

# **NAVY** **RECRUITER** *magazine*

*Supporting Navy Recruiters*

*May-June 2014*

*Vol. 62 No. 3*

***The Navy's Nuclear Field  
Recruiting a "Nuke"***

***NRD Miami  
Students and SeaPerch***

***Navy Recruiting Command  
Recruiting in Cyberspace***



# NAVY RECRUITER magazine

May-June 2014 | Vol. 62 No. 3



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# AMERICA'S NAVY

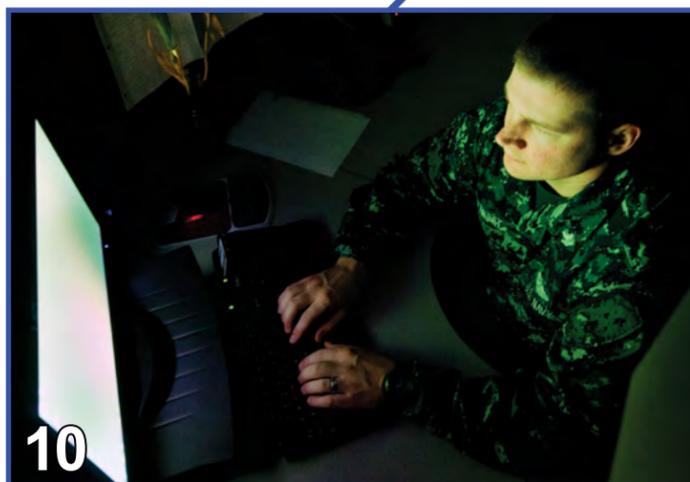
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**Front Cover**  
Chief Petty Officers from Commander, Navy Region Southwest gathered to celebrate their 121st Birthday in style by "unfurling the flag" during opening day ceremonies at PetCo Park, between the San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers. Photo by MCC(AW/SW) Joseph Reynoso, NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs



**Back Cover**  
Sailors assigned to NRD Seattle participate in the filming of a video spot promoting Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Photo by MCC(SW/AW) John Lill, NRD Seattle Public Affairs

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## REGULAR COLUMNS...

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# From the Admiral

Recruiting Nation!

We are already into the third quarter of fiscal year 2014 and going strong. I continue to be impressed with the dedication and sincere level of effort that goes on each day across the nation to find the talent we need to serve in our great Navy.

Recruiting is no easy task, and we certainly cannot do it alone. Every day we rely on others to help us; whether through fellow recruiters or leadership, meetings and events with teachers and coaches, or outreach projects with our local communities. Through those valuable networks we continue to meet our mission.

As we think about those important networks, however, let's be sure to recognize the network of our family. The support they provide is tremendous. Specifically, I'd like to recognize the Ombudsman Program. Ombudsmen look out for our spouses, our families, and are often connected in ways that we do not even know about. They share concerns and find solutions. They often have great ideas that may make our jobs just a little easier. I personally want to thank our ombudsmen across the nation and I encourage each of you to take a moment to say thank you, too.

This month, and over the next several months, schools will be letting out for the summer. Families will be holding special gatherings, celebrating accomplishments such as graduation.



Rear Admiral Annie B. Andrews  
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

For those who have children or family members graduating from high school or college, or completing an educational endeavor, I say congratulations on achieving those milestones.

Finally, we are approaching the spring physical fitness assessment season so please continue to stay on top of your game. Remaining physically fit is part of being a good Sailor. America expects that of us, and even more so of recruiters. We are often the first interface for many across America who have never heard of or know anything about their Navy so looking sharp matters. Exercise also helps keep us positive and reduces stress. I am confident you'll race to the finish line with flying colors, so continue to stay fit and set the example every day.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence, strong, integrity-based leadership, and team spirit.

Until the next edition, be well, be safe, and BE READY!



# Recruiting a "Nuke"

Story by MC3 Tyler Fraser, NRC Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** - Recruiting a Sailor for today's Navy is no regular job. Finding qualified men and women can be challenging - especially when seeking individuals for the Navy's nuclear power field, one of the most prestigious in the fleet.

"Working as a 'nuke' will always have you thinking," said Master Chief Machinist Mate Rodney Chronister, enlisted nuclear programs manager at Navy Recruiting Command (NRC). "If you are looking for a challenge, becoming a nuke is excellent."

A "nuke" is a term used to describe any job in the Navy that has specifications in the nuclear field. Nukes make up both the enlisted and officer force.

Enlisted nuke jobs include electronics technicians (ET), electrician's mates (EM) and machinist's mates (MM). Sailors with these qualifications and ratings are employed onboard nuclear powered ships to maintain the control subsystems, the machinery and the piping in nuclear reactors. Some nuclear MMs receive additional specialization in health, physics and maintaining reactor chemistry.

To become a nuke in the enlisted field, applicants must show a proficiency in math and science earning high scores on the Armed Services Vocational

Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) in categories of arithmetic reasoning, math knowledge, electronics information and general science.

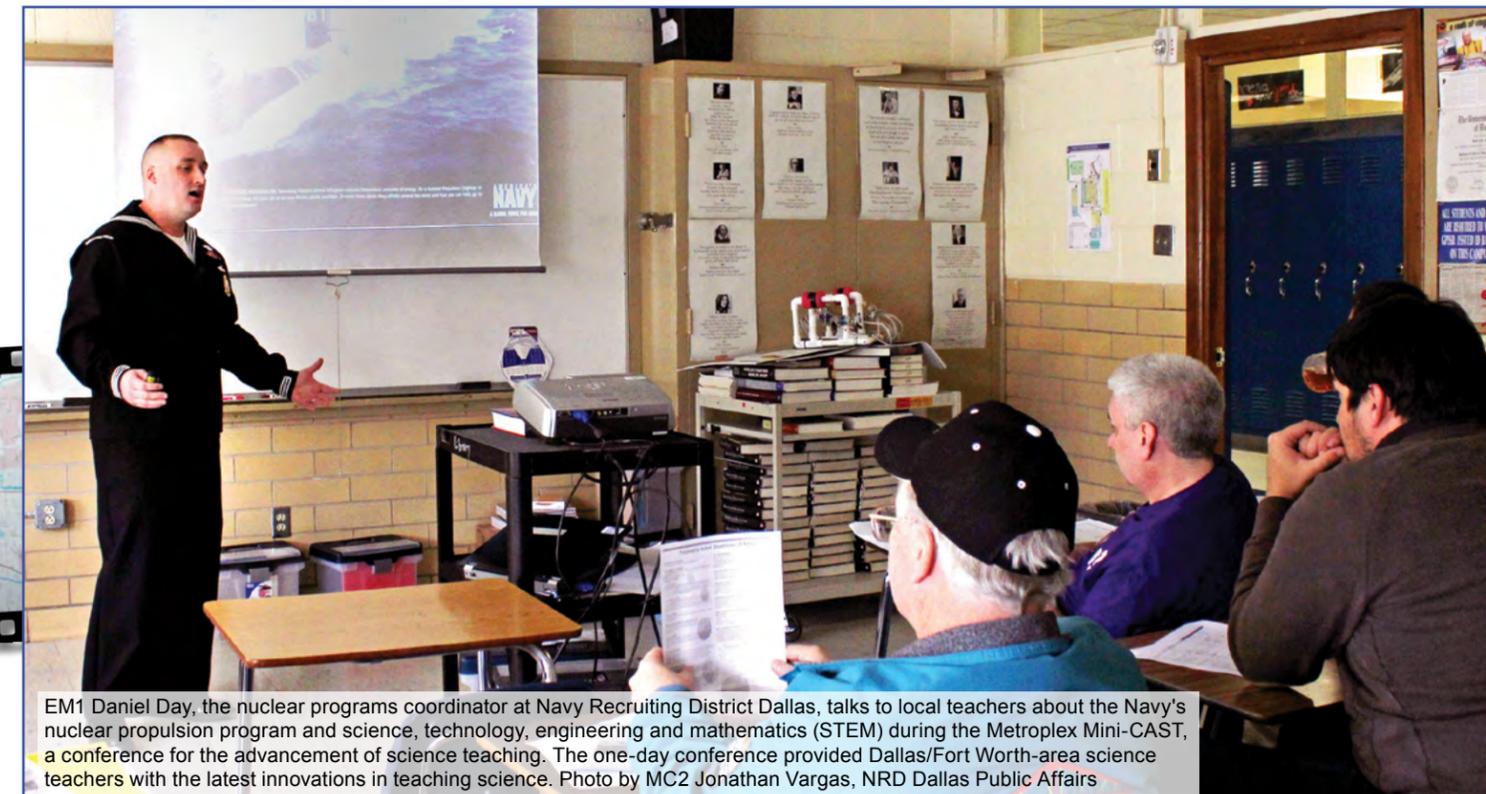
If these qualifications are met, the potential nuke still has a great deal of training ahead. To be a nuke requires attending a series of often time lengthy schools. Depending on the program, schools may run anywhere from three to six months and may include more than one during the training pipeline before reporting to a first duty station in the fleet.

After completing recruit training, enlisted nukes attend Nuclear Field (NF) "A" School in Charleston, S.C., which is the first in a series of schools which provides the insight into the career field including the necessary skills to succeed in this line of work.

"Nuke school is very demanding," said Chronister. "It not only teaches you the skills needed for your job but skills like responsibility and time management."

Following NF "A" School is a six-month nuclear power school (NPS) also located in Charleston, S.C. NPS provides a comprehensive understanding of a pressurized-water naval nuclear power plant.

After NPS is completed, students will attend nuclear prototype training either in Charleston or Balston Spa,



EM1 Daniel Day, the nuclear programs coordinator at Navy Recruiting District Dallas, talks to local teachers about the Navy's nuclear propulsion program and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) during the Metroplex Mini-CAST, a conference for the advancement of science teaching. The one-day conference provided Dallas/Fort Worth-area science teachers with the latest innovations in teaching science. Photo by MC2 Jonathan Vargas, NRD Dallas Public Affairs

N.Y. This six-month phase of training is focused on applying the skills students have learned on a real operating nuclear propulsion plant.

For select MMs the path will lead to even more training at the engineering laboratory technician school or nuclear welder's school. This significant training prepares nukes for their highly responsible and challenging fleet assignments and comes with benefits for those who reenlist up to six figures.

Officers in the nuclear program routinely join the Navy with one or two degrees, but their education and training does not stop there. Taking charge of a nuclear reactor or a vessel powered by nuclear power is not a task asked of many 20-somethings. After a few years of training in the Navy, however, a young officer may very well be called on to do just that.

There are four specialized nuclear officer career paths which include submarine officer, surface warfare officer, naval reactors engineer and naval nuclear power school instructor.

Submarine officers oversee the specialized personnel, departments and missions of Navy attack, ballistic missile and guided missile submarines. Surface warfare officers oversee propulsion systems and personnel aboard nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

Naval reactors engineers are technical experts responsible for researching, designing and maintaining naval nuclear reactors across the fleet. Naval nuclear power school instructors are some of the select few who learn and then teach the fundamentals of nuclear propulsion.

For those interested in becoming a nuclear officer, individuals must be a graduate or student of an accredited college or university in the United States or in a United States territory pursuing a BA, BS or MS (preferably majoring in mathematics, engineering, physics, chemistry or other technical areas) and have completed or be enrolled in a college curriculum that includes a minimum of one year each of calculus-based physics and mathematics through integral calculus.

Upon graduation from college, those interested in going the submarine officer route must complete Officer Candidate School (OCS), a 12-week course in Newport, R.I. After OCS, submarine officers must also complete NPS, Nuclear Prototype Training, and a 12-week submarine officer basic course in New London, Conn.

"Becoming a nuclear officer provides a much broader range of skills than a first job right out of college would," said Lt. Benjamin Smith, nuclear programs officer and submarine officer at NRC. "A lot is expected at a young age."

Surface warfare officers also attend OCS but must complete one sea tour before attending NPS and nuclear prototype training.

To become a naval reactors engineer, the first step is to attend Officer Development School (ODS), a five-week course in Newport, R.I. After ODS, officers must complete preliminary training at the Naval reactors headquarters in Washington, D.C. This is followed by approximately two weeks at nuclear prototype training. The next step involves naval reactors training, a six-month process of earning a postgraduate-level education in nuclear engineering through the Bettis Reactor Engineering School at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in Pittsburgh, Pa. After naval reactors training, naval reactors engineers are then assigned a nuclear engineer position with the group responsible for managing all technical aspects of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program.

To become a Naval Nuclear Power School Instructor, officers must complete ODS and NPS.

Once all the required training is completed, there are benefits both enlisted and officer nukes receive.

"One of the biggest benefits is having confidence in stressful situations," said Smith. "You learn to make intelligent decisions with limited amounts of information."

Chronister said the accreditation of nuke schools counting towards college degrees is a huge benefit.

"When I finished nuke school I had over 50 college credits," said Chronister. "Many college degree plans also will link up with the Navy nuke program."

Another benefit to becoming a nuke is the advancement rate. Nukes have a higher advancement rate than many other rates in the Navy and enlisted nukes are advanced to Petty Officer Third Class (E-4) upon graduation from NF "A" School.

"Advancement for nukes is very fast," said Chronister. "I was able to make master chief in 17 years."

With the continued increase in nuclear power and its benefits, Sailors who have trained and worked in this line of work in the Navy are able to easily transfer their skills to the civilian side.

"I have seen a lot of nuclear officers go onto successful civilian careers after the Navy," said Smith. "The nuclear program is excellent for learning interpersonal skills, time management and leadership."

Today's Navy has 283 ships and approximately 323,000 Sailors. Manning the fleet with top notch nukes will take our Navy into the next century. Navy recruiters are always interested in reaching individuals for these programs, and seek applicants with superb academic skills and moral character.



# A Moment to Remember

Story and photos by MC1(SW/AW) Timothy Walter, NRD Nashville Public Affairs

**NASHVILLE** - A few feet from the heart of downtown Nashville, shoes shuffled into lines outside of the Bridgestone Arena. But the shoes did not belong to fans waiting to see the Nashville Predators game later that night. No one wore hockey jerseys in this crowd. Instead, they were students from eight high schools across middle Tennessee, dressed in shined shoes and uniforms resembling the different branches of the U.S. military. These students stood ready and waiting to perform in front of active duty service members in the inaugural Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Drill Competition hosted by the Predators on March 8, 2014.

The music flowing from the honkey tonks of Broadway Street didn't mask the crisp commands yelled by the lead cadets as they instructed their peers in the rehearsed display of military bearing and precision. They performed drill sets, color guard maneuvers and high-flying armed demonstrations.

The judges spoke highly of both the students and the coordination of the new venue. Master Chief Paul Corey, command master chief for Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Nashville and one of the active duty judges, said serving at the event was a privilege and added that for a first time event, it was executed perfectly.

"It was very, very impressive to see these young men and women out here. You can tell that there was a lot of effort put into what they did out here today," Corey said. "I told them that it was very rewarding to me that after spending almost 30 years in the United States Navy that I know our country is going to be left in the hands of men and women like them who are so dedicated to what they do."

The demonstrations drew in the Broadway visitors, the locals, and military recruiters alike. For one person in attendance, he could claim to be a bit of all three. Knowing the significance of that, he asked for photo to be taken of him with the city in the background.



OS1 Braden Mitchell, center, a recruiter stationed at NRD Nashville, observes a high school student as he uses the pull-up bar.

Cmdr. Jaime Hernandez, executive officer of NRD Nashville, salutes a performing unit during drill competition.

Master Chief Paul Corey, command master chief of NRD Nashville, left, and Cmdr. Jaime Hernandez, executive officer of NRD Nashville, judge a demonstration.



When he saw the skyline on the camera, it meant more than just buildings. As a kid, he knew Nashville. He grew up for 18 years with a view of music city but in the summer after his senior year at Hunters Lane High School, Nashville was in his rearview mirror as he shipped off to join the Navy. He went on to serve as a quartermaster, a Sailor whose responsibility is assisting in the safe and accurate navigation of the ship. He later became a leader of Landing Craft Utility, a position known as Craft Master, where he was responsible for safely ferrying marine landing units. But he never forgot his home, particularly while serving aboard the amphibious transport dock USS *Nashville* (LPD 13) during a deployment in 2008. During the filming of a Navy appreciation commercial, he realized that he was the only Sailor from Nashville on the ship.

“My purpose of coming here was because I wanted to be close to home,” said Chief Quartermaster Joseph Murray IV. As the current Navy ROTC scholarship coordinator for Navy Recruiting District Nashville, he found a chance to accomplish his mission - to live in Nashville and not just say he grew up there. As he looked at the photo, with the city and a Navy tent behind him, he was emotional.

“Say next year, when I will be deployed, that is going to be one of the pictures that I will always remember,” Murray said.

During the event, he had a unique opportunity educate the attending high school students on the expectation of what they could expect if they carried on with the ROTC program in college. Rows of students asked for his advice as well as the other Navy recruiters on hand for the event.

“It’s all about getting out and talking to the students, particularly the ones already in JROTC,” he said.

For Murray it was more than just helping students and their teachers understand the opportunities the military can offer. It was about him realizing the opportunities the Navy had given him to get to this point in his life, standing on the street of Nashville in a chief petty officer service dress blue uniform. He remembered why he came back here.

“It was about letting them see what I do,” he said. “Letting my family see me in uniform on a regular basis is very important to me and to them.”

The event closed with a presentation of jerseys and plaques to the winning high school and awarding the honor for the winning color guard to perform at that evening’s Predators game. And as the students celebrated, Murray took note of the fact that in six months he will be on the other side of the world in Sasebo, Japan.

“I’m going to miss this city,” he said. “I came here to do what I had to do but you have to roll. It’s all about being out to sea.”



## NRD Portland Receives Retention Excellence Award

Story and photo by Robin Sanz, NRD Portland Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Ore.** - NRD Portland is among the winners of the fiscal year 2014 Retention Excellence Award. The award is given to select commands by the Department of the Navy for sustaining superior levels of military retention, recognizing accomplishment in executing programs and policies that best enable Sailors to succeed in their naval careers. NRD Portland’s command master chief, CMDCM(EWS) Stacey McClain, credits the efforts of the command career counselor, NC1(SCW/SW) Sean Kriloff, and divisional career counselor, NC1 Tiffany Schleif, for their efforts in taking care of the district’s Sailors. “It is an honor for the command to receive this,” said McClain. “There was a lot of hard work and dedication from the staff to make this happen.” NRD Portland is authorized to fly the Retention Excellence pennant outside its district headquarters until release of the following year’s award message.

NC1(SCW/SW) Sean Kriloff, command career counselor, raises the golden anchor Retention Excellence pennant on the flag pole outside NRD Portland’s office in Portland, Ore., with assistance from CMDCM(EWS) Stacey McClain.



# Navy Brings STEM Tour to FIRST Tech Challenge

Story by and photos by Burrell Parmer, NRD San Antonio Public Affairs

**SAN ANTONIO** - Continuing to strengthen the Navy’s focus on cultivating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers in today’s youth, recruiters of NRD San Antonio participated in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge (FTC) South Super-Regional Championship held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Feb. 26-28 and March 1.

The FTC is a mid-level robotics competition for high-school students offering the traditional challenge of a FIRST Robotics Competition but with a more accessible and affordable robotics kit, according to Alamo-FIRST Region website.

According to EM1 Noah Delaughter, NRD’s nuclear programs coordinator, the championship was one of the largest STEM events that the recruiting district could have hope for.

“There were approximately 320 teams attending throughout all the championships which included the FTC, FIRST LEGO League, and FIRST Robotics Competition,” said Delaughter. “Our recruiters have supported ALAMO Region FIRST throughout every event they had all year long by providing setup-personnel, judges, and referees. This allowed us to be prepared for the super-regional.”

Ian Jackson, a member of Team Tempest a native of Gulfport, Miss., was interested in SeaPerch and the laparoscopic surgery demo at the Navy STEM Tour.

“We have many teams which participate in the FTC, and I wanted to challenge my brain,” said Jackson, a native of Gulfport, Miss. “I saw the different puzzles and thought it would be fun; I like it.”

The Navy STEM Tour is available to Navy Recruiters to help promote Navy STEM careers. The tour includes a laparoscopic surgery demo, a model of the new Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System and interactive experiences that allow students to virtually engage with Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), submarines, divers and undersea technologies.



Recruiters ET2 Christopher Sanchez of NRS Mercado and NC1 Delilah Spann of NRS Hollywood Park speak with a participant of the FIRST Tech Challenge South Super-Regional Championship.



Ian Jackson, a native of Gulfport, Miss., and member of Team Tempest, challenges himself by completing several tasks of the laparoscopic surgery demo at the Navy’s STEM Tour. Recruiters of NRD San Antonio participated at the FIRST Tech Challenge South Super-Regional Championship by serving as judges during the three-day event.



# Cyberspace Recruiting

Story and photos by MC3 James A. Griffin, NRC Public Affairs

Today's youth are constantly on their iPhones, tablets, and using the most advanced technology available to gather and share information with friends and family. Reaching out or responding to young adults about their Navy is a fast-paced, demanding job and requires a dedicated team to support Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) with their mission of finding qualified men and women to join today's Navy.

NRC has approximately 4,500 recruiters across the country and overseas who work from Navy Recruiting Stations (NRS). Recruiters are responsible for keeping up with young adults to answer their questions and to seek those individuals with the skills and abilities to fill critical jobs in the fleet. In order to provide information and initiate conversations about life in the Navy, however, NRC needs the support and expertise of 'invisible' stations, or cyber stations, comprised of Sailors who are considered cyberspace recruiters. Cyberspace recruiters may have their physical location in Millington, Tenn., but provide an online force that can be reached through the internet by youths not only in the United States, but around the world.

Each day cyberspace recruiters reply to requests from the Navy recruiting website [www.Navy.com](http://www.Navy.com) and interact on the Navy's social media websites.

"In my experience the difference between NRS recruiting and cyberspace recruiting is the range and immense variety of information that we distribute,"



Cyberspace Recruiter, MM2 Justin Hendrix, logs on to [navy.com](http://navy.com) to begin a chat with a potential Future Sailor. In fiscal year 2013 there were a total of 85,547 chats with prospective applicants, 10,526 of those chats generated into leads of qualified applicants and led to 313 new contacts for Future Sailors.



OS1 Harry Davis reviews instruction with MM2 Justin Hendrix concerning a question from a potential applicant. Cyberspace recruiters encounter a wide variety of questions from the public and must be able to quickly provide accurate answers.

said MM2 Justin T. Hendrix, one of just 39 cyberspace recruiters supporting the Navy recruiting mission. "Typically most recruiters deal with either enlisted or officer applicants. However, cyberspace deals with both. Cyberspace recruiters are global recruiters versus recruiting in a local, social setting. Along with that, we get the hot topic questions about current events."

The internet is an accessible method of reaching 18-24 year old men and women who are always connected on their phones, tablets, and computers.

"A majority of people coming to a live chat have a piqued interest in the Navy, typically wanting to join at some point," said Hendrix. "Others are just trying to get in contact with a recruiter and we connect them."

The process generally begins on the Navy.com website. The prospective applicant who has already sought out information about the Navy starts an instant chat on the website. During the chat applicants may ask questions like: What type of jobs are there in the Navy? Can my buddy and I join together? What are some education benefits the Navy offers?

A cyberspace recruiter may conduct an initial basic interview, often called a "blueprint", to see if the applicant meets basic eligibility requirements for the Navy. If the candidate meets the basics, such as level of education completed, and height and weight standards, cyber recruiting forwards the information to the field recruiter near the applicant's hometown.

"Our job is to promote Navy awareness and to push quality leads to the field recruiters," said FC1 Joseph

Fults, a cyberspace recruiter, who has been with the team for a year.

Once the "blueprinting" of an applicant has been reviewed, a conference call that includes the prospective applicant and both the field and cyber recruiter helps the applicant fill out the proper documents to prepare for the next step of visiting the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS).

Throughout this entire process the cyberspace recruiter never sees the applicant the way a recruiter does in the field. There is, however, a great deal of pride in the work.

"We don't see an applicant in person but I do get some feedback when my applicant gets a contract, or my customer satisfaction scores increase," said Fults. "When those I chat with continue to show their appreciation for the information and encouragement I give them, that's a great feeling of satisfaction."

In fiscal year 2013 there were a total of 85,547 chats with prospective applicants, 10,526 of those chats generated into leads of qualified applicants and led to 313 new contacts for Future Sailors.



Cmdr. Jaime Hernandez, executive officer of NRD Nashville, salutes a performing unit during a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps drill competition which hosted eight local high school units at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. Photo by MC1 Timothy Walter, NRD Nashville Public Affairs

# EXERCISE! EXERCISE! EXERCISE!

Story by MC3 Tyler Fraser,  
NRC Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** - Navy Recruiting Command (NRC), in conjunction with Naval Support Activity Mid-South (NSAMS), held an active shooter drill Feb. 19 as part of the force protection and anti-terrorism exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2014 (SC-CS 14).

SC-CS 14 is a force protection exercise conducted by commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) and commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) on all Navy installations in the continental United States to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security personnel as well as establish a learning environment for security personnel to exercise functional plans and operational capabilities.

CWO3 Dexter P. Allen, NRC anti-terrorism officer and command security manager, developed the active shooter drill over two years with help from members of various NSAMS security (base anti-terrorism force, safety, and NRC anti-terrorism), NCIS, FBI, Millington Police Department and fire, Shelby County Sheriff's Office and fire, Region Mid-West installation training officers and AMR ambulance.

The drill was publicized internally to both NRC and NSAMS using email and AtHoc, a mass interactive crisis notification system, but the exact time of the event was not given.

"One of the biggest elements of surprise was that no one knew what was happening except for the role-players," said Allen. "You had to learn how to deal with the unknown."

Live gunshots were reproduced using an M14 with blanks to surprise employees.

"It was important to keep the drill very realistic," said Allen. "This was how we met our objective."

This was the first active shooter drill held at NRC. NSAMS has conducted three active shooter drills in the past. The first one was held at commander,



Joseph Kelly, an employee at Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) plays a disgruntled employee and YN2 Palita Herrod plays a victim during an active shooter drill held at NRC Feb. 19, 2014. NRC, in conjunction with Naval Support Activity Mid-South (NSAMS), held the active shooter drill as part of the force protection and anti-terrorism exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2014 (SC-CS 14). Photo illustration by Frank Ashe

Navy Personnel Command in October 2010. The second was held at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center in March 2012 and the third was held at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Logistics Agency and Navy Manpower Analysis Center in June 2013.

Participants of the drill said it was very effective and everyone involved did a great job of making the drill a success.

"Even though I knew the drill would be held and was involved in planning the event as a participant, it was still a really intense experience," said PS3 Jaime Sarna, who played the role of a shocked and frantic individual during the drill. "It's unfortunate that situations like this do happen, but I definitely feel more prepared."

Allen said that it was the effort of every person involved that made the training successful.

"Leadership involvement and the role-players made the drill a huge success," said Allen. "Preparedness was the key to success of this exercise."

"In the news you have heard or seen active shooter situations in schools, malls, movie theaters, and in the work place," said Allen. "An active shooter situation can be over within 15 minutes before law enforcement arrives so it is very important to NRC that everyone know and understand what to do in the event of a real world active shooter situation."

Because recruiters are often not located on an installation with security who can respond to an active shooter, Allen said it is extremely important that

recruiters know what to do if placed in that situation.

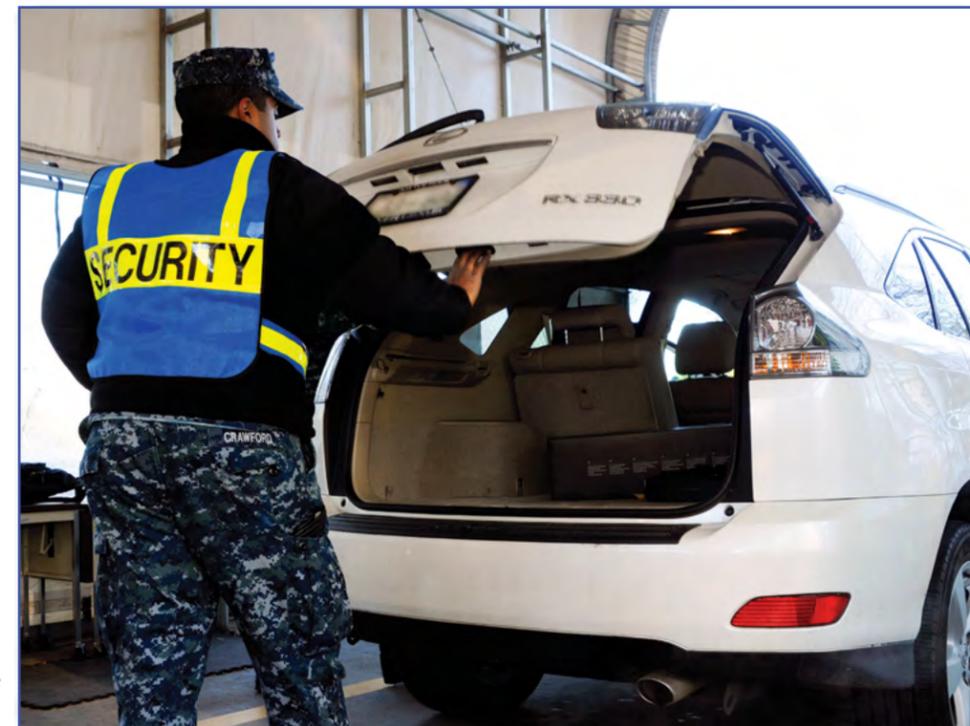
"If an active shooter is happening inside a recruiting station, the most important thing to do is run from the shooter, hide if possible and fight back as a last resort," said Allen. "Try to evacuate as soon as possible and call local law enforcement immediately."

If an active shooter is taking place outside a recruiting station, Allen said first lock all doors, make a barricade between yourself and the shooter and call 911.

Allen said there are many lessons to take away from this active shooter drill.

"I want to thank you and all of our participants that took part in this most important exercise this week, said Rear Adm. Annie B. Andrews, commander, NRC. "Having been at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, this exercise reminds us and reassures us what to do or should be doing in the event of such violent acts."

NRC and NSAMS will be conducting more anti-terrorism and security drills throughout the year to enhance readiness of the base.



A member of the Naval Support Activity Mid-South Auxiliary Security Force inspects a vehicle as part of the force protection and anti-terrorism exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield 2014 (SC-CS 14). Photo by MC3 Mark P. Langford



Capt. Christopher H. Heaney, Commander, Navy Recruiting Region East, joined Cmdr. Brent E. Cowder, NRD Jacksonville, on Feb. 27-28 in celebrating the history and culture of African American and Black Sailors during African American/Black History Month throughout the month of February. NRC's mission is to recruit the best men and women for America's Navy to accomplish today's missions and meet tomorrow's challenges. Photo by MC1 Brianna K. Dandridge

# Students Recognized for Impressive Research Projects

Story and photos by Robin Sanz, NRD Portland Public Affairs

**WEST LINN, Ore.** - Inside the West Linn High School gym on a drizzly Oregon day, a sea of tri-fold displays sit atop long rows of primary-colored tables. Neatly dressed, bright-eyed teenagers eagerly await the approach of a judge, ready to spring into action, first with a hand shake and then a brief introduction. It was the end of a journey that, for some 200 high school students, entailed months of research, planning, analyzing and designing. Not for a grade, but for the chance to participate in the 13th annual CREST-Jane Goodall Science Symposium.

The annual event, put on by the Center for Research in Environmental Sciences and Technologies (CREST) operated by the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, is an opportunity for students to advance their scientific thinking. Ninth through twelfth graders from West Linn, Wilsonville and Art and Technology High Schools were invited to participate.

The 120 projects were divided by topic into seven categories, judged by professional scientists, engineers and military personnel from the community who gave up a day of their time to be part of the event. They were given a set of judging criteria to review and score projects. The largest portion, one quarter of the total points, was determined by how well the students could answer questions relating to their projects. That's where the judge's professional expertise becomes a truly motivating experience for the students.

"Their participation gives the students an authentic audience," said Amy Schauer, program coordinator for CREST. "Students almost always say that the judging interviews were more intellectually exciting and powerful, educationally, and validating than any presentation to their teachers or peers could be. They learn from the judges, but moreover they learn because they have to explain to a knowledgeable person just what their research is all about, and the intensity of that learning experience is not duplicated in the classroom setting."

In addition to category winners, there were several special awards presented, one of them being the Naval Excellence in Science and Engineering Award,



The gym at West Linn High School is filled with science projects for the 13th annual CREST-Jane Goodall Science Symposium held February 27, 2014 in West Linn, Ore.

sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. Among the judges for that category were Sergio Barrientos, Education Specialist for Navy Recruiting District Portland, and MM1 Richard Evans, a recruiter for NRS Oregon City. Barrientos and Evans looked at each project before narrowing their choices down to those based on the possibility that the idea could be beneficial to and adapted for use by the Navy.

"The projects are amazing," said Barrientos. "Judging this competition is inspiring. Daily you can read or hear about the sorry state of education in this country. That is not in evidence at this event. In addition to the projects themselves, the competition aspect forces the participants to know their subject and be able to clearly communicate that knowledge."

There were four projects that received the Naval Excellence in Science and Engineering Award: Lydia VanWinkle's "Creating Nanoparticles to Safely Clean Arsenic-contaminated Water," Anton Anikan's "Stratospheric Electromagnetic Space Launch System," PJ Carr's "Alternate Airfoil Mechanics," and partner's Austin Miller and John Hodson's "The Effect of Anthocyanin Dye Concentration on Nano-Crystalline Solar Cell Conductivity."

Anton Anikan, a junior at West Linn High School, came up with his idea after he heard about the funding cuts for NASA. His project, titled 'Stratospheric Electromagnetic Space Launch System,' included a model for launching payloads into space using solar energy for power, making it cheaper, reusable, more reliable and environmentally friendly. Anikan was honored with the Most Outstanding Eleventh Grade Exhibit and placed third in his category of Engineering: Electrical, Energy and Computer Science. He will also advance to the state-level competition, the Intel Northwest Science Expo (NWSE).

PJ Carr, also a student at West Linn High School, continued an alternate airfoil mechanics project he started last year as a freshman. His idea, creating an airplane with a rotational and pivotal wing design, would make it more fuel efficient, enable it to ascend and descend quickly in a smaller space while keeping passengers and cargo safe and comfortable. "I like building things," said Carr. "One day in class I was really bored and sketched this out. I showed it to my dad and he inspired me to keep going with the idea."

Carr's mother says the tech lab workers at Oregon Museum of Science and Industry were critical to helping him print out his model. "They worked with him under a tight deadline, and when we ran out of time one day, they continued the printing on their own with volunteers the next day while PJ was in school," said Carr. "They are a huge supporter of the science fair and would love to work with other students as well." In addition to the Naval Excellence award, Carr received the Sustainable Development Award.

Lydia VanWinkle has been participating in science fairs since third grade. The sophomore from West Linn High School says she loves working on the projects because it gives her time to bond with her dad and a feeling of independence. She developed her idea, 'Creating Nanoparticles to Safely Clean Arsenic Contaminated Water,' while researching topics on the internet. VanWinkle was also among the awardees of the U.S. Regional Stockholm Junior Water Prize and received an Honorable Mention in the category of Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering. She is also advancing to the Intel NWSE.

Winners of this local competition were awarded scholarships, cash prizes and special awards. Three projects were selected to automatically advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in May in Los Angeles, the world's largest international pre-college science competition, where they will compete for \$4 million in awards. Forty-six students were chosen to advance to the state-level science research competition, the Intel NWSE, in April in Portland, where they will compete for a chance to attend the Intel ISEF as well.

This was the third year Barrientos has judged the event and believes Navy involvement is critical.

"Our Navy is at the forefront of technology," said Barrientos. "It is extremely important for students to see that the ONR is a place where they can further their knowledge and experience while serving in our Navy."

Evans agrees, and says being a part of these events allows people to see recruiters, and Navy personnel, strictly as benefitting high school students.

"The science fairs are a great way for recruiters to interact with students in an area that is no pressure to meet a quota," said Evans. "It also gives us

a chance to meet other prominent members of the community that could turn into Centers of Influence."

Schauer says she has seen a progressive improvement in the quality of the projects over the years and believes this was the best one yet. "The students' effort and enthusiasm for their work and all the preparation they put into being ready for judging showed," said Schauer. "The judges were brilliant, rigorous but also very constructive, and it all shone a bright light on our many engaged young scientists and engineers and gave them inspiration to explore further and work even harder. The general consensus on the entries was that the questions the students were asking were all worthy and that the level of accomplishment at all ability levels has continued to improve in the years we have been doing this."

Schauer is grateful for the continued support of the judges and says without them, it would just be another school project.



Lydia VanWinkle, a sophomore at West Linn High School, answers questions about her science project at the CREST-Jane Goodall Science Symposium.

# Naval War College Sharpens Intellectual Swords of Future Force

Story by MCC James E. Foehl, U.S. Naval War College Public Affairs

**NEWPORT, R.I.** - Two-hundred ten U.S. Naval War College (NWC) National Security and Decision Making (NSDM) students completed the 2014 NSDM course and NSDM Final Exercise (FX), Feb. 28, at NWC in Newport, R.I.

The top 25 graduates were bestowed the James V. Forrestal Award for Excellence in Force Planning and were provided an opportunity to execute their learning with a panel of senior national security practitioners.

"This course has done so much to broaden my horizons," said Army Col. Paul B. Riley, NSDM student and Forrestal award winner, following his brief with the senior panel. "It's sharpened the edge of my intellectual sword. Our strength was collective brainpower and harnessing that brainpower in a way where everyone felt like they could contribute."

"The problems of the next generation are so complex, that the tools and our understanding that we've gathered in our career up to this point are insufficient for dealing with the complexity of what's to come. We have to learn how to think through these things.

"This course has opened our eyes to everything at the strategic level; help us understand the things that we're seeing; and even help us forecast what we think will happen next," said Riley.

The 10-week course is part of NWC's year-long resident program and is designed to prepare senior level joint and international officers and civilians for executive positions in large national security organizations. Major attention is given to joint and allied perspectives at the theater level or above and studies stress the growing complexity of decision making at higher levels of responsibility and authority.

"NSDM is unique in that there are three sub-courses," said Cmdr. Brent Gaut, NSDM student at NWC. "You never just concentrate or focus on just one discipline."

The course curriculum consists of three primary areas of study; security strategies, policy analysis and leadership concepts at the strategic level.

"This is mostly a Pentagon-focused product," said Jim Cook, a NWC professor.

The products produced by the students are "something you expect to be briefed to the service chiefs, Joint Chiefs of Staff or Secretary of Defense," Cook added.

Following completion of coursework, students culminate their learning in seminars, groups of 13 to 15 students, and undergo a competitive two-week graded capstone, the NSDM FX.

During the exercise, seminars are required to develop a 45-minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period where they defend their strategic choices.

"Students are asked to assess the future security environment, out for the next 20 years and identify the major challenges and opportunities," said Cook. "Based on that assessment, students must develop national strategies and talk about how the joint force will be employed to achieve the objectives of their strategy. Finally, students must tell us what the joint force will look like and what kind of capabilities it will have."

At completion of the course, graduates will have enhanced their ability to rigorously analyze the proposals of their staffs, choose wisely among competing strategies, integrate decisions into comprehensive plans of action and implement their plans through effective leadership of subordinate organizations.

"It's teaching us senior leaders to be critical thinkers," said Guat. "It gives us the tools to look at and analyze different situations and scenarios we might find ourselves in. If you're given the opportunity to come here, take advantage of it and embrace the opportunity."

The NWC remains dedicated to its mission of educating and developing leaders by providing current, rigorous and relevant professional military education programs to the maximum number of qualified officers and enlisted personnel, civilian employees, and international senior enlisted leaders and officers. These leaders have trust and confidence in each other and are operationally and strategically minded, critical thinkers, proficient in joint matters, and skilled naval and joint warfighters prepared to meet the operational level of war and strategic challenges of today and tomorrow.

For more news from Naval War College, visit [www.navy.mil/local/nwc/](http://www.navy.mil/local/nwc/).



# Sailors Judge "CSI" Competition at Local High School

Story and photos by MC1(SWAW) N. Ross Taylor, NRD Phoenix Public Affairs

**PHOENIX** - Sailors assigned to Navy Recruiting Station Paradise Valley volunteered to judge a law enforcement and crime scene investigation competition during the 6th Annual Arizona "CSI" State Challenge at Shadow Mountain High School in Phoenix on March 8.

More than 180 Explorer and Forensic Science Cadets from six different local high schools competed in the challenge.

"I really enjoyed today's event," said AMS1(AW) Vladimir Lazarev-Stanishchev, a native of St. Petersburg, Russia. "I am a criminal justice major, and this was such an awesome opportunity to help these young men and women train in career fields they wish to pursue."

The cadets were judged on a number of different aspects of the law enforcement and forensic science fields.

The Sailors began their Saturday with a chance to meet with and speak to the students before they started reviewing and judging numerous law enforcement scenarios ranging from crime scene photography and information gathering to lab-based evidence analysis and arrest techniques.

"The CSI challenge is a concept that allows the cadets to take their classroom training and apply it in a hands-on training evolution," said Brian Lesinski, forensic science teacher at Paradise Valley High School. "It was great to have the Navy out here today. Sailors are



NC1 John Jennings observes Explorer and Forensic Science cadets from various local high schools as they compete in the 6th Annual State Bar of Arizona Foundation CSI/Law Enforcement State Challenge at Shadow Mountain High School. Jennings and other Sailors assigned to NRD Phoenix, volunteered their time as judges for the event. The CSI challenge allows the cadets to take classroom learning and apply it in a hands-on training exercise.



role models and these kids got a chance to interact one-on-one with people they see as leaders in the community.”

Many of the volunteers, including Lazarev-Stanishchev, were excited for the opportunity to work and interact with the students, as well as be a part of this very unique experience.

“When I heard about the chance to do this, I immediately wanted to jump on board,” said Lazarev-Stanishchev. “It is special to be able to come out and support the community we live and work in, and to be able to watch the cadets be so passionate about a life that involves service is very rewarding.”

Shari Anton, a forensic science and criminal law teacher at Shadow Mountain High School and the North Valley Explorers Advisor, said the CSI challenge is much more than teaching law enforcement techniques to the next generation.

“This event is not specifically designed to increase the number of police officers or scientists we have. It is vital for us to help the students develop their critical thinking skills,” she said. Challenges like this one teach them how to analyze, how to think for themselves and how to process information. It also teaches the cadets how to be confident and competitive in whichever career field they choose to pursue.”

Anton stressed the value of the Sailors’ involvement.

“As the wife of a Marine officer for more than 11 years, it is important for me to show the students how to have an appreciation and respect for the men and women that serve this country,” said Anton. “Today’s event allowed the students to meet real U.S. Navy Sailors face to face, talk with them and ask questions. I believe that is a big step in the right direction for the cadets, the school, the community and the Navy.”



Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton’s School of Infantry judge the sit-up portion of the athletic team event during the annual Naval Service Training Command Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Area 11 Field Meet championship. Fifty-five Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton’s NCO Academy and the School of Infantry judged NJROTC units in armed and unarmed drill team, military personnel inspection and athletic teams. Seventeen NJROTC units from all over southern California and one unit from Arizona competed for the top three spots to go on to the national championships. Photo by MCC Anastasia Puscian, NRD San Diego Public Affairs

# A Day to Focus on the Future

Story and photos by Robin Sanz, NRD Portland Public Affairs

**CORVALLIS, Ore.** - For about 900 high school students in Benton County, Ore., February 25 was a day to focus on their future.

The sixth annual Benton County High School Career Convention at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore., provided students the opportunity to meet state career requirements in a professional, business setting. It gave them a chance to develop resume writing and interviewing skills, provided them with career knowledge and the chance to network with business professionals in the area. For local recruiters, it was a chance to meet one-on-one with juniors and seniors, outside of their typical school visits, who are interested in pursuing the Navy as a career path.

“Some of the schools in our area are harder to get into and strict about school visits. This opens it up to everybody and lets us be seen,” said STS1 Jake Pendergrass, one of the recruiters from Navy Recruiting Station Albany to take part in the event.

Students attended three career occupation panels of their choice, giving them a snapshot of a typical day in the life of that profession. STS1 Pendergrass spoke to a packed room of about 100 students, all interested in the military. He gave them a quick overview of his job, training, college tuition assistance, pay and benefits and then was available afterwards to answer questions at the Navy’s booth.

Ainemaire Smith, a junior at Monroe High School, stopped by the booth after the presentation. “I really want to help my country,” said Smith. “I like the thought of helping other people.” Smith said she’s interested in joining the Navy after high school but is not sure yet what field she’d like to get into.

Corvallis High School senior Brennan Downs said his stepdad served in the Navy and he thinks it would be a great experience for himself as well. “I think it would teach me great life skills,” said Downs. “It would be good for me to build better character and build a foundation for a career.”



STS1(SS) Jake Pendergrass speaks to approximately 100 students during the 2014 Benton County High School Career Convention Feb. 25, 2014 at Oregon State University.

STS1(SS) Jake Pendergrass speaks with Corvallis High School junior Kianna Melson about Navy opportunities.



STS1 Pendergrass said the event was a success. They had 40 students fill out paperwork, showing interest in the Navy. He believes the exposure and one-on-one interaction with the students is imperative to building positive relationships with students and educators throughout Benton County.



# NRD Miami Invests in Students' Futures with SeaPerch

Story by MC1 Jim Williams, NRD Miami Public Affairs

**MIAMI** - "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower," described the late Steve Jobs regarding what makes a true modern trailblazer. And thanks to the Navy's participation in the SeaPerch program, over 100,000 students around the nation have the unique opportunity to discover how to become tomorrow's top leaders.

"Each week recruiters from NRD Miami are joining hundreds of Sailors coast-to-coast in providing middle and high school students the chance to step out of the box and create something that they can truly call their own with SeaPerch," explained Joe Chada, a NRD Miami Education Service Specialist with over 45 total years of combined Navy military and civilian service.

SeaPerch is an innovative pioneering underwater robotics program that arms both students and their teachers with the tools and knowledge they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), according to Chada. The students build the ROV from a kit made of affordable, easily accessible parts (including many household items) and a simple design that teaches the students the basics of engineering, mathematics and science.

"It began a few years ago as an effort by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to create a plan that would involve more young students in some sort of engineering project," said Chada. And according to the SeaPerch website ([www.seaperch.org](http://www.seaperch.org)), the hope is still that the students will learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications during the experience.

"Actually, interesting enough, SeaPerch was originally mainly aimed at females in its original inception," said Chada, "in an attempt to develop more female engineers in both the Navy and the world as a whole."

"There are very few female engineers these days," he added. "Initially when we would go in to talk to a classroom of around 25 students, we would be lucky to find even one female interested in engineering. So the Navy thought it would be valuable to bring out the diversity of having more female engineers, if for no other reason than to simply mirror the rest of the Navy as a whole."

The result has been phenomenal said Susan Fiallo, the Assistant Principal for Curriculum at the private school TASIS (The American School in Switzerland) Dorado in Puerto Rico. "Our school has just begun to develop a strong STEM program (an academic course focusing on the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics), so this was the perfect fit to get us rolling," she said. "For many of these kids, this is their first exposure to this type of engineering or science. It seems to really be igniting their interests and opening their eyes to all of the possibilities in STEM fields."

Lt. Rolando Machado Jr., the NRD Miami Division Officer for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands agreed whole heartedly after eight of his local recruiters served as judges at a regional SeaPerch challenge in Puerto Rico.

"The SeaPerch Initiative has been extremely beneficial in Puerto Rico," stated Machado. "After we had some initial difficulties getting into some local schools, this program has given us greater access to the students and parents throughout the island and has improved the perception of the U.S. Navy among the entire population."

"It has also opened doors into several very exclusive or private schools that might normally turn away our recruiters," said Chada, "but are now happy to have us onboard since they are so interested in SeaPerch."

Fiallo described how their students are both very excited and challenged by SeaPerch. "Most of these kids have never worked with these types of tools, so it teaches both the basis of construction and problem solving," she said. "But they are really enjoying it and having a lot of fun. We even have several kids who are asking to take the projects home to continue working on them."

But according to Chada, this program is not just about kids having a fun time or even the Navy's recruiting efforts. But rather more important how this groundbreaking program teaches fundamental skills in ship design and ocean engineering principles as well as instilling simple science and engineering tools, equipment safety and technical building methods. This is imperative not only to our Navy but our nation as whole, since according to the Navy's Office of

Naval Research website, the U.S. has fallen from third to 17th in the world in the number of college graduates in engineering programs and that for us to remain a leader in this area an estimated that 400,000 engineers will be needed in the near future.

"Not only are we developing a love for the Navy, we are also sharing how the education they are receiving now is applicable in the real world," explained Machado concerning how it has affected the local Puerto Rican community. "It is clear through SeaPerch that we are strengthening our Hispanic Future Sailors and Officers in their STEM skills, as well as empowering an entire generation of Puerto Ricans to be successful at the highest levels of business and industry."

Once the SeaPerch students complete their construction of their robots with the help of their mentors (a small group of volunteer Sailors, teachers and often representatives from local college engineering departments), they usually compete in regional and possibly in a National SeaPerch Challenge occurring in the spring.

"It seems like whenever you add big competition, a lot of schools love to get on board and demonstrate that they are the best," said Chada. "Plus these large events put our Sailors out in front of the students, parents and the teachers for an entire day allowing them to interact on a very informal basis, but while in a Navy uniform visible to everyone. That's worth its weight in gold right there."

Fiallo also added how she hopes their school plans to continue the SeaPerch program into the far future because she feels it provides the perfect level of complexity, challenge and fun. "They are really enjoying it," she concluded. "It has surprised me because while I figured mostly the boys would naturally gravitate towards the robotics, I have also been thrilled to see we have a lot of girls in the class really enjoying getting into it and having a lot of fun." This type of fun and excitement at such a young age is imperative because simple innovation is sometimes not enough. Steve Jobs also once said "The only way to do great work is to love what you do."



Approximately 50 future Sailors from the Houston area take the Oath of Enlistment during Armed Forces Appreciation Day at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in front of rodeo attendees. Photo by MC1 Jacob L. Dillon, Navy Recruiting District Houston Public Affairs

# Navy Recruiting Region East Visits NRD Jacksonville

Story and photo by MC1 Brianna K. Dandridge, NRD Jacksonville Public Affairs

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.-** Capt. Christopher H. Heaney, commander, Navy Recruiting Region East, visited NRD Jacksonville Feb. 27-28, his first visit since assuming command.

Heaney was joined by Regional Command Master Chief Donald Massey for the visit. Heaney and Massey met with Sailors and staff at headquarters and recruiters from Navy Recruiting Stations Orange Park, West Jacksonville and East Jacksonville.

“One of the reasons that I visit stations in the field is to get an idea of what recruiters need to get the job done in the best way,” said Heaney.

During his visit, Heaney received a tour of district headquarters from Cmdr. Brent E. Cower, commanding officer, NRD Jacksonville.

“It is evident that NRD Jacksonville does a great job at recruiting,” Massey. “The numbers clearly show that.”

Heaney continued his visit with a tour of NRS Orange Park, the winner of large station of the year fiscal 2013 and fiscal year 2012.

Heaney mentioned that he was pleased to meet the Sailors assigned to one of the most successful recruiting stations under his command.

According to Sailors, support and training make recruiting both a successful and rewarding career tour.

“This station has been a success because we’ve had good training and supportive leadership,” said OS1 Laronda Banks Walker.



▲ Capt. Christopher H. Heaney, Commander, Navy Recruiting Region East, visited NRD Jacksonville Feb. 27-28, his first visit since assuming command and was joined by Regional Command Master Chief Donald Massey for the visit. Heaney and Massey met with Sailors and staff at headquarters and recruiters from Navy Recruiting Stations Orange Park, West Jacksonville and East Jacksonville.

The support from the district to the stations is remarkable and enables the field recruiters to perform their mission.

According to Heaney recruiters that are a part of the community are role models.

Navy Recruiting Region oversees 13 recruiting districts providing support to hundreds of recruiting stations and thousands of Sailors and civilian personnel. NRC’s mission is to recruit the best men and women for America’s Navy to accomplish today’s missions and meet tomorrow’s challenges. With 70 percent of the world covered in water, 80 percent of the world’s population living near coasts and 90 percent of the world’s commerce traveling by water, America’s Navy is very much a global force for good. NRC’s mission is to recruit the best men and women for America’s Navy to accomplish today’s missions and meet tomorrow’s challenges.



# Ring the Bell!

## Navy Recruiting Celebrates Making Goal

Story and photo by MC3 Mark P. Langford, NRC Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** - The ringing of bells is a familiar sound for Sailors in the fleet, signifying the passage of time, the arrival of official parties, or even man overboard. At NRC, and for recruiters across the nation, ringing the bell is a tradition that holds a different meaning.

Headquartered in Millington, Tenn., NRC personnel meet each month on the quarterdeck to recognize the accomplishments of its recruiting mission. On March 5, NRC met on the quarterdeck to

recognize its 82nd consecutive month of making goal, with personnel gathered together to ring the bell.

For some, it may seem routine after so many months of meeting our goals, but ringing the bell is something we can never take for granted and should all be proud of, said Capt. Robert A. Dews, assuming responsibilities as director of NRC’s Operations Department.

“It symbolizes all of the hard work that we do, and the teamwork of Navy Recruiting across the Nation stepping up to the challenge,” said Dews.

Meeting the Navy’s recruiting goals is no easy task, and is the direct result of coordinated efforts between NRC and NRDs and their NRSs across the country. Each NRS has a team of recruiters who work hard every day to find qualified men and women to join our fighting force, while district and headquarters personnel support the recruiters to coordinate the jobs available to meet the needs of the Navy.



▲ Sailors from NRC celebrate 82 months of consecutively meeting mission by taking part in a time-honored bell ringing ceremony on the headquarters’ quarterdeck March 5, 2014.

The goal of recruiting is about filling specific vacancies in the Navy with qualified Sailors ensuring our fleet is ready to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. One of NRC’s priority missions is to increase the quality of the Navy’s total force by filling 71 total enlisted ratings. In a recent all-hands call, the Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. William Moran, commented on this issue.

“The quality of recruits based on test scores and high school graduates are at a high point in the Navy in terms of recruiting and accessions of Sailors,” said Moran.

In fiscal year 2013, the Navy had 40,112 active component and 5,584 reserve enlisted accessions, and had a goal of 3,903 reserve and active combined officer accessions.

With so many ratings to fill and factors including diversity, needs of Navy Special Warfare ratings, and specific officer programs including the Chaplain Corps

and medical and dental programs, it can be hard to manage every goal.

For many recruiters out in the field, meeting the mission comes naturally to those who focus on helping the young men and women in their region find opportunities to serve and start a career in the Navy.

"It's not really about the mission. It's about seeing the transformation in your future Sailors," said AWS1 Thomas Samelstad, assistant leading petty officer for NRS Kenosha, Wisc.

NRC simplifies these goals by focusing on meeting the mission in five areas:

- Active Component New Contracts
- Reserve Component New Contracts
- Active Component Shipping to Recruit Training Command
- Reserve Component Shipping to Recruit Training Command
- Prior Service Reserve

There are approximately 4,500 recruiters across the nation who are selected from the fleet to become ambassadors for the Navy. Between their daily interactions with communities and support personnel at the districts and headquarters, it is truly a team effort to keep the Navy manned with able-bodied Sailors.

The monthly bell ringing ceremonies symbolize the dedication Sailors make every day to find new recruits. The bell-ringing tradition is more than just a routine gathering; it is an opportunity to recognize all of the hard work each department gives consistently every month.

At the end of each month, bells can be heard ringing across the nation in 26 NRDs from fleet concentration areas such as San Diego or Norfolk, to middle-America such as Des Moines or St. Louis. Filling the needs of the Navy with America's best is truly a reason to ring the bell proudly.



## Future Sailors take Oath of Enlistment at Spurs Game

**SAN ANTONIO** - Thirteen Future Sailors from throughout the city took the Oath of Enlistment during the San Antonio Spurs USAA-sponsored Military Appreciation Night held at the AT&T Center, Feb. 28. The oath was administered by Cmdr. Mike Briggs, executive officer of NRD San Antonio, accompanied by CMDCM Vaughn Coker, ET1 Allyson Robertson, and GM2 Cecil Ford. Photo by Burrell Parmer, NRD San Antonio Public Affairs

# Uniform Changes: Uniformity, Fit, Functionality

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs | Photo by MC1 Elliott Fabrizio

**WASHINGTON** - Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus announced recently plans to evaluate and redesign elements of the female service dress uniform for both officers and enlisted beginning no later than May 2014.

SECNAV approved a proposal by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran to redesign the Service Dress Blue (SDB) uniform worn by female Sailors E1-E6 and to redesign the female combination cover for E7 and above.

"These changes ensure greater uniformity in our service and ceremonial dress, but more importantly, they send a clear signal that we are one in dress, one in standard and one in team. As you look out across a group of Sailors, you ought to see, not female and male Sailors, but Sailors," said Mabus.

"I asked the Chief of Naval Personnel to present a plan that balanced the importance for uniformity with cost and functionality - and he did just that. It's now over to his team to do the necessary testing and get these uniforms rolled out to the Fleet as soon practical."

The new E1-E6 service dress blue female uniform blends uniformity and tradition. The jumper and Dixie cup, tailored for female form and functionality, will match the recently redesigned (but not yet issued) male jumper - closely resembling the iconic image of the "Lone Sailor."

Following completion of a fit evaluation on the female jumper style uniform and dixie cup, there will be a combined fleet introduction of the new female uniform and the previously approved male redesigned SDB uniform.

The female combination cover for E-7 and above will be redesigned to more closely resemble the male version, but will fit a woman's head in size and proportion. It was clear in the feedback from the recent test that simply issuing a male cover to females did not result in satisfactory fit or appearance. Similarly, lessons learned from the fit evaluation will be used to inform the design of the female cover.

New uniform items will be evaluated for fit, comfort and durability. Fleet introduction will begin following approval of the final design and completion of the manufacturing process. The final timeline and costs of the new items will be determined following the wear test.

"We are moving out with our plan to test these new uniforms items this spring," said Moran. "After a thorough testing, elements of these uniforms will begin to be introduced."



Lt. Heidi Boettger and YNC Brienne Dentson model a prototype for the female combination cover, redesigned to more closely resemble the male version. This version of the cover will undergo further fit evaluations and the results of that evaluation will determine if any further modifications are needed. The timeline for fleet introduction will begin following the approval of a final design.

Feedback from a May 2013 uniform survey was instrumental in the development of these changes. More than 1,000 female officers and enlisted participated in the internal study which looked at level of satisfaction when wearing the male combination cover, Dixie Cup and the winter jumper style uniform.

"Loud and clear we heard their feedback, 'don't simply put us in men's uniforms,'" said Moran. "We are taking the needed time to develop and test uniforms that more closely resemble their male shipmates, but are designed to fit female Sailors."

Uniform officials say that further changes to female uniforms are likely as the uniform board reviews and deliberates additional ways to improve uniformity and functionality.



# Sailor Meets Bone Marrow Recipient

## First-ever 75-year-old Transplant Recipient

Story and photo by MC3 Mark P. Langford, NRC Public Affairs

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** - Eric Priest carefully removed the paper wrapping from a small box and wordlessly inspected the pewter clock inside and the words engraved on the surface: "Eric Priest, Thanks For Adding Time To My Life. Phil Jones July 4, 2012."

Priest is a lieutenant and is the deputy director for reserve general officer accessions for NRC in Millington, Tenn. He is also registered with the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense (DoD) Marrow Donor Program.

On March 8, 2014, Priest met Phil Jones, the 75-year-old recipient of his bone marrow transplant for the first time more than a year after the successful procedure.

"I was nervous, a little anxious and excited as well [to meet him] and see how he was doing," said Priest.

The story of how their lives became linked forever began with a phone call. Priest received the call from the DoD Marrow Donor Program saying he was a possible match for a patient and they needed a blood sample for further testing to find the match with a highest probability for success.

"This was the third time I had been called for a sample and both times I wasn't the closest match, so I didn't expect anything different," said Priest.

Priest was in Monterey, Calif., when he was given the news: "You're the best match for this patient."

Priest was given very little information on the potential recipient. Even after the procedure, it was policy that both parties' identities would be withheld and communication is not allowed until one full year after the procedure.

"All I knew was the donor was a 33-year-old male 'somewhere in the U.S.,'" said Jones.

Priest was only aware of similar information: the recipient is a 75-year-old male that has been diagnosed with myelodysplasia. He had no idea of the



unique situation Jones was in.

Myelodysplasia is a blood-related medical condition that effects the development of specific blood cells caused by progressive bone marrow failure.

"When I was diagnosed, I was only given 1.5 years to live and Medicare does not cover transplants for individuals over 65 years old," said Jones.

Outside of his age, Jones was an excellent candidate for the bone marrow transplant he needed.

"I was rejected," said Jones. "A world-renowned cancer institute in the United States said 'nope, you're too old.'"

Jones eventually found a hospital willing to perform the procedure. The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., agreed to perform the transplant as part of a government grant designed to collect data on older patients receiving transplants.

In July 2012, the DoD Marrow Donor Program flew Priest and his wife to San Diego to begin the process of his transplant.

"We didn't pay for anything out of pocket," said Priest. "They paid for all of our meals and we stayed in a hotel right on the golf course."

Despite many misconceptions about the process of donating bone marrow, it is a relatively simple procedure with minimal pain for the donor. Advances in technology have done away with the feared needles drilled into the hip to collect the marrow.

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplants filter the cells from the bloodstream. Four to five days before the procedure, patients are given injections



to increase the number of stem cells produced in the bone marrow. The extra cells then collect in the bloodstream which can then be filtered from the blood using a machine, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Some of the side effects can include bone pain, stiffness or soreness, and headaches.

"By the third day I had a minor headache, but that was probably because I couldn't have any coffee," said Priest.

During his injections, Priest was able to function as he normally would. I was visiting the beach and going on 3-5 mile runs. The only restriction was no contact sports, said Priest.

"Honestly, it was a vacation," said Priest. "I couldn't believe people wouldn't want to sign up."

During this time, Jones was at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa undergoing chemotherapy to destroy what was left of his marrow in preparation to receive Priest's stem cells.

Despite his fragile condition and the side effects from chemotherapy, Jones' recalls the process with a positive outlook.

"I tried to imagine who this person [his donor] was, you know, does he have a lot of hair," said Jones.

After the procedure, the donor and recipient must wait one year before knowing each other's identity or communicating back and forth.

Priest was given limited information about his recipient's health.

"They would call periodically to check on me and would let me know the transplant went well and he is doing well," said Priest.

Almost exactly one year after the procedure, both Priest and Jones signed consent to release their information to each other and it didn't take long for Priest to receive a letter from the man who now carried around his bone marrow. Both families have been in touch since that time and their meeting was something both looked forward to.

"When we first meet, I'll probably give him a hug," said Priest. "I think I promised his wife a hug too."

Holding true to his word, when Jones and his wife met Priest and his family at their home in Millington, Tenn., March 8, they exchanged hugs and Priest made sure to give Jones' wife a hug.

Both families spent time connecting and sharing each other's stories and experiences of the process that they had previously only wondered about.

The tone of the meeting remained joyful even sharing a few jokes about Jones having a younger man's blood.

"You don't look a day over 35," said Priest.

Jones shared with Priest and his family that because of the sacrifices they made, his condition is now in complete remission and since his success, two other transplants have now been completed with older patients in the U.S.

"Growing up a Christian, you have a sense of service," said Priest. "This was another way for me to serve others."

During their conversation Jones asked Priest if he would do it again.

"Absolutely, I'd do it again in a heartbeat," said Priest.

For more information about the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense (DoD) Marrow Donor Program, visit [www.salutetolife.org](http://www.salutetolife.org).



# Eye on the Fleet



A program lies on a table during a memorial service for MA2 Mark Aaron Mayo at Naval Station Norfolk. Mayo, 24, was killed during a shooting incident aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS *Mahan* (DDG 72) on March 24 while assigned to the Naval Station Norfolk security forces. Photo by MC3 Andrew Schneider



BU2 Joseph Hophan, assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2, replaces zinc anodes on a deep water mooring. UCT 2 is conducting deep water mooring maintenance on their second stop during their deployment across Pacific Fleet. Photo by EO1 Manuel Torrero



GSM2 Fernando Perez inspects fuel aboard USS *Roosevelt* (DDG 80) during a replenishment-at-sea with the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS *Patuxent* (T-AO-201). Photo by MC2 Justin Wolpert



Lt. Jeffrey Applebaugh, operations officer aboard the *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Stout* (DDG 55), greets his daughter after returning from an eight-month deployment. *Stout* was deployed in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. Photo by MCSA Magen F. Weatherwax



Sailors and Marines participate in a 5K "Fun Run" on the flight deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS *Mesa Verde* (LPD 19) to celebrate the 121st birthday of the chief petty officer rank. *Mesa Verde* is part of the *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group and, with the embarked 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (22nd MEU), is deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. Photo by MC2 Shannon M. Smith



A UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter, assigned to 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, takes off from the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6). *Bonhomme Richard* is conducting joint force amphibious operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU) and Commander Amphibious Squadron 11. Photo by MC2 Adam D. Wainwright



Sailors and Marines participate in a swim call off the stern gate of the amphibious transport dock ship USS *Mesa Verde* (LPD 19) to celebrate the 121st birthday of the chief petty officer rank. *Mesa Verde* is part of the *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. Photo by MC2 Shannon M. Smith



BM1 Elizabeth Bernal fires a 9mm handgun during a ship's reaction force training course aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44). *Gunston Hall* is part of the *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group. Photo by MCSN Jesse A. Hyatt



FC2 Dustin Gower, assigned to the PUMA unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) detachment aboard the Military Sealift Command joint high-speed vessel USNS *Spearhead* (JHSV 1), throws a UAV during flight operations. Photo by MCSN Justin R. DiNiro



Sailors compete in a soccer match against students at the Da Nang Red Cross Association Vocational Center during a community service event in support of Naval Engagement Activity (NEA) Vietnam. Photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh



DC3 Endalk Hailu demonstrates hose handling techniques to a member of the Vietnamese People's Navy aboard USS *John S. McCain* (DDG 56) during Naval Engagement Activity Vietnam. Photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

# Future USS America Delivered

By MC1 Lewis Hunsaker, Pre-Commissioning Unit America (LHA 6) Public Affairs

**PASCAGOULA, Miss.** - The U.S. Navy officially accepted delivery of the amphibious assault ship Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) *America* (LHA 6) from Huntington Ingalls Industries during a ship custody transfer ceremony in Pascagoula, Miss., on April 10.

More than 900 Sailors and Marines assigned to *America* marched to the ship to take custody on the flight deck.

CMDCM(SW/AW/FMF) Chad Lunsford said that since the first Sailor reported in 2012 the command has been working diligently to complete instructions, training and qualifications required for the command to operate successfully. Establishing ship programs, such as maintenance, damage control and sponsorship, have also been essential throughout the pre-commissioning process.



"This is an awesome day," said Lunsford. "We have been building this team for over two years, and today close to 1,100 Sailors and Marines come together as one team to take custody of our nation's newest Navy ship. This is a proud moment for *America*, our ship, our country!"

*America* is the first ship of its class, replacing the *Tarawa*-class of amphibious assault ships. As the next generation "big-deck" amphibious ship, *America* will be optimized for aviation and capable of supporting current and future aircraft, such as the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey and the Joint Strike Fighter.

The ship will provide flexible, multi-mission capabilities spanning from forward-deployed crisis response to maritime security operations.

*America* is 844 feet long, 106 feet wide and hosts a displacement of 44,971 long tons. Her propulsion system will drive it to speeds in excess of 22 knots, and she will accommodate a crew size of more than 1,100 Sailors and nearly 1,900 embarked Marines.

With the ship custody transfer complete, the crew is now working and living aboard the ship. After a rigorous evaluation and certification cycle, the ship will depart Mississippi and transit around South America to her future homeport of San Diego. *America* is scheduled to be commissioned in late 2014 in San Francisco.

For more news from PCU *America* (LHA 6), visit [www.navy.mil/local/lha6/](http://www.navy.mil/local/lha6/).



# Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters

February 2014

- NRD Atlanta - ABF2 Nekita Patrick
- NRD Chicago - EN2(SW) Stuardo Juarez
- NRD Dallas - AME2 Gerry Fransen
- NRD Denver - SH2 Joshua Benz
- NRD Jacksonville - HT2 Michael McCarthy
- NRD Los Angeles - DC1(SW/AW) Sandra Kimball
- NRD Miami - LS2 Nuria Cruz
- NRD Michigan - CE2(SCW) Samuel Therrien
- NRD Minneapolis - AZ2(AW) Zania Saunders
- NRD New England - GSM1 Sambath Ham
- NRD New Orleans - BU2 Chadwick Fleming
- NRD New York - RP1 James Vanzella
- NRD Ohio - HT1 Jeremy Woodbridge
- NRD Philadelphia - OS1 Elijah Cox
- NRD Phoenix - ABE2 Michael Hunter
- NRD Portland - GSM1(SW) Christopher Vertner
- NRD Raleigh - CE2 Edward Hutton
- NRD Richmond - AZ1 Gary Guerra
- NRD San Antonio - AM2 Daniel Morales
- NRD San Diego - ABE1 (AW/SW) Ryan Raschick
- NRD San Francisco - LS1(AW/SW) Andrew Lipinski
- NRD Seattle - FC1 Brandon Stewart
- NRD St. Louis - MM2 Brandon Weintraut

March 2014

- NRD Atlanta - LS2 Prince Walker
- NRD Chicago - EN2(SW) Stuardo Juarez
- NRD Denver - YN2 Zorian Sorrels
- NRD Houston - AT2(AW) Blake Much
- NRD Jacksonville - DC2 Eric Bocker
- NRD Los Angeles - ABE2 Terrence Chase
- NRD Miami - LS2(SS) Derrick Elefante
- NRD Michigan - AE2(AW) Gregory Dungey
- NRD Minneapolis - HT2(SW) Levi Malone
- NRD New England - AE1 Timothy Riegel
- NRD New Orleans - STG2 John Dawson
- NRD New York - AT2 Adam Zahra
- NRD Ohio - LS2 Christopher Glover
- NRD Philadelphia - OS2 Tiffany Palmer
- NRD Phoenix - ET2 Eric Stephens
- NRD Portland - FC2(SW) Kerry Yates
- NRD Raleigh - CE2 Edward Hutton
- NRD Richmond - LS1(SS) Joshua Striegler
- NRD San Antonio - FC2 Edward Miller
- NRD San Diego - EM2(SW/AW) Sarah Callow
- NRD San Francisco - ABF1(AW/SW) Jarron Moore
- NRD Seattle - AO1 Matthew Mitchell
- NRD St. Louis - EN2 Eric Hamilton

# The District's Top Stations

February 2014

- NRD Atlanta - NRS Duluth
- NRD Chicago - NRS Wausau
- NRD Dallas - NRS Plano
- NRD Denver - NRS Cheyenne
- NRD Jacksonville - NRS Tallahassee
- NRD Los Angeles - NRS San Luis Obispo
- NRD Miami - NRS Mayaguez
- NRD Michigan - NRS Southbend
- NRD Minneapolis - NRS Davenport
- NRD New England - NRS New London
- NRD New Orleans - NRS Veterans
- NRD New York - NRS Staten Island
- NRD Ohio - NRS Toledo
- NRD Philadelphia - NRS Allentown
- NRD Phoenix - NRS Mesa
- NRD Portland - NRS Salem
- NRD Raleigh - NRS Fayetteville
- NRD Richmond - NRS Fredericksburg
- NRD San Antonio - NRS New Braunfels
- NRD San Diego - NRS Victorville
- NRD San Francisco - NRS Merced
- NRD Seattle - NRS Oak Harbor
- NRD St. Louis - NRS Springfield

March 2014

- NRD Atlanta - NRS Lawrenceville
- NRD Chicago - NRS Mount Prospect
- NRD Denver - NRS Castle Rock
- NRD Houston - NRS Tyler
- NRD Jacksonville - NRS Valdosta
- NRD Los Angeles - NRS Norwalk
- NRD Miami - NRS Lake Worth
- NRD Michigan - NRS Kalamazoo
- NRD Minneapolis - NRS Davenport
- NRD New England - NRS Schenectady
- NRD New Orleans - NRS Pace
- NRD New York - NRS Newton
- NRD Ohio - NRS Hamilton
- NRD Philadelphia - NRS Atlantic City
- NRD Phoenix - NRS Roswell
- NRD Portland - NRS Ontario
- NRD Raleigh - NRS Columbia
- NRD Richmond - NRS Petersburg
- NRD San Antonio - NRS South Corpus Christi
- NRD San Diego - NRS Riverside
- NRD San Francisco - NRS Placerville
- NRD Seattle - NRS Lewiston
- NRD St. Louis - NRS Gladstone



[www.CNRC.Navy.mil/Navy-Recruiter-Magazine.htm](http://www.CNRC.Navy.mil/Navy-Recruiter-Magazine.htm)

