up portion of the PRT.

THE RESULTS



Sailors assigned to NRD Nashville celebrate the completion of the PRT.



Sailors assigned to NRD Nashville record their scores.

# NRD AROUND THE DISTRICT

## The Lighter Side of the PRT



Cmdr. Jaime Hernandez, executive officer of Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Nashville, speaks with future submarine officers prior to participating in the bi-annual Physical Readiness Test at the Air National Guard base in Alcoa, Tenn.

## Division 1 + 2



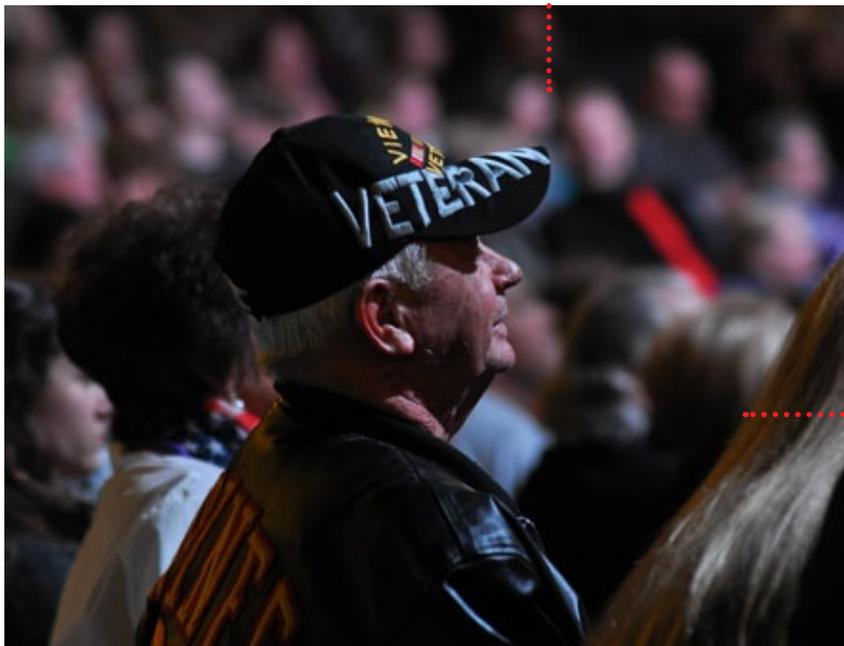
Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Ryan Dillon marks the time for Sailors from Division one and two of Navy Recruiting District Nashville and future submarine and medical officers.



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Ariel Coley, a Navy recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting Station Knoxville, performs a warm-up exercise prior to participating in the bi-annual PRT.

# NRD AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Charlie Daniels' Scholarship for Heroes Concert at Lipscomb University



A veteran watches the fifth annual Copperweld Charlie Daniels' Scholarship for Heroes Concert at Lipscomb University's Allen Arena in Nashville. Sailors assigned to NRD Nashville attended the free event which was launched by Daniels to raise awareness for the Yellow Ribbon Education program and to raise funds for veterans to attend Lipscomb University.



Master Chief Navy Counselor Sharon Kinloch, left, Chief Recruiter for Navy Recruiting District Nashville, and Chief Aviation Support Equipment Technician Hector Huerta pose for a photo with an audience member.



Cmdr. Jaime Hernandez, executive officer for Navy Recruiting District Nashville, watches a performance.



Charlie Daniels help found the event and is an annual performer.



Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Garrett Waldron celebrates his wedding anniversary with his wife at the concert.

# NRD AROUND THE DISTRICT

The sounds of freedom



The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters , above, led off the concert and joined the country stars during an encore performance. Charlie Daniels, far left, was joined by fellow singers Kellie Pickler, Clint Black and Lee Greenwood.



