

NAVY RECRUITER

magazine

Supporting Navy Recruiters

May - June 2012
Volume Sixty Number Three

***NRD New Orleans
Wrapping Up Mardi Gras 2012***

***NRD Chicago
Honoring WWII Vets***

***Behind the Scenes
Educators Tour the Navy***

***Recruiting Ribbon
Retired Captain is Recognized***

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SOCIAL MEDIA...



Front cover: NCC(AW/SW) Carolyn O'Neal performs walking lunges during command physical fitness at NRC training in Millington, Tenn. The command hosts weekly group PT sessions to help individuals prepare for the upcoming Physical Fitness Assessment. (Photo by MC1 Amanda Sullivan, NRC Public Affairs)

Back cover: SOC(SEAL) Larry Summerfield, assigned to the U.S. Navy parachute demonstration team, the Leap Frogs, jumps from a C-130 cargo aircraft during a training jump above Turner Field at Naval Base Coronado. The Leap Frogs are based in San Diego and perform aerial parachute demonstrations across the United States in support of Naval Special Warfare and Navy recruiting. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Michelle Turner, Navy Leap Frogs Public Affairs)



AMERICA'S NAVY

A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD.™

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From the FORCM



Shipmates:

I'm extremely honored to serve as your Navy Recruiting Force Master Chief, an integral part of America's Navy. Together, we represent a global force for good that answers the call to recruit our reliefs. In order to answer the call, we have to maintain our personal readiness.

It is our duty as leaders to provide you and your families the resources you need to stay healthy and fit so that you can meet mission and maintain a lifestyle of fitness. It's your duty to take advantage of the resources available.

A lifestyle of fitness is more than a body measurement and physical test. Although the semi-annual assessment impacts your career including special duty assignment screenings, frocking and board selections, and more, it also affects your long-term health and your family's well-being.

We have a multitude of resources to help you stay fit. Online, you can calculate your current BCA, determine what you need to pass, set your own personal fitness goals and check out some official Navy workouts. Here are a couple of links to assist you:
<http://www.navyfitness.org/fitness/> and
<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/physical/pages/default2.aspx>.

Along with physical fitness, I also want to stress the importance of safety, especially with the summer months upon us. Safety not only encompasses motorcycle and vehicle safety (http://www.public.navy.mil/navsafecen/pages/ashore/motor_vehicle/motorcycle.aspx), it also includes the physical (<http://myduty.mil/>) and mental safety of your shipmates (<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>).

As a 21st century Sailor and part of our Navy Recruiting Team, it is your duty to ready yourself, your family and your loved ones for the challenges ahead. Use the tools our Navy makes available to improve your personal readiness, mentally as well as physically. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Thanks for all that you do and Hooyah, Motivators!



Newlyweds Sign Up for Dual Navy Careers



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

BOSTON – High school track teammates from New Bedford, Mass., recently enlisted in the Navy together. This happened only a few months after an even bigger decision – to get married.

Ryan and Eleni Almeida, both 19 years old, were married Aug. 14, 2011, and by December they'd made the decision to pursue careers in the Navy.

"We had thoughts of joining the military when we were single," Ryan said. "There isn't really anything going on in New Bedford economically these days."

He explained that when they got together they needed to do something to better their situation and start their lives off on the right foot.

The Almeidas' recruiter, NCI Douglas Doxee, leading petty officer of NRS Dartmouth said,



Seeking to improve their future, newlyweds Ryan and Eleni Almeida decided to join the Navy just a few months after marrying. They were recruited by NCI Douglas Doxee with NRS Dartmouth after completing a questionnaire on the Navy.com Web site requesting more information on Navy careers.

"They live in an area of Massachusetts that isn't doing too well economically these days and they decided the Navy was a great opportunity to better their situation."

Eleni agreed, stating, "We went to a vocational high school where [Ryan's] trade field was electrical. And there really aren't any job opportunities right now with electrical [requirements] in New Bedford."

While Ryan was looking for work, Eleni went to school and worked as a waitress. After a year in college, Eleni said the bills were beginning to pile up. "I went to UMass Boston for one year," she said. "When I got the bill I realized it was something I can't pay right now."

The Almeidas initiated their quest to enter the Navy through the Navy's national Web site.



"I got their [information] from Navy.com and set up an appointment with them to visit the station," said Doxee. "They both seemed very interested in either the Navy or the Air Force because of the technologically-advanced career fields."

The Almeidas eventually went with the Navy because they said the Navy is a better fit for their desired career paths. Both of the Almeidas got their wish – Ryan was accepted into the advanced electronics computer field and Eleni was picked up to be a hospital corpsman.

"I want to pursue a career in the medical field so we thought that going through the Navy would be the best choice for my career path as well as his," said Eleni.

Doxee said the military is hard on any relationship, especially one that has just started. He also said they are worried about being separated. "I explained to them that being separated is a good possibility because the needs of the Navy come first. However, I also told them the Navy works very hard at placing dual military couples as close together as possible."

The Almeidas both understand things may be tough in the beginning but what the Navy offers greatly outweighs the cost, and they are willing to do what it takes.



BM2 Michael Gosey, NRD Houston, spreads Navy awareness with a potential Navy applicant at the Paintball Sports Promotions 2012 Galveston Island Divisional Championships held March 9-11. (Photo by MC1 Kimberly Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)



CREATING AWARENESS AT MEDICAL CONFERENCE

Story and photo by MC1 Grant Probst, NRD San Francisco Public Affairs

SAN FRANCISCO – Recruiters assigned to NRD San Francisco participated recently in the second annual Florence Stroud Conference.

Named in honor of the late nurse Florence Stroud, this conference is part of the Black History Month conference series.

Stroud, a registered nurse and University of California San Francisco professor, was the first African-American health director for the city of Berkeley. She served twice as interim director of San Francisco's Department of Public Health and held a Master of Public Health degree.

The theme of this year's conference was "Joining Forces: Answering the Call to Serve Military Families." Keynote speakers were Congresswoman Dr. Donna Christensen and Congresswoman Barbara Lee. Guest speakers and panels ranged from veteran affairs representatives to active-duty military speakers including LCDR Marsha Hanly of the Nurse Corps.

"The benefit of inviting LCDR Hanly, who was the department head of the Intensive Care Unit aboard USNS *Comfort* on a humanitarian mission, creates awareness in the community," said LCDR (Sel.) Walter Davis, a recruiter with NRD San Francisco. "With what she had to say on the Navy warded missions in South America and Central America, how we cared for over 70,000 patients, gave glasses to 40,000 patients and how we were able to give supplies and medical care to countries in need. It gives awareness to the community, nursing students, and staff showing more than just war fighting but giving to communities around the world in support of humanitarian issues."

Hanly's presentation, titled "Life on and Beyond the *Mercy Ship*," displayed the tremendous capabilities of the USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19) and USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20).



NRD San Francisco recruiter LCDR (Sel.) Walter Davis discusses Navy nursing programs with an attendee at the second annual Florence Stroud Conference at the University of California San Francisco. This year's conference theme was "Joining Forces: Answering the Call to Serve Military Families."

Hanly described the effects and processes of Operation Continuing Promise. The operation is in conjunction with partner nations providing medical, dental, and veterinary care.

Continuing Promise includes countries throughout the Caribbean basin, Central America, and the northern portion of South America. Each visit being unique and tailored to each partner country's needs, the operation provides additional health care for these countries, and training in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief or in periods of crisis.

"Now that the Navy, the Army, the Air Force, and the military in general are involved with the wars, when we do other missions with community health using the non-governmental organizations aboard the *Comfort*, we couldn't do it without them," said Hanly. "Being able to speak so reflectively, I hope I reached a couple more volunteers that would like to come on board or other organizations that would like to be a part of it or maybe even become part of the military."



Sailor Makes Heroic Super Bowl Save

Story and photo by Kelly Wright, NRD Raleigh Public Affairs

RALEIGH, N.C. – EMI Matthew Drain is trained to do what every United States Navy Sailor is trained to do: Save lives in the event of an emergency. On the night of Super Bowl XLVI (Jan. 27, 2012), he did just that.

Drain was assigned to NRD Raleigh in May 2011. On the day he and his family began moving into their new home, neighbor John Scali came over to greet them. Drain explains, laughing, “He thought I was my brother.” Scali thought that Drain’s brother, Jay, was moving into the home beside his but Jay choose another home. Nearly every week from that day forward, Drain and his family have dinners with the Scali family. After less than a year of these dinners, Drain helped save Scali’s life.



EMI Matthew Drain and his neighbor, John Scali, discuss the events of January’s Super Bowl Sunday. Scali suffered a heart attack while sitting on his couch during the game’s halftime. Drain and his brother Jay performed CPR to save Scali’s life.

Drain recalls the events of that Super Bowl night, “We had dinner before the game and then watched the first and second quarters. Halftime came up and we were bantering back and forth about the performances. At some point, John went out back to smoke a cigar. When he came back in the house, he took his seat and it seemed as if he fell asleep.”

Drain’s wife noticed something being off about Scali: His eyes started rolling, it was hard for him to speak and he was making hand gestures, seeming to signal for help.

Immediately, Drain and his brother picked up Scali and laid him on the floor. Drain started mouth-to-mouth

resuscitation while Jay performed chest compressions. Drain says, “It felt like almost 15 minutes going back and forth on the CPR.”

The paramedics were called and they arrived less than 10 minutes later. The paramedics instructed Drain and Jay to continue performing the CPR while they got ready. Afterwards, they told Drain and Jay that if John had not received the CPR prior to their arrival he likely would have died.

Scali only remembers the beginning of the game and can barely recall his first few days in the hospital. Four days after his heart attack, he received quadruple heart bypass surgery. He’s since lost 35 pounds and now he is eager to get back to normal life. “I feel great. I’m a little sore, but I have to go back to work.”

Scali’s wife gets emotional remembering the events of that night, saying of Drain, “I’m glad he lives next door. For him it’s just a job, for us it’s everything.”

CDR Richard Brantley, NRD Raleigh commanding officer, is proud of Drain’s eagerness to step up in such an extreme circumstance. “He’s a great recruiter. He’s a great Sailor. He provided his shipmates and his community a solid example of grace under pressure and the good we bring to any fight. No doubt he had the most spectacular save of the Super Bowl.”

NRD New Orleans Reaches Out for Science

Story and photo by MCI Robert Keilman, NRD New Orleans Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS – Students at Sarah T. Reid High School were given the unique experience of touring aviation commands aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans Feb. 28.

The tour was coordinated by NRD New Orleans as part of an effort to promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects to youth throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, southern Alabama, and the Florida panhandle.



LCDR Scott Eckart, a pilot with Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 54, explains the instrument panel of a C-130 cargo aircraft to Kashone Jordan, a senior at Sarah T. Reid High School in New Orleans, during a tour on board Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans. The tour was coordinated by NRD New Orleans in collaboration with Communities in Schools of New Orleans to excite high school students in pursuing science, technology, engineering, and math-related career fields.

“The students were part of the Science Reach program, which is an initiative through Communities in Schools of New Orleans whose goal is to help minimize the drop-out and failure rate of at-risk teens, and provide tutors for science and mathematics,” said ENS Aaron Dimas, STEM coordinator and diversity officer at NRD New Orleans. “We [NRD New Orleans] coordinated with the leaders from Communities in Schools in allowing the students an opportunity to experience something that was science and mathematics related, and I couldn’t think of anything that would be a better subject than naval aviation.”

During the tour, the students had the opportunity to tour a C-130 cargo aircraft, a C-12 personnel transport aircraft, a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter, and an FA-18 Hornet aircraft simulator.

“It [the tour] was a good experience,” said Kashone Jordan, a senior at Sarah T. Reid who had the opportunity to sit at the controls of a C-130 aircraft from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 54. “This was something

different and it has me thinking about a future career as a pilot.”

“The simulator was fun,” said Kendall Theard, a sophomore at Sarah T. Reid, who had the opportunity to operate the controls of the FA-18 Hornet simulator. “It was crazy how wind effects how the plane turns in the air. It made me feel like I was flying a real plane.”

Coordination with Science Reach is one of the many STEM initiatives in which leaders from NRD New Orleans are pursuing encouragement to young individuals so that they can achieve academic success.

“Our STEM initiatives are about more than recruiting. It’s about Sailors lending a hand to teachers, counselors, and administrators, and showing them that the Navy cares about the future of America’s youth and career opportunities in the future,” said Dimas. “Regardless if these students join the Navy or not, we want to see them be successful.”



Recruiters Guest Referee at Robotics Contest

Story and photo by MC2(SW) Porter Anderson, NRD Minneapolis Public Affairs

FARGO, N.D. – More than 100 students cheered as robots made of PVC, wood and steel were placed in their corners at the Fargo Civic Center. Horns and chants rose above loud cheers as the robotic creations zipped across the testing grounds, showing off the ingenuity, hard work and creative thinking of their inventors.

The robotic competition had a new addition: Two NRD Minneapolis recruiters who volunteered as guest referees in the fifth annual Bison Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology Robotics Competition hosted by North Dakota State University.

NCC(SCW) Freddie McAbee and AOC(AW/SW) Phillip Durio dressed in traditional black and white striped referee shirts to evaluate the robotics of students from 23 school groups from all over North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

“With the Navy growing and exploring the fields of unmanned robotics, these are the type of individuals we want in the Navy,” said McAbee. “While we may not be actively recruiting today, we are creating Navy awareness



NRD Minneapolis recruiter AOC(AW/SW) Phillip Durio watches a robot drop a ball in its scoring zone during the fifth annual Bison Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology Robotics Competition in Fargo, N.D. The event, hosted by North Dakota State University, featured 23 school groups from North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota in tests that showcased the tactical capability of robots they'd designed.

competition is giving us a new way to actively engage them.”

As the military explores unmanned robotics to help complete its global mission, students with an interest in robotics are becoming part of the future of the Navy and its Sailors.

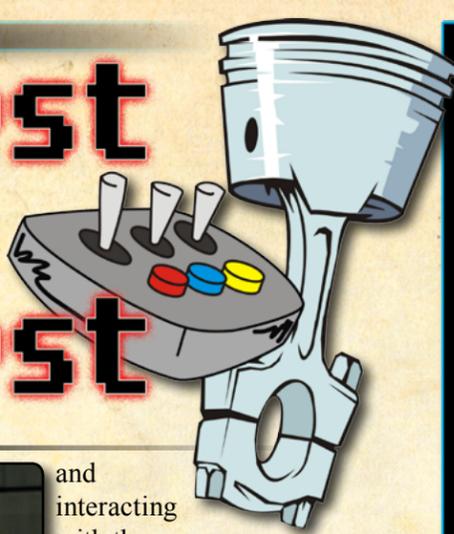
and interacting with the students in attendance.”

During the event BMCS(SW) Chaas Kunze, who manages officer recruiting in the North Dakota area, spent time talking with a number of professors and teachers at the event.

“This is a great chance for both enlisted and officer recruiting,” said Kunze. “We are making connections and opening doors with college professors, high school teachers and the students themselves.”

Attending this event also gave the NRD Minneapolis recruiters a chance to speak with homeschool students.

“Getting in contact with homeschool communities has always been a challenge for recruiters,” said McAbee. “This



Recruiter Urges Quitting Tobacco in PSA

Story and photo by Jim Lumsden, NRD Chicago Public Affairs

CHICAGO – NRD Chicago recruiter EN2 Channitinnus Johnson is working to help young people join the Navy. But many people will see him in a different role: Focusing instead on current service members or discharged veterans who use tobacco.

Johnson was selected to be the Navy's representative for a stop-smoking public service announcement (PSA) produced by Chicago's WCIU-TV on behalf of the Respiratory Health Association of metro Chicago and the Illinois stop-smoking initiative.

“Do you smoke or chew tobacco? You are not alone. Military personnel and returning veterans use tobacco at higher rates than our civilian counterparts,” according to the script. “And as a result, we are more likely

to die of diseases like lung cancer or COPD,” Johnson reports.

The PSA ends with an appeal by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin to military personnel and veterans, urging all to get help by calling the Illinois quit line for free information and assistance. The counseling service is funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health in conjunction with the American Lung Association.

In the PSA, Johnson is joined by representatives of the Marines, Air Force and Army as spokespeople in endorsing this important message, which can be viewed at <http://www.lungchicago.org/veterans/>.

All hands are encouraged to follow Johnson's lead.



EN2 Channitinnus Johnson with NRS Windy City gets on-camera advice from WCIU-TV's production staff during the filming of a PSA which urges quitting tobacco.

Navy Recruiting District Chicago



NRD St. Louis



Members of Navy Band Mid-South's Independence group play for staff and students at St. Elizabeth Academy. Independence performed at local high schools in the St. Louis area to promote Navy awareness and musical education. Navy Band Mid-South operates from Millington, Tenn., and is responsible for a 12-state area. (Photo by MC1 Jason C. Winn, NRD St. Louis Public Affairs)



Navy Recruiting District Minneapolis



Recruiter Becomes Good Samaritan Three Times in One Day

By MCC(AW/SW) Jeremy J. Siegrist, NRD Pittsburgh Public Affairs

PITTSBURGH – For some, being in the right location at the right time is key. For others, it's a blessing to have a person there who can help at the right time. For NRD Pittsburgh recruiter AMC James Conway being in the right place at the right time goes hand in hand with a spirit and a willingness to help those in need.

While travelling to Titusville, Pa., Conway came across the vehicle of two elderly women whose car had slid into a side ditch. Conway wasted no time in lending a hand. "I had no hesitation towards stopping to help. After ensuring they were okay, I assisted in pulling their car out of the ditch."

For most, that would provide an interesting enough day, but on the same stretch of road about a mile later Conway suffered a bout of déjà vu as he spotted another motorist in need of assistance. "The roads were bad that day, but even so I couldn't believe it when I came across another car accident where this time the car had hit the guardrail and went down over an embankment, dropping down approximately 15 feet. I immediately dialed 911 and rendered what assistance I could until a medical team arrived."

Thinking he had enough stories for the day and feeling good about the help he had given, Conway continued on towards his destination. On the return trip however, on the same stretch of road, he came upon a head-on collision involving a truck and a compact car.

"After ensuring bystanders had dialed 911, I wasted no time and immediately administered first aid to treat the head wound of the driver of the car and the leg injury of the passenger. [The driver of the truck had not been injured.] The driver of the small vehicle was thrown

against the windshield causing severe head injuries to her head and face. The passenger's airbag did deploy but still the passenger had a severely broken leg and several other minor injuries," said Conway.



Lucky for some unlucky drivers on one stretch of road in Pennsylvania, AMC James Conway drove by their accidents at just the right time. This NRD Pittsburgh recruiter assisted at the scenes of three wrecks in one day using first aid skills he learned in the Navy and as a volunteer firefighter and EMS in his hometown. (Courtesy photo)

Continuing to render whatever assistance he could until fire and medical teams arrived, Conway, himself a volunteer firefighter and EMS attendant in his hometown of Newton Hamilton, Pa., was proud of his day. "It felt good to be able to help those people. I was doing something that I had been trained to do, both in the civilian world and in the Navy. It could have been anyone who stopped to help those motorists, but in this case it was a trained firefighter and a trained Sailor who was able to help, and I'm proud of that."

Carrying on the U.S. Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment, Conway is a shining example of a Sailor in the right place at the right time.



NRD New Orleans Wraps Up Mardi Gras 2012

Story and photo by MCI Robert Keilman, NRD New Orleans Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS

– Each year, millions of locals and tourists jam the streets of New Orleans and its suburbs to get a glimpse of dozens of flamboyantly decorated parade floats and to catch beaded necklaces, plush toys, plastic cups, and Frisbees thrown from floats during the Carnival season of Mardi Gras.



MUI Gresh Laing throws Navy lanyard keychains from the weatherdecks of the U.S. Navy float during the Krewe of Rex parade in New Orleans Feb. 21. This float is an asset of NRD New Orleans used to promote Navy awareness throughout the Carnival season of Mardi Gras. More than 60 parades were conducted this year, with the Navy float participating in 10 of those.

The U.S. Navy float, a caricature of the USS *Constitution*, is operated and maintained by Sailors of NRD New Orleans. It features hundreds of blue and white LED lights, illuminated NRC logos, and a carbon dioxide-powered cannon that shoots confetti into the crowd.

"New Orleans is one of the few cities in the United States that encompasses so many people of diverse backgrounds in one area. Having the Navy float in as many parades as we can provides a unique opportunity to promote the Navy's 'Global Force for Good' branding to millions of locals and tourists over a short period of time. This type

of exposure cannot compare with any other recruiting or community outreach event the Navy does," said CDR David Weller, NRD New Orleans commanding officer.

The Carnival season hosted more than 60 parades this year. Of those parades, the Navy float participated in 10, starting with the Krewe of Cleopatra, an all-female themed parade Feb. 10, and ending with the Krewe of Rex on Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Each year float riders for each parade consists of service members from different Navy and Marine Corps commands located throughout the New Orleans area,

Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh

Navy Recruiting District New Orleans



DoD civil service employees and contractors, and special guests. One of this year's guests was Vanessa Bolano, a reporter from WGNO (ABC 26) in New Orleans, and her husband Ira Gonzalez, who rode with Sailors from Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 77 during the Krewe of Endymion parade Feb. 18.

"Riding Endymion with the U.S. Navy was an experience my husband and I will never forget. Our clothes may have been wet, but our spirits were not dampened," said Bolano, referring to the driving rain that occurred before the start of the Endymion parade. "We had such a great time. No one on the float wanted the night to end!"

"I had the most amazing time; definitely an experience I will never forget," said Kate Laing, the NAS JRB New Orleans Ombudsman, who rode the Navy float during the Rex parade. "I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to ride the Navy float during Mardi Gras, and I hope to have a chance to ride again next year!"

The Carnival season of Mardi Gras is a time-honored tradition dating back to its first daytime parade, Rex, in 1872. Since that time, Carnival season has increased its momentum by introducing dozens of new parades and Krewes. By 1989, more than 600,000 people attended parades on the west and east banks of Jefferson Parish on Fat Tuesday alone.

For Sailors throughout New Orleans, Carnival season is not only a unique opportunity to reach out and promote Navy awareness to a large, diverse audience, it's also a time to celebrate with the people who make the city what it is. This celebration is ingrained in the culture of New Orleans, whose people gather together in unison each year to proclaim the ever-popular New Orleans expression, "Laissez les bons temps rouler" ("Let the good times roll").



NRD St. Louis Sailors wait in line for a special showing of "Act of Valor" recently in Chesterfield, Mo. The movie is an authentic representation of the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community, its capabilities and missions, and features active-duty Navy SEALs. Deputy Commander, NSW Command, RADM Garry Bonelli, was on hand to answer questions from the audience after the showing. (Photo by MC1 Jason C. Winn, NRD St. Louis Public Affairs)



NRC Sailor Assists Hometown after Tornado

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

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – A 30-year-old Birmingham, Ala., native delivered clothing and supplies to the tornado-devastated areas surrounding Alabama's most populated city.

MMFN(SW) Joseph Sweatman, a staff duty coordinator for NRC's Cyberspace Division, delivered donated clothing and materials from Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mid-South and also assisted in cleanup efforts for over a month.

"I'm from Birmingham," said Sweatman. "I was amazed because I didn't even know that the area was expecting storms. Then I got on Facebook and saw the photos. I tried contacting my family for over a day before I finally managed to get in touch with them. Luckily, they only had minor damage to the house but half a mile away, houses were demolished. It was a huge mess. I immediately took two days of leave to go down there and when I arrived, I couldn't recognize my old neighborhood. I actually thought I had driven down a wrong detour. When I saw my family was in good shape, I drove to see where I could help out."

Sweatman quickly found a way to help by giving families what they needed most and had likely lost.

"This is twice in two years that my hometown has been hit by tornadoes," said Sweatman. "I wanted to do something to help out people I grew up with. It meant a lot to me personally to find a way to bring them some hope, so I started a clothes drive."

Sweatman and NRC Junior Enlisted Association vice president AO2 Chase Tallent collected more than 35, 30-gallon trash bags full of items including shoes, men



MMFN(SW) Joseph Sweatman, a staff duty coordinator for NRC's Cyberspace Division, delivered donated clothing and other items from NSA Mid-South to his hometown of Birmingham, Ala., after tornadoes devastated the area. (Courtesy photo)

and women's clothing and baby outfits during the drive.

"Each of the three trips I took down, my car was full of garbage bags which were full of clothes," said Sweatman. "After we collected the clothes, we took them down to the FEMA drop-off point where volunteers take them and distribute them as necessary. It was really simple to put together and we benefited many families who lost so much."

Sweatman's contributions didn't end there. He also took the time to assist with the cleanup of the storm damage.

"Me and my family have been helping out every weekend since the storms," said Sweatman. "The cleanup process is progressing. We still have a lot to do. I've helped clear lumber, scraps of houses, personal possessions, household

goods, hazardous chemicals and other debris. They have rows of bins for us to sort belongings in an effort to give them back to families, but it's going to be a long process. As the clothes drive slows down, I'd like to assist more with the cleanup effort."

Sweatman attributes his ability to help his hometown to his supportive chain of command and the entire community of NSA Mid-South for their generosity.

"I appreciate everything my chain of command has done for me," said Sweatman. "Whenever I have needed time, they have let me have it. The entire base has given everything they could to the clothes drive and everyone back home appreciates it. It really shows that our commands are supportive of the local communities and even those that aren't so local."



NRD Chicago Honors WWII Vets at Traveling Exhibit

Story and photos by Jim Lumsden, NRD Chicago Public Affairs

CHICAGO – “Honor guard, please present the colors.” With only these few words, suddenly an assembly of nearly 100 men and women, many who have difficulty walking, rise to their feet, stand at attention, and salute just like they did more than 65 years ago. It is an amazing demonstration of the spirit and dedication to country that bonds these World War II veterans.

Delivered to the Gail Borden Public Library in downtown Elgin, Ill., by sons, daughters, grandchildren and even some great-grandchildren, these veterans took advantage of a special opportunity to be recognized for their service and to see, in model form, the National World War II Memorial built in their honor on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Most of the honorees are now too frail to endure the trip to see the actual monument.

Keynote speaker for the event, LT Kevin Milligan, an NRD Chicago officer recruiter and an Afghanistan veteran, pointed out that today’s military remains cognizant of the terrible toll of World War II and the hard-fought victories that assured our nation’s freedom today. He also stressed that today’s military holds dear to the same values exhibited in that older generation.

Reflecting upon the state of the country during the war, Milligan said, “When America entered WWII and the young men put on the uniform to go war, the women, children, and citizens back home participated in the war effort too! If they weren’t working in the factories to build aircraft and ships, they were rationing gasoline and repairing worn out vehicles.” He went on to point out that the values of today’s young Americans are not much different.

As a recruiter, Milligan sees firsthand the dedication of America’s young people. “Despite the threats facing our military today, young men and women from all over America sign up to serve in our nation’s all-volunteer military. They come from the inner city of Chicago, beaches of southern California, suburbia, and every corner of this country. They honor your service and sacrifice by donning the uniform of the United States military and volunteering to go into harm’s way.

“Our military is also doing so much more than hunting down bad guys and fighting the Global War on Terror,” he said. “We are upholding American values worldwide. The Navy’s new motto is ‘A global force for good.’ Our military as a whole truly is that.”



LT Kevin Milligan with NRD Chicago views a photo of the beachhead taken during the invasion of Iwo Jima by former Marine Gordon Schnulle of Elgin, Ill. The photo is inside the lid of a soap container that still holds the gritty volcanic sand of Iwo Jima that greeted the Marines upon their arrival.

Milligan went on to cite the Navy’s humanitarian assistance missions surrounding events such as the tsunami in Southeast Asia and hurricane Katrina. He included reference to his personal involvement in those missions.

For the last several months, NRD Chicago has helped support several of the 15 presentations given so far to WWII veterans that provide a unique glimpse at the monument built in their honor. The scale model is the original that was built by architect Friedrich St. Florian and presented to Congress under the sponsorship of former Sen. Bob Dole. The model is currently on loan to an all-volunteer organization, Pillars of Honor, which produces these events in public venues throughout northern Illinois.

“We regard it as a privilege to participate in veterans events such as these,” remarked CDR Lee Donaldson, commander of NRD Chicago and himself a keynote speaker at Pillars of Honor presentations. “Many of us have parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who have served. We recognize that those veterans are allies of our recruiting effort as they continue to inspire younger generations to join our ranks.

“We get thanked each day for our service to our country, but we know also that it is their service that allows us to live free in America.”



Veterans and their family members view the scale model of the National World War II Memorial on its recent stop at a library in Elgin, Ill. This is the original model built by the architect and is traveling throughout northern Illinois courtesy of the non-profit organization Pillars of Honor.



OS1 Brian Landor, NRD Houston recruiter, and his son Jasiah pose with the USO Liberty Bells at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Military Appreciation Day. The Liberty Bells are the only officially-chartered USO show troupe that travels throughout the world performing for service men and women, their families, veterans and audiences, actively supporting the troops here and abroad. (Photo by ET1 Matthew Busby, NRD Houston Public Affairs)



NRD Chicago

ENSURES NWUS ARE WORN CORRECTLY

Story and photo by Jim Lumsden, NRD Chicago Public Affairs

CHICAGO – “The Navy Work Uniform [NWU] might be more relaxing to wear, but it doesn’t mean that the Navy has relaxed its uniform standards,” said NCC Emir Jimenez before inspecting the recruiters in his division. “We will not only wear the right uniform at the right time, we also will wear each uniform the right way,” he emphasized.

“Somehow you can’t be quite as actively involved when helping a kid onto a pull-up bar at a summer event if you’re wearing dress whites.”

Sailors from all six of the stations in NRD Chicago’s Division 5 were eager to undergo this inspection.



NRD Chicago Division 5 LCPO, NCC Emir Jimenez, left, inspects the uniform of YN2 Steven M. Moore, NRS Glendale Heights, while ET1 Ronald Walker awaits his turn.

Jimenez knows that recruiters don’t get a second chance to make a first impression, so appearance counts. Authorization to wear NWUs as appropriate attire for certain recruiting venues is a welcome adjustment, but recruiters need to be especially diligent in this regard.

“This uniform allows us to be more personally engaged for certain venues, and that’s a good thing,” Jimenez said.

“A lot of us haven’t worn this uniform in a long time,” said MA1 Anthony Sinnott, NRS Peru leading petty officer. “We had to coach one another on how to put on the cap the right way, how to tuck in boot laces, and the best way to blouse trouser bottoms so that they won’t come undone half way through the day.”

“Whether our guys passed the inspection or not was less important than the learning

experience and making sure we are all on the same page regarding this,” Jimenez said. “It is gratifying that we all did quite well. This will add a dimension to the recruiting effort that will be most helpful. We just need to make sure that the uniform matches the task, and that we wear each uniform correctly each time,” he concluded.

NRD Los Angeles



Sailors Honor Tuskegee Airmen

By EN2(SW) Jonathon N. Hernandez, NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif.

– Sailors from NRD Los Angeles along with members of Naval Personnel Command’s Diversity Directorate attended a recent art exhibit in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., honoring the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen, named so because they were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, were the first African-American military aviators in the armed forces during WWII. At the exhibition, local artist Greg “The Glassman” Holder unveiled a glass sculpture with portraits of members of the famed unit.



The Tuskegee Airmen were honored at an art exhibit in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., recently with the unveiling of a glass sculpture with their portraits. Attending the event were Mrs. John A. (Bernice) Riley, left; retired Air Force Col. John A. Riley, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen; LCDR Anthony Q. Tran, NPC Diversity Directorate; and NCI(SW) Thomas B. Cunningham, leading petty officer, NRS Whittier. (Courtesy photo)

Ninety-year-old retired Air Force Col. John A. Riley, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, was the event’s guest of honor.

NCI(SW) Thomas B. Cunningham, NRS Whittier’s leading petty officer, recognized Riley and the groups’ contribution to help integrate the services. “They faced so many obstacles and every time they were told they weren’t

good enough to do something, they proved the doubters wrong,” said Cunningham.

The artwork’s unveiling was one of many ceremonies held in conjunction with the opening of the feature film about the unit, “Red Tails.” They earned the Red Tails nickname because their aircraft were identifiable by the painted red tails of their airplanes.



Puts the Navy's Brand in Local Communities

Story and photo by Darrell Lafrenz, NRD Portland Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. – In the spirit of the Navy brand, NRD Portland took to the streets of the district showing various communities that even a small group of Navy personnel can be a ‘force for good.’

NRD Portland Command Master Chief, CMDCM (SW/AW/EX) James Osborne, suggested that the district engage in a command-wide community service day shortly after CDR Ron Candiloro assumed command. “I thought it was a great idea, for many reasons.

Instead of just talking about it, right then and there, we put a date on the calendar, and we decided we would have a quarterly event. We wanted to do something that was tangible in terms of helping people in need,” said Candiloro.

Each of the NRD’s eight divisions, headquarters and both Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) chose an organization to volunteer with.

Bronze Division 1 visited the Veterans Administration Hospital in Vancouver, Wash. They spent time with residents, sharing sea stories and touring the facility and museum.

Brass Division 2, assisted in preparing ready-to-eat meals for the Meals on Wheels program operated by Loaves and Fishes of Portland, Ore., which delivers the meals to the elderly and disabled of Washington, Clark and Multnomah Counties. Sailors spent six hours preparing, baking, plating and wrapping thousands of meals for delivery that afternoon and the following morning.

Titanium Division 3 laid claim to some prime real-estate just outside of Boise, Idaho, working with Adopt-a-Highway to pick up litter on a two-mile stretch of

Highway 55. It took the division more than five hours to clean the area, which yielded 42 bags of trash.

Silver Division 4 volunteered at two separate locations in Nevada. Ten members worked at the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. The team transferred donated potatoes from palletized tri-wall boxes into family-sized bags for distribution to needy families. The team packaged four tons of potatoes over four hours.

NCC Isaiah Lauko noted, “This is the most rewarding type of volunteer work that there is because it’s the behind-the-scenes effort most won’t see.”

The remaining Division 4 personnel spent the morning with Families in Service Helping (FISH), cleaning around the Elko, Nev., food shelter and assisting in loading and unloading the shelter’s trucks. NC1 Justin Harrington said, “We’ve been working FISH since I began this tour. Today was another rewarding day giving back to the needy families of Elko.”

Platinum Division 5 volunteered at the Redding Good News Rescue Mission. The team assisted with cleaning projects and helped serve around 75 meals to the homeless. NCC Kevin Gray stated, “We will also be going back and doing this on a monthly basis.”

Gold Division 6 volunteered their time at the YMCA of Eugene, Ore., where they cleaned the rain gutters around the indoor tennis courts. They also helped paint over graffiti on the main building. Between these and other various site improvement projects, each team member donated nearly six hours to the YMCA.

Tungsten Division 7 volunteered with the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The team was assigned to a paralyzed Navy veteran who has a small farm about 12 miles west of Salem. The group did various jobs around the property that the veteran is unable to do or are too much for his family to keep up with. They cut up large branches and cleared, chopped and stacked firewood, in addition to some basic landscaping projects.

Steel Division 8 provided assistance to ACCESS. “ACCESS is a major distribution center for donated food in Medford, Ore.,” said NCC Kevin Price. Through the use of a coffee company’s drive-thru stores, they had conducted a food

drive the previous week. They collected 22,000 pounds of food, the majority of it being canned goods. The district members repacked the collections by removing it from the food drive barrels and placing it into more manageable boxes of 25 to 30 pounds. The boxes were then palletized for shipment to the warehouse. The team also repacked 2,000 pounds of additional food. The team handled a total of 24,000 pounds of food in just 3-1/2 hours.

NRD Portland headquarters and MEPS Portland worked with the Oregon Food Bank. Much like Division 4, the team transferred donated potatoes from large boxes into family-size bags for distribution.

Candiloro said, “This was one of the most memorable days I’ve had since showing up 20 months ago. Overall

I think we packed 35,000 pounds of potatoes, which, according to our guide, had not been done in that short of a timeframe” (two hours).

MEPS Boise provided some much needed administrative support to the Canyon County Animal Shelter, and assisted in the completion of an informational pamphlet for future volunteers and clean-up of shelter areas.

Over the course of the day, NRD Portland personnel volunteered 340 man-hours for their communities. Some of the partnerships fostered will endure in the year ahead.

Candiloro said, “For the foreseeable future, we will continue our partnership with the Oregon Food Bank and, on a quarterly basis, do whatever they need us to.” At the same time, some divisions are choosing to keep their options open so they can be available for neediest cause when the time comes.



EMI Trevor Davis, left, QMC Rafael Saladin, MMI Leon Griffin (back center), NCC Kevin Price, and OS2 Glyn Phelps work to repack food items at ACCESS in Medford, Ore. ACCESS is a non-profit organization that distributes donated food in the area. In 3-1/2 hours, NRD Portland’s Steel Division 8 handled 24,000 pounds of food. (Photo courtesy of ACCESS)



PS1 Daniel Texidor, left, AME1 Diane Underwood, FC2 Daniel Moore, and other volunteers worked at the Oregon Food Bank in Portland to repack potatoes from large containers to smaller, family-sized bags.

CHICAGO RECRUITER SPENT DAY WITH VETERANS

Story and photos by Jim Lumsden, NRD Chicago Public Affairs

CHICAGO – How strong a connection is there between military service people from one era to another? Just ask PR2 Steve Magnetta, a recruiter at NRS Round Lake.

Recognizing that some of the best advocates of military service are veterans, Magnetta volunteered to man a table of Navy literature and token gift items for meet-a-vet day at the Fox Lake American Legion Post. The event drew exhibitors with memorabilia that ranged from Civil War rifles and field gear to modern day Humvees.

“I knew going in that this was not going to be a strong recruiting event, but for me it was personally rewarding to have the chance to meet people who had such prominent roles to play in past wars,” said Magnetta.

Among the participants was Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Alan J. Lynch who, while serving as a radio telephone operator with the Army’s First Cavalry Division in Vietnam, rescued three wounded soldiers while the rest of his company was forced to withdraw, and then defended them while locating friendly forces and directing their counter attack until they could be evacuated.

Also participating was World War II Army veteran Burton Showers who, following training as a combat engineer, became the cartographer on Gen. Douglas McArthur’s staff who prepared the daily maps that guided the progress of American forces through the Pacific theater.

MacArthur retired from the military in 1937 after a distinguished career but was recalled to head the Pacific forces in WWII. He stayed on to command the Japanese occupation, and then lead the U.N. troops in the Korean War.



Above: PR2 Steve Magnetta rubbed shoulders with some great American military veterans when he participated in a meet-a-vet day at an American Legion Post. One of the vets he met was Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Alan J. Lynch, who served with the Army’s First Cavalry Division in Vietnam, and saved the lives of three wounded soldiers in his company.

Right: PR2 Steve Magnetta, left, shakes the hand of Burton Showers, who served as Gen. Douglas McArthur’s cartographer during WWII and prepared the daily maps that guided the American forces progress through the Pacific theater.



Showers accompanied McArthur all the way through and including the invasion of the Philippines and the surrender and occupation of Japan.

EDUCATORS RECEIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF NAVY

Story and photo by MCI Grant Probst, NRD San Francisco Public Affairs



SAN DIEGO – Recently educators throughout California travelled to San Diego for an education orientation visit (EOV).

EOVs provide educators, including principals, teachers and guidance counselors, the opportunity to see the Navy behind the scenes including living, training and working conditions.

The 13 educators began their tour at the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Basic Underwater Demolition/SEALs (BUD/s) compound where instructors and senior leadership explained the rigors, philosophy, and evolving training evolutions of BUD/s. After an initial video, a short briefing and a question-and-answer session, the group went to the world-famous NSW obstacle course where two BUD/s students demonstrated technique and form while completing the course with ease.

“The Navy SEAL training tour was very informative. You felt the power of a well-run organization from top to bottom,” said Ed Litchfield, a math teacher from Casa Roble High school. “Everyone should experience this at least once in their lifetime.”

After lunch in the Naval Base Coronado galley, the group observed special warfare combatant craft (SWCC) crewman training and briefings. The group had many question for the tour guides and SWCC leadership about the differences between the special warfare elements.



Educators from central and northern California set off on a tour of the San Diego Bay aboard one of the ACU 1 boats during their EOV. In addition to a ride on the bay, educators were able to witness the capabilities of the boat.

Following the SWCC briefing and tour of the boat house and maintenance facilities, the EOV toured the Navy Exchanges and housing areas, seeing the diversity of living accommodations from Pacific Beacon housing towers available to single Sailors to flag officer housing aboard Naval Base Coronado.

Over the next two days the tour group talked to Sailors and civilian employees in various capacities including the Fleet Readiness Center on Naval Air Station North Island, the Fleet and Family Service Center, along with a boat ride through San Diego Bay hosted by Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 1. ACU 1 demonstrated the capabilities of their craft while providing a rarely-seen view of the San Diego Bay and the view ashore from the water.

The visit culminated with a ship tour aboard USS *Howard* (DDG 83). The group learned about the capacity and capabilities of the ship, and toured the berthing and dining areas along with the bridge of the ship.

Miami Recruiters Volunteer to Feed Homeless

Story and photo by MCC(SW/AW) Gabriel Puello, NRD Miami Public Affairs

MIAMI, Fla. — NRD Miami recruiters recently volunteered their time and energy to feed homeless citizens at Miami's Camillus House Food Shelter.

The recruiters, all from NRD Miami's Division 1, volunteered after working hours to serve two food shifts during the evening meal to the homeless of Miami. Their duties involved serving the customers at their tables with food and drinks restaurant style.

"We weren't just there to clean up after these folks. I was surprised when administrators at the food shelter asked us

to provide them [homeless patrons] with table service such as a serving them individually and filling their glasses. It was a donated meal served to the homeless in a dignified setting. I thought that was special," said LSI Nichol Wright, recruiter, NRRS Miami.

Serving the south Florida community since 1960, Camillus House is a non-profit organization that provides humanitarian services to men, women and children who are poor and homeless. America's Navy is there as well to help the needy.



International Studies Charter High School students and NRD Miami 1st Division recruiters LSI Nichol Wright, left, BM1 Michael Daniels, GSE2 David Caban-Rivera, GSM2 Horacio Cruz, and FC2 Daniel Figueroa volunteered to feed the homeless at Miami's Camillus House Food Shelter recently. The restaurant-style meals were served at two seating sessions. First Division encompasses all of Miami-Dade County and southern portions of Ft. Lauderdale.

RETIRED CAPT AWARDED RECRUITING RIBBON

Story and photo by Jim Lumsden, NRD Chicago Public Affairs

CHICAGO — Is it okay to award a recruiting ribbon to a Sailor before the recruiting job is done? CDR Lee Donaldson, commanding officer, NRD Chicago certainly thought so once he had reviewed the accomplishments of 73-year old retired U.S. Navy CAPT Clement Craig Kopstain.

Although Kopstain never served with the Recruiting District in an official capacity, he was active for many years in the district's Recruiting District Assistance Council (RDAC), promulgating the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate program, science, technology engineering and mathematics, and diversity initiatives, and was personally responsible for guiding a large number of highly-qualified individuals to Navy service either as commissioned officers or general enlisted personnel.

"I love the Navy and the opportunities it makes available to young people," Kopstain said. "I have been blessed with situations that made it possible to enlighten some of America's best and brightest people to what [the] Navy has to offer."

As commanding officer of a Navy Reserve intelligence component at the now-closed Naval Air Station (NAS) Glenview, Kopstain was the go-to speaker for the Chief of Naval Operations Sea Power Speakers Bureau, representing the Navy throughout the Chicago area and greater Midwest. More than 80 presentations were made, many citing service in the Navy as a way for aspiring individuals to help achieve their personal and career goals.

Then, when he was the engineering and science placement director with Northwestern University, he influenced

many in the student body to consider the Navy as the path to achieve their aspirations. Finally, as a leader for NRD Chicago's RDAC, he provided unique access both to business enterprises and educational institutions in the area.

"One of my proudest moments was when I realized that two of the 17 women in one of the Navy's first classes of female aviators were ones that I had mentored and encouraged to join," Kopstain said.



Recently retired CAPT Clement Craig Kopstain received five letters of achievement and the Navy Recruiting ribbon from CDR Lee Donaldson, commanding officer, NRD Chicago for his 20-plus years of recruiting actions.

"Recommending CAPT Kopstain for the Navy's recruiting ribbon was a very easy decision," said Donaldson. "Accomplishments like these over a period of more than 20 years certainly meet the qualifications."

Donaldson presented Kopstain with five award citations and the recruiting ribbon complete with stars. The presentations were held at a meeting of the Glenview Navy League, which was initially organized at the NAS where Kopstain once held a command.

Although Kopstain graciously accepted the award, he also indicated to Donaldson that he wasn't finished trying to guide qualified young people to Navy careers. "I'm already working

on my grandson and granddaughter, and I would like to find a way to re-engage with your RDAC," he said.

"We'll take you up on that," Donaldson responded.

Plans to expand the district's RDAC are already underway, and CAPT Kopstain will have a standing invitation.

Navy Social Work Director Shares Experience with Students

Story and photo by MCI Grant Probst, NRD San Francisco Public Affairs

HAYWARD, Calif. – The director of social work at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland recently spoke about social work within the Navy to a class of 44 students at California State University East Bay (CSUEB).

During his social worker speaking (SWS) tour, CDR Stephen Bromberek had the opportunity to talk to Master of Social Work students at CSUEB. The SWS tour gave him the chance to discuss social work within the Navy with a broad range of military, families, students, teachers and other faculty from various backgrounds and age groups.

The Master of Social Work class listened as Bromberek told of his background, qualifications and experiences before and since joining the Navy. He has several military social workers on his staff and a total of 44 at 40 percent manning Navy-wide under his guidance in addition to hundreds of contractors and DoD civilians across the Navy and military treatment facilities.

The hour-long lecture culminated with a question-and-answer session concerning such subjects as the day-to-day life of Navy social workers, interns and students.

“It’s important to come to the graduate social work school level to talk about Navy social work, because we are building up the social work community,” said Bromberek. “Navy social work needs to build a foundation towards future recruitment by being attached to the centers for

learning which are the graduate social work schools throughout the country.”

Bromberek also explained the Social Work Internship Program which is a five-year program that includes an internship with the Navy. This internship is outlined upon completion of their master degree in social work. Should that person qualify after a screening process, they would serve in the Navy as an intern for two years, get commissioned as an ensign and complete their internship at Johns Hopkins, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Mayo Clinic in Florida, Portsmouth, Va., or Naval Medical Center San Diego. Upon successful completion

of the internship portion of the program, they would then be eligible for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker Credential Examination and, if they pass, they’d be become a licensed clinical social worker.

The lecture at CSUEB concluded with several sidebar discussions covering direct questions from faculty and students on how to further examine social work in the military.

The SWS tour also gave Bromberek the chance to tour additional sites throughout the bay area including Chico State, University of California, Berkley and Palo Alto Veterans Affairs facilities, where he was able to talk to patients about their concerns on how to improve the over-arching social work program.



CDR Stephen Bromberek, director of social work at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, recently spoke to a Master of Social Work class at California State University East Bay about careers in the Navy. Following his presentation, he answered questions from the students.

NFL and Navy Team Up for Career Opportunities



Compiled from stories by ETI Matthew Busby, NRD Houston Public Affairs; MCI(SW/AW) Vladimir Ramos, NRD Miami Public Affairs; and MCI(SW/AW) Christopher Thien, NRD San Diego Public Affairs

Navy Recruiting Command and Naval Special Warfare Recruiting Directorate joined forces with the National Football League during combines across the nation this spring to meet with athletes trying out for the NFL. The purpose of the meetings was to provide information about the Navy career choices.

The regional NFL combines have been conducted the last three years, and the 2012 combines were held in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Texas.

Just before the Super Bowl, the Houston Texans were already looking for talented athletes to fill next year’s roster. Recruiters joined Navy SEALs who were also looking for the best and brightest to join the Navy’s elite team.

Inside the Texans’ training center, NFL hopefuls pushed themselves to their limits, all with the same goal and drive: To be chosen by one of the NFL teams. Nearby, with banners and flags flying high, was another team: A team with a different set of goals in mind – the protection



RADM Earl Gay has the attention of NFL tryouts recently at Orange Coast College in Santa Ana, Calif. Gay, Commander, NRC, and Navy SEAL representatives were on hand to give non-selected individuals information about an alternative career in the Navy. The NFL hopefuls are good candidates for SEAL recruitment based on their outstanding physical fitness. (Photo by MCI(SW/AW) Christopher Thien, NRD San Diego Public Affairs)



LT Mark Greene, operations officer, Navy Special Warfare East, Little Creek, stands in the foreground of Raymond James Stadium as he speaks to future NFL prospects at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' training facility during a regional combine. The combine served as a platform for NRD Miami Navy Special Warfare recruiters to introduce players that do not make it into the NFL to a rewarding, physically-challenging, career opportunity in America's Navy. This life-changing event for all free-agent players who never signed a pro contract from around the country was developed to serve as a supplement to the NFL's National Scouting Combine. It was designed specifically to provide opportunities for players to display their professional potential. (Photo by MC1 Vladimir Ramos, NRD Miami Public Affairs)

of this great nation. The Navy team was looking for the most highly qualified candidates to operate in all corners of the globe as Naval Special Warfare operators.

At the end of the training day, candidates formed up in the center of the field and listened to the NFL Regional Combine Director, Stephen Austin, say, "There are other opportunities out there with just as much sacrifice and pride of service...being a part of the United States Navy SEALs – like the ones standing tall and proud behind me here." Two Navy SEALs talked with the men about the honor of serving a higher purpose, the courage to stand up and meet a challenge, and the commitment of getting the job done whatever it takes.

At Orange Coast College in Santa Ana, Calif., athletes from California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico were hoping for an invitation to the nationwide combine in Indianapolis, Ind., which is the last step before entering the NFL draft for the upcoming 2012-2013 season. SEAL team leaders and trainers answered questions while watching the 85 candidates go through their normal drills of catches, throws and punts.

At Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay, Fla, NRD

Miami NSW recruiters met more than 140 NFL tryouts during the southeastern regional combine held.

LT Mark Greene, operations officer, NSW East, tried out for the NFL at one of these combines, designed specifically to provide an opportunity for players to display their professional potential. When he did not make it, he applied for a tougher challenge of another sort: Serving as a Navy SEAL team operator.

Greene spoke to athletes at the Tampa event about the physical and mental challenges required to serve as a SEAL and how common the challenges are with those required as an NFL player. He also provided information about Navy career opportunities available should they not to make the NFL cut.

"I remember seeing myself 14 years ago like many of you, aspiring for an opportunity to play pro football, without any knowledge about the Navy Challenge Program and what it would do for me when NFL doors were closed to me because of an arm injury. Although I would like to see every player make the cut, only the players who perform well in all areas measured will be chosen," said Greene.



Commander, NRC, RADM Earl Gay, left, and National Football League representatives spoke with athletes at the NFL Regional Combine held at the New York Jets practice facility in Florham Park, N.J. (Photo by NCC Heath Zimolka, NRD New York)

After every offensive and defensive evaluation session, Greene and SBCS Brian Smith, NRD Miami NSW recruiter, spoke about NSW programs, and discussed how a football player's training and background is similar to the characteristics and values needed to become a potential SEAL candidate. SEALs recruit individuals who are already well on their way to great physical fitness.

automatically make it or have what it takes to be a SEAL," said Smith.

"Just the suggestion of the challenge of becoming one of the best [SEALs] is enough for these athletes to commit to something greater than themselves," Smith added.

The conditioning for most of the athletes has been built through a lifetime of playing sports and an extreme focus on physical fitness, making them eligible for one of the most grueling training periods available. With only a small number of the athletes moving on to Indianapolis, many of those at the combine will have to look for other career options.

"This agreement between the NFL and the Navy SEAL-SWCC community is a win-win for everybody. Let's face it, not all these guys are going to become pros. We present them with an option outside of football. But even that does not mean they can



NRD Houston's Special Warfare scouts, Navy SEALs and NFL representatives were present recently at the Houston Texans' training center as hopefuls showed up to try out for a place in the NFL. The Navy is appealing to those not selected to play in the NFL to choose a career in the Navy. (Photo by ET1 Matthew Busby, NRD Houston Public Affairs)



NRD St. Louis Sponsors Students at Robotics Competition

Story and photos by MCI Jason Winn, NRD St. Louis Public Affairs

ST. LOUIS – High school students gathered for the 11th annual For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition St. Louis Regional March 23-24 at the St. Louis University Chaifetz Arena.

FIRST is an active mentoring-based program where subject matter experts inspire students to learn through the application of sciences and technologies.

“This is a terrific program. The kids you meet at any FIRST event are all ‘high end’ students – exactly the kind of talent we are looking for,” said CDR Clay Mason, NRD St. Louis executive officer.

NRD St. Louis sponsored the Hazelwood Central High School “Robohawks” this year and is planning sponsorships of more St. Louis and Kansas City-area teams in the future.

“Sponsoring and working with local area teams show the Navy is proactive in helping develop future researchers and leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM),” said LT Timothy Raines, assistant operations officer at NRD St. Louis. “We want people to think of the Navy when they think of STEM.”

More than 40 teams from Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois competed in the weekend event. Each team is comprised of 15 to 25 students, professional engineer mentors, and teachers.

Students learn mechanical fabrication, business, and teambuilding skills according to Michael Benjamin, a Hazelwood Central High School FIRST mentor.

“The FIRST organization is helping to inspire students to do more than play sports but to learn math, science, and technology,” said recruiter EN2 Nathan Royalty.

While attending the competition, students also obtained information on the area’s top colleges including scholarships offered through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC).



NRD St. Louis' CDR Clay Mason, left, executive officer, and CDR Ross Budge, commanding officer, talk with students from Hazelwood Central High School about their robot, Shadow Hawk. NRD St. Louis sponsored Shadow Hawk to promote Navy scholarships offered through the NROTC. This was the 11th year for the regional competition and it determined who got to go to the world cup the following month.



ET1 Marmaduke Simms, left, nuclear power coordinator, and HM1 Robert Meintrup, Navy recruiter, talk to high school students about Navy scholarships offered through the NROTC program at the FIRST robotics competition, Rebound Rumble. The Navy sponsored a local high school at the event to promote both Navy awareness and the NROTC program.

“This is an opportunity for high school students to learn about NROTC scholarships and how they can go to school and gain valuable experience,” said Royalty.

The FIRST Championship was held April 25-28 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

The District's Top Stations

February 2012

- NRD Atlanta - NRS Gainesville
- NRD Chicago - NRS Waukegan
- NRD Dallas - NRS Grand Prairie
- NRD Denver - NRS Layton
- NRD Houston - NRS Conroe
- NRD Jacksonville - NRS Tallahassee
- NRD Los Angeles - NRS Whittier
- NRD Miami - NRS West Palm Beach
- NRD Michigan - NRS Muskegon
- NRD Minneapolis - NRS Des Moines
- NRD Nashville - NRS Collierville
- NRD New England - NRS Middletown
- NRD New Orleans - NRS Spanish Fort
- NRD New York - NRS Plainfield
- NRD Ohio - NRS Sandusky
- NRD Philadelphia - NRS Atlantic City
- NRD Phoenix - NRS Durango
- NRD Portland - NRS Beaverton
- NRD Raleigh - NRS Cary
- NRD Richmond - NRS Denbigh
- NRD San Antonio - NRS Ingram
- NRD San Diego - NRS Santa Ana
- NRD San Francisco - NRS Fremont
- NRD Seattle - NRS Lewiston
- NRD St. Louis - NRS Fairview Heights

March 2012

- NRD Atlanta - NRS Douglasville
- NRD Chicago - NRS Kenosha
- NRD Dallas - NRS Amarillo
- NRD Denver - NRS Security
- NRD Houston - NRS Katy
- NRD Jacksonville - NRS Kissimmee
- NRD Los Angeles - NRS Crenshaw
- NRD Miami - NRS Brandon
- NRD Michigan - NRS North Indy
- NRD Minneapolis - NRS Bellvue
- NRD Nashville - NRS Murfreesboro
- NRD New England - NRS North Andover
- NRD New Orleans - NRS City Park
- NRD New York - NRS Patchogue
- NRD Ohio - NRS Miracle Mile
- NRD Philadelphia - NRS Catonsville
- NRD Phoenix - NRS El Paso North
- NRD Portland - NRS Troutdale
- NRD Raleigh - NRS Hickory
- NRD Richmond - NRS Norfolk
- NRD San Antonio - NRS Northeast
- NRD San Diego - NRS Temecula
- NRD San Francisco - NRS Fairfield
- NRD Seattle - NRS Bremerton
- NRD St. Louis - NRS Pekin

Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters

February 2012

- NRD Atlanta - NC2 Dollneshia Pope
- NRD Chicago - PR2 Steven Magnetta
- NRD Dallas - STS2 Travis Lunsford
- NRD Denver - MM1 Corey Curtis
- NRD Houston - QMC Charles Hughes
- NRD Jacksonville - AD2 Javier Ruiz
- NRD Los Angeles - BM2 Muhammad Aadam
- NRD Miami - IC2 Kevin Stephens
- NRD Michigan - AO2 Casey Voelker
- NRD Minneapolis - AZ2 Ryan Schlotfeld
- NRD Nashville - DC2 Isaiah Prescott
- NRD New England - AE1 Peter Tripp
- NRD New Orleans - MA1 Christopher Williams
- NRD New York - AZ2 Kwane James
- NRD Ohio - LS2 Jarman Kilgore
- NRD Philadelphia - ABF1 Gregory Long
- NRD Phoenix - AWV1 Jesse Kendrick
- NRD Portland - BM1 John Armstrong
- NRD Raleigh - AME2 Jesus Lamberti
- NRD Richmond - FC1 Ronald Bowks
- NRD San Antonio - STS2 Jon Snowden
- NRD San Diego - ABH2 Mark Poblete
- NRD San Francisco - SH2 Jose Baez
- NRD Seattle - EN2 Wade Houston
- NRD St. Louis - GM2 Sierra Clemons

March 2012

- NRD Atlanta - PS2 Kim Rochelle Harker
- NRD Chicago - BU2 Frederick Silloway
- NRD Dallas - DC1 Mitchell Pratt
- NRD Denver - FC2 Chris Mayfield
- NRD Houston - YN2 Armando Macias
- NRD Jacksonville - YN2 Willie Sheppard
- NRD Los Angeles - SH2 Perry Valencia
- NRD Miami - EM1 Urena Pedro
- NRD Michigan - CM1 Kenneth Dooley
- NRD Minneapolis - MA1 Donald Wilson
- NRD Nashville - DC1 Diedra Fox
- NRD New England - HT1 Julien Freeman
- NRD New Orleans - EM1 Robyn Pitman
- NRD New York - SW2 Joseph Sanchez
- NRD Ohio - GM2 Eric Wagner
- NRD Philadelphia - BM2 Derek Hoffman
- NRD Phoenix - IC2 Dennis Reyes
- NRD Portland - GSE1 D. J. Crittenden
- NRD Raleigh - GM2 Stephen Robinson
- NRD Richmond - DC2 RYanne Clingersmith
- NRD San Antonio - ET2 Ryan Tomlin
- NRD San Diego - YN2 Eddie Aviles
- NRD San Francisco - EM2 John Galendez
- NRD Seattle - EN2 Wade Houston
- NRD St. Louis - ET1 William Bradshaw



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