**Outgoing Admiral**

I want to pay tribute to the greatest team of men and women in the United States Navy – My Recruiting Nation! Thank YOU for all that you’ve done, all that you do, and what you’ll continue to do as you head into FY2016! As your commanding officer, I was entrusted with a great opportunity and special responsibility. Trust must be built through our actions, through demonstrated professional competence, judgment, common sense, and respect for yourself and those around you.

Together, we at Navy Recruiting Command developed this trust across the command and across America. I thank you wholeheartedly for the trust, competence, and respect that you have shown me and each other throughout my tour. As a team, this trust has enabled us to consistently achieve at the highest levels and it has been my great privilege and honor to serve with you.

Over these past two years, we’ve had a range of experiences that we had to be ready for – whether they were meeting accessions targets in challenging areas, developing policies to address the ever-changing recruiting landscape, finding different ways of recruiting better, and, more recently, responding to tragedies. In recruiting we are in the business of people, and that means a broad range of issues – good and bad – that require a skilled team to make tough decisions.

Recruiting is one of the most important jobs in the Navy...if not THE most important! We get the right person, for the right job, at the right time to make sure our Fleet is manned to meet the needs of the nation.

You have done an amazing job meeting our mission. Together, you have allowed us to ring the bell for making our accession goals in the Big Five for “100” consecutive months and counting.

And, more importantly, the just ‘meeting goals’ has been your commitment to ensuring America’s Navy is ready and continues to remain ready to answer the call of duty to defend the freedom and democracy of our great nation.

The work you do each day to bring the best and brightest and most skillful people into the US Navy engages the lives of more than 40 thousand men and women every year, giving them the opportunity to live a meaningful and purposeful life.

As I relinquish command of NRC, I know I leave the entire Navy Recruiting Team in very capable hands. Rear Admiral Jeffrey Hughes is one of the Navy’s best, with the right background and right skill to lead NRC on its continued path of excellence in support of America’s Navy.

You are dedicated, you are professional, you are resourceful, you are the best of the best! I am truly, deeply privileged to have served with you. God bless each of you and your families. And remember, always be well, be safe, and “BE READY.”

**Incoming Admiral**

I am honored, privileged and humbled to join this exceptional team! The Change of Command marks a truly monumental milestone in the history of our Navy as we pay tribute and honor to the exceptional career of Rear Admiral Annie Andrews. Throughout her storied 32 years of service, she charted new courses in every tour, improved the performance, climate and morale of every command in which she served, and set the example for us to follow for leadership excellence and making a difference in the lives of her shipmates.

I inherit an outstanding outfit because of her tremendous leadership and steady hand at the helm. I had a fantastic two weeks of turnover with the headquarters team and the collective region and NRD leadership teams in for an annual off-site – all of the commodores, skippers, CMCs and CRs! I am absolutely impressed with what I see – professionalism, passion and perseverance.

Incredible interaction at all levels and fantastic feedback from the field.

I am listening, I am learning and I will take the necessary actions to best enable each of you to be more effective and efficient in your jobs. My focus is on the recruiter in the field and that will influence all of my decisions.

Our work will certainly not be without challenge as a changing market, increasing requirements and decreasing resources will mean headwinds on the horizon, but your proven performance over the past 100 months and the transformative approach to Navy Recruiting already underway give me confidence that we are taking our recruiting efforts to the next level.

What works in the Fleet – leadership at all levels, collaboration, effective communications, a people focus, a clear vision and strategy and brilliant execution – will be the foundation of our approach.

We are mission focused and that is indisputed! Making mission is vital to enabling our Navy to successfully defend and promote our national interests and making mission is vital to enabling our Navy to remain the world’s pre-eminent maritime fighting force today and in the future; however, we are not truly mission ready unless we reduce operational risk and improve the safety posture across the force. This affects each and every one of you, your families, and the future Sailors in your charge. As your operational commander, this is my number one priority and it needs to be yours as well.

For 240 years, the United States Navy has provided security, stability, opportunity and hope across the globe. When necessary, we fight and win our Nation’s wars. We will continue this proud tradition of service by recruiting the highest quality Sailors to maintain our Navy’s standing as the world’s pre-eminent maritime fighting force. THE FUTURE OF THE NAVY STARTS WITH US!
Navy Recruiting: Striding into the Future

"We will move forward with the vigor and energy necessary to meet our Navy’s expectation of us," said Rear Adm. Jeffrey Hughes, then prospective commander of Navy Recruiting Command (NRC). "To be successful, we will be a transformative, learning and agile organization."

On Sept. 4, NRC said “fair winds and following seas” to Rear Adm. Andrews.

Relieving Andrews as the 21st commander of NRC is Rear Adm. Jeffrey Hughes, a Pittsburgh, Pa., native and graduate of Duke University. Hughes is a Seahawk helicopter pilot by trade.

“Sailors are the Navy’s most valuable asset and our responsibility to support the fleet now and in the future is awesome,” said Hughes. “We must leverage our long-standing success and be unrelenting in improving our performance. The future of the Navy starts with us!”

Navy recruiting, consisting of nearly 6,000 active and reserve military, civilian and contract employees in 26 NRDs and encompassing more than 1,500 recruiting stations, brought in more than 84,000 Sailors and officers in fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

Hughes plans to complement those accessions and not necessarily with more recruits. He wants to focus on the quality of person coming into the Navy and encourages recruiters in the field to ask themselves, “Do I want this person beside me in combat?”

“If a recruiter answers ‘yes’ to that question, then let’s do the right thing for that Future Sailor and for our Navy,” said Hughes. “The Navy’s most competitive edge comes from our exceptional people.”

Even with a new top recruiter in the Navy, many things are still moving forward. Virtual recruiting is still slated to roll out to more NRDs and the second Personalized Recruiting for Immediate and Delayed Enlistment Modernization, or PRIDE MOD, is still being tweaked.

What changes Rear Adm. Hughes will add are still being determined, but he is hitting the ground running with multiple NRD visits already under his belt. His goal? Input from recruiters in the field on how he can improve their jobs at his level.

“The recruiters in the field are our center of gravity,” said Hughes. “We must strive to keep them safe, properly resourced and operationally effective.”

For more news from Navy Recruiting Command, visit us on the web, www.navy.mil/local/cnrc/; on our YouTube channel, U.S. Navy Recruiter; on Facebook, www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting; and on Twitter, @usnavyrecruiter.
Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) bid farewell to one admiral and welcomed aboard another at a change of command ceremony held Sept. 4 at Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

Rear Admiral Jeffrey W. Hughes relieved Rear Adm. Annie B. Andrews as commander of NRC. Andrews has led NRC since August 2013 and earned the Distinguished Service Medal for her successful tour as the top recruiter in America’s Navy. During her tour at NRC, Andrews directed over 7,400 officers, Sailors, civilians and contractors in more than 1,477 Navy Recruiting Stations and Navy Officer Recruiting Stations around the globe. Under Andrews, Navy Recruiting Command recruited more than 62,522 of America’s best and brightest men and women and commissioned more than 4,004 officers into the United States Navy while providing the best accession fit requirements in history.

In a message to the command, Andrews thanked her Navy recruiting team for their hard work, initiative and unwavering dedication to the mission.

“Thank you for all that you’ve done, all that you do, and what you’ll continue to do long after today,” said Andrews. “Thanks to you, I have had an amazing tour. Our recruiters maintain, build, and support our Navy of tomorrow. We have the highest quality of Sailors serving today because of what you do every day in those small towns and cities.”

Hughes is reporting to NRC after a successful tour as Executive Assistant to the Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98).

Hughes received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University. He also graduated with a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

With a wealth of experience in aviation, Hughes looks to use his own unique background to help NRC further reach their goal of recruiting the 21st Century Sailor.

“To the recruiting nation, I am honored to serve among you, entrusted to deliver to the fleet our most treasured asset – our Sailors,” said Hughes. “We will move forward with vigor and the energy necessary to meet our Navy’s expectations of us. To be successful, we will be a transformative, learning and agile organization.”

Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran served as the presiding officer for the change of command ceremony and Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Michelle Howard gave remarks as the guest speaker for the event.

Also in attendance was Rear Adm. Lillian E. Fishburne (ret.), the first African American woman to reach the rank of rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Andrews’s retirement ceremony was held immediately following the change of command.

“I couldn’t be at a better place to end my career where I saw every day America’s best, serving and finding America’s finest to uphold democracy for the future of the fleet and the future of America,” said Andrews. “Rest assured, I know you have the watch!”

NRC consists of a command headquarters, two Navy Recruiting Regions and 26 Navy Recruiting Districts which serve more than 1,477 recruiting stations across the country.

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.

Rear Adm. Annie B. Andrews, commander, Navy Recruiting Command, and Rear Adm. Jeffrey W. Hughes, prospective commander, Navy Recruiting Command salute during Navy Recruiting Command’s change of command ceremony at Naval Support Activity Mid-South, on Sept. 4. (U.S. Navy photo by Chris Desmond)
above: Rear Adm. Andrews’ Last NRD Visit

NCCM Kim Cruz shows Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Adm. Annie Andrews the top high schools to recruit nuclear applicants on Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Diego’s area of responsibility map. NRD San Diego encompasses 45 recruiting stations and 210,000 square miles within a tri-state area that includes portions of Southern California, Arizona and Nevada. (U.S. Navy photo by MCC Anastasia Puscian)

below: Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Adm. Annie Andrews, NC1 Jaycee Jimenea, Wendy Cook, Ray Harris, STG1 Melissa Winters and Navy Recruiting District (NRD) San Diego Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Bob Reddy ring the bell signifying the district meeting the recruiting mission for the month. Andrews visited NRD San Diego to recognize Sailors and civilians who help achieve recruiting goals. (U.S. Navy Photo by MCC Anastasia Puscian)

Eye on the Field

above: Navy Recruiting District Philadelphia participates in a parading of U.S. state flags honoring service members during a pre-game ceremony for the Philadelphia Phillies. The Patriot’s Day event also paid tribute to the victims of 9/11. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Felicito Rustique)

below: Cmdr. Mike Briggs, commanding officer of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio congratulates a group of Future Sailors after their oath of enlistment ceremony held at Nelson W. Wolf Municipal Stadium. (Air Force photo by Steve Elliott)
Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) celebrated making its recruiting goal in the “Big 5” enlisted mission areas for the 100th consecutive month Sept. 3 at the Naval Support Activity Mid-South Pat Thompson Center.

The “Big 5” enlisted mission areas include: Active Component New Contracts, Reserve Component New Contracts, Active Component Shipping to Recruit Training Command, Reserve Component Shipping to Recruit Training Command and Prior Service Reserve.

“Over the past 100 months, you’ve recruited 297,000 enlisted Sailors and 16,700 officers,” said Rear Adm. Annie B. Andrews, commander, Navy Recruiting Command. “You’ve filled squadrons, submarines and billets overseas. Because of you, our fleet is manned and ready to complete critical missions around the world.”

To celebrate this accomplishment, various personnel from NRC and the commanding officers of all Navy recruiting districts (NRD) gathered to take part in NRC’s traditional bell ringing ceremony, which was Rear Adm. Andrews’ last bell ringing as commander, Navy Recruiting Command.

“I could not be more proud of the opportunity to lead this team and join this incredible mission.”

Making the Navy’s enlisted mission goals requires a coordinated effort between NRC, NRDs and their Navy recruiting stations (NRS) throughout the nation. Recruiters at the NRS level work daily to find eligible men and women to enlist in the U.S. Navy, while NRD and NRC personnel provide the necessary support to the field in order to accomplish the mission.

“I want to thank every single member of my recruiting team for all of their dedication and support in reaching this milestone,” said Andrews. “Their commitment helps ensure that America’s Navy, our Navy, is ready now and in the future!”

NRC began the traditional bell ringing ceremony as an opportunity to recognize all of the hard work each recruiter does every month to bring the best and brightest to critical jobs in America’s Navy.

For more news from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visit us on the web, www.navy.mil/local/cnrc/; on our Youtube channel, U.S. Navy Recruiter; on Facebook, www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting; and on Twitter, @usnavyrecruiter.
Dr. John Watzke received the ultimate gift for his 50th birthday – the ride of his life. The dean of the School of Education for University of Portland was chosen as one of two backseat Key Influencer (KI) riders for the Blue Angels’ visit to the Oregon International Air Show July 14 in Hillsboro.

Capt. Jeff Kuss, Blue Angel #7 and show announcer, took Watzke up in an F/A-18 Hornet for a 45 minute flight.

“We started out just like we do in the flight demonstration – a crawl, walk, run kind of mentality,” said Kuss. “We started at two G’s, then three G’s, four and then six… so he was hanging in there all the way through that.”

After a 45-degree takeoff, they headed west from Hillsboro over the coast range and out to the ocean. Watzke said the gravitational forces started getting to him at about 6.8 G’s and he started to ‘gray out,’ but never passed out.

“At times it seemed like we were just 20 feet off the ground,” said Watzke. “We went out to the coast and then into the valley – a LOT of upside down.”

Watzke said Capt. Kuss talked to him during the entire flight, explaining what was going on and preparing him for the upcoming maneuvers.

Juanita Clarno, an engineering teacher at McMinnville High School, was chosen as the other backseat rider for the team’s Hillsboro trip. Clarno got queasy during her ride the following day and didn’t quite make it to the G’s that Watzke experienced, but the flight definitely made an impression.

“This is THE best part of my job,” said Clarno. “I actually ended up handling the G’s better than I thought I would. It was an amazing flight.”

Following each ride, Capt. Kuss gave a brief on the highlights of the flight. He then presented each a signed lithograph of the Blue Angels team. Kuss, who has been with the team since September 2014, says that despite giving KI rides week after week for months on end, he never gets tired of it.

“IT’s no joke,” said Kuss, “This is THE best part of my job.” KI riders are chosen by the Blue Angels team through an application process initiated by the air show coordinators and the Navy and Marine Corps recruiting districts.
above: Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Gravely (DDG 107) refuel an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter during night flight operations. Gravely is underway participating in a composite training unit exercise with the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group. (U.S. Navy photo by MCSN L. E. Skelton)

below: GM1 Michael Tschauder, left, and CTR1 Diane Bullock, both assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64), stand by to raise the national ensign during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony. Carney is the fourth Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to be forward deployed to Rota, Spain, to serve as part of the President’s European Phased Adaptive Approach to ballistic missile defense in Europe. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jonathan B. Trejo)

Eye on the Fleet

below: BMSN Elana Hunter signals amphibious assault vehicles to launch from the well deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) during Exercise Dawn Blitz 2015 (DB-15). DB-15 is a scenario-driven exercise designed to train the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in operations expected of an amphibious task force while also building U.S. and coalition operational interoperability. The exercise will test staffs in the planning and execution of amphibious operations in a series of live training events at sea and ashore. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brandon Cyr)
For the past decade, superhero movies have won the hearts of millions at movie theaters around the globe. With comic books characters gracing the silver screen every few months, some fans have begun to bring these heroes to life through the exciting world of Cosplay.

Cosplay, a combination of the two words “costume” and “play,” is an activity that allows fans to dress up as their favorite comic book, video game or television series characters as a recreational activity.

Most cosplayers attend comic book conventions and social gatherings in full garb as a way to blow off some steam or just to meet new people in the sub-culture.

For one Arlington, Tenn., native, cosplay has provided an opportunity to volunteer and serve his community.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Rodney Adams, information systems support services technician at Navy Recruiting Command, dons the mask of “Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man” as part of the charity group “Cause-Play Memphis.”

“...I try to give back to the community in one way or another.”

“My favorite character is Spider-Man,” said Adams. “I really wasn’t into Spider-man until I got the nickname ‘Spidey’ in high school. At that point I began to read more into Spider-Man and realized that he and I had a similar high school life. He was picked on at one point and so was I; He was super skinny and nerdy, so was I. He got bitten by a radioactive spider, no longer needed glasses and got stronger; I, well...I started wearing contacts and working out but you get the idea.“

After idealizing him for so long, Adams decided to put on the mask of the world famous web slinger and answer the call to help others.

“Some of my friends decided that for Halloween that I needed to be Spider-Man so they went and bought me a Spider-Man costume to wear,” said Adams. “It fit me extremely well and when we went trick-or-treating I had many parents ask if I could do birthday parties for their children. From there I started to do kid’s parties and go to the expositions.”

While in the Navy, Adams has ventured all over the globe but it wasn’t until he returned to the Memphis area that he found his very own group of super friends.

“Since I’ve come back to Memphis, I have joined the group called Cause-Play Memphis,” said Adams. “We are a group of cosplayers that visit children in costume to try and make their days better. I’ve volunteered everywhere from the Delta Fair to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and even to The Hope House.”

Through his many adventures with Cause-Play Memphis, Adams has gained a newfound fondness for cosplay.

“Ever since I’ve started cosplaying for charity, I’ve grown to like it more,” said Adams. “To the children it’s not ‘Hey I met a guy dressed up as Spider-man.’ It’s more like ‘Mom! I met the REAL Spider-man,’ and that makes it so much more worth it.”

Though Adams enjoys his cosplay life as Spider-Man, he isn’t oblivious to the parallels between his cosplay persona and his real life role as a United States Navy Sailor.

“There are many similarities between my roles as Spider-Man and as a Sailor,” said Adams. “With both I try to give back to the community in one way or another. With both I try to make a difference in the world, so to me they are one in the same.”

For more information on how to volunteer with Cause-Play Memphis visit: www.facebook.com/causeplaymemphis or www.causeplaymemphis.com

For more news from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visit us on the web, www.navy.mil/local/cnrc/; on our Youtube channel, U.S. Navy Recruiter; on Facebook, www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting; and on Twitter, @usnavyrecruiter.

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There are few jobs in this country that involve working with top of the line, multi-million dollar equipment in life or death situations – fewer still that are manned by skilled and professional 18-year-olds right out of high school. On board an aircraft carrier in the United States Navy, however, this is often the daily routine. According to a recent study by the Department of Defense Manpower, a full 20 percent of active duty Sailors are under 21 years old – accounting for more than 65,000 young adults.

On a recent visit to aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), a group of high school educators from Tennessee and Arkansas witnessed first hand the hard work Sailors have been performing around the fleet. The tour group embarked Truman as part of the ship’s Distinguished Visitor program, a community outreach program that allows civilians to experience day-to-day life on an active, naval warship.

“This overnight embark for educators from Tennessee and Arkansas was a valuable experience to display the capabilities of our Navy,” said Cmdr. Todd M. Sullivan, executive officer of Navy Recruiting District Nashville. “The hard work being done on a routine basis by the Sailors manning our fleet shows the true spirit of what it means to be a Sailor.”

“It was great to see that young men and women who were in high school just over a year ago are making such huge contributions to spreading freedom and democracy around the world,” said Sullivan. “These educators really saw first-hand what an impact each of them has on our military in action.”

Lauren Scott, a high school counselor from Nashville, explained that the level of performance of Truman’s Sailors, regardless of age or background, was impressive.

“I was blown away seeing such young men and women hold such important positions in the Navy,” said Scott. “Most of the Sailors on the flight deck were so young, I was thinking about how these individuals are literally about the age of my students. I was picturing some of my senior students out there and it was just unreal. I see 18-year-olds every day at school simply as students, but these 18 to 19-year-olds were doing professional work – it really amazed me.

The group of educators said they hope to apply much of what they learned from their time aboard Truman to their life at home. Scott said the visit has changed her outlook and motivated her to make the Navy part of her life.

“Beforehand, I pretty much knew nothing about the Navy,” said Scott. “Now, I feel more of a sense of appreciation for the Navy and what Sailors do each and every day. While I was on the trip, I was telling people that being on the Truman and seeing the day-to-day lives of Sailors made me want to join the Navy! So many men and women on the ship took so much pride in their careers and were excited to share their experiences. Because of my visit, I am now considering joining the Navy Reserves.”

Young Sailors are the future of our Navy and trips such as these show their constant hard work and dedication – any visit could change a person’s life. As the world sees these professionals on the job, they may gain a new respect for what an 18-year-old can accomplish and the sacrifices some choose to make for their country.

“"I see 18-year-olds every day at school simply as students, but these 18 to 19-year-olds were doing professional work – it really amazed me."
It was a night of firsts for the newest officer recruiter to join Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Portland. Lt. Aimee Treutlein conducted her first group oath of enlistment for Future Sailors and got to throw out the first pitch during Navy night at the Reno Aces game on June 26.

Treutlein conducted the oath of enlistment for 13 Future Sailors from the Reno metro area in front of the crowd prior to the start of the game. Then she stepped up to the mound for the ceremonial first pitch. Treutlein played softball growing up, but says she was nervous about being put on the spot.

“It was better than I thought it was going to go,” said Treutlein. “It was very special and an honor, and I am glad I got it over the plate.”

Treutlein is originally from Long Island, N.Y. and graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in meteorology. She was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. as a surface warfare officer. Before transferring to NRD Portland, she spent four years in Mayport, Fla. on USS Hue City (CG 66) and USS The Sullivans (DDG 68), completing three deployments to the Arabian Gulf. She is now serving as an officer recruiter at the district’s Reno office.

“I thought it was a great event,” said Treutlein. “It was great to see the appreciation from fans for the Navy and military in general.”
Rear Admiral Jabaley Visits NRD New Orleans

Rear Adm. Michael B. Jabaley, commander, Naval Undersea Warfare Center and deputy commander for Undersea Warfare and Naval Sea Systems Command, visited Navy Recruiting Station (NRS) Ridgeland within the Mississippi area of responsibility of Navy Recruiting District (NRD) New Orleans on Aug. 6. Jabaley began his trip with a tour of NRS Ridgeland and speaking to the Navy’s Future Sailors and recruiters about the importance of service and his great admiration of the young people from his hometown making the decision to join the Navy.

“Having Admiral Jabaley was a great opportunity for our Future Sailors and recruiters to interact with senior Navy leadership,” said Lt. Rex Dillon, NRD New Orleans’ Assistant Operations Officer. “It allowed our recruiters to discuss local recruiting issues, challenges and successes with the admiral and provided the next generation of Sailors the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics impacting the fleet. There was also a high level of pride and joy within these Future Sailors, knowing Rear Adm. Jabaley was a local hometown admiral, who attended and graduated from the local high school.”

Aviation Ordinanceman 1st Class Andry Montez, NRD New Orleans’ Division Six Recruiter, said Admiral Jabaley also covered various topics including Sailors’ families and their important contributions to the Navy’s recruiting mission, the need to pursue off-duty education, and the Navy’s goal in recruiting the brightest and most qualified applicants.

Rear Adm. Jabaley recognized top performing recruiters thanking them for their contributions to the recruiting mission and the sacrificies made executing that mission.

“It was a very humbling experience to be thanked by the Admiral,” said Operations Specialist 1st Class Darryl Blue, a recruiter from NRS Ridgeland. “I really appreciated the time the admiral took to come and speak to us. It was also an honor for the admiral to share his personal experiences with us, it resonated with both recruiters and Future Sailors.”

“I get as much from these visits, if not more, because seeing these Future Sailors gives me the encouragement, reassurance and reenergizes my faith in the amazing qualities of our young and the future of the Navy,” said Jabaley.

For more news from NRD New Orleans, visit www.facebook.com/nrdneworleans.

above: MA2 Paul Donaldson, a Navy recruiting scout from Navy Recruiting District Philadelphia, executes a push-up with a child during the Atlantic City Airshow “Thunder Over The Boardwalk”. The annual event featured various flight demonstrations and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Felicito Rustique)

below: Command representatives from several local naval commands, along with Navy Band Southwest’s rock band, The Destroyers, float down the San Antonio River during the Texas Cavaliers River Parade. The river parade is one of Fiesta San Antonio’s key parades. Fiesta is the nation’s third largest of its kind behind only Mardi Gras and the Rose Festival. (U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer)

The event, sponsored by Liberty USO, is part of the Eagles pre-season training camp. They set aside one day at their stadium to honor members of the Armed Forces.

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Equipment) 1st Class Leslie Bard, leading petty officer at Navy Recruiting Station Atlantic City, attended the event. Hailing from Bridgeton, New Jersey, Bard was eager to show her support for her favorite NFL team.

“I’m a big Eagles fan and I jumped without hesitation when I saw the opportunity to come to Eagles stadium,” said Bard, who, after being in the Navy eight years finally got a chance to live close to home with a recruiting tour for Navy Recruiting District Philadelphia. “I’ve never been to any of their games or their stadium until today,” said Bard. “Eagles fans are loyal and possessive. This year we have a young team, maybe the youngest in the NFL, and I want to see them win a championship for the first time.”

Also attending the Eagles event was Engineering Aide 1st Class Jeff Beiser, who grew up in the suburbs of northeast Philadelphia. Beiser had the opportunity to unfurl the U.S. flag with a dozen other service members out on the stadium’s field in front of hundreds of Eagles fans. “I’m really honored I was chosen to participate in this way today,” said Beiser. “There’s no way to describe the feeling I get from holding the flag while the national anthem is sung.”

According to Liberty USO manager Brian Loughlin, about 300 service members in uniform attended the event and 29 of them were Sailors.

“Events such as Philadelphia Eagles/Liberty USO Military Appreciation Day are extremely important for so many reasons,” said Loughlin. “It’s an opportunity for citizens to publicly show their affection for the military. Conversely, it’s important for members of the military to see that the American people respect the military’s mission and efforts toward keeping the home front safe.”

Loughlin also said he had the honor to escort service members to the stadium’s 50-yard line during the national anthem and where parachutists landed with the American flag.

“As we made our way down to field level, people stood up, clapped and cheered ‘USA!’ It was very powerful,” said Loughlin. “As we made our way down, all 35 [service members] were walking very tall. I can tell you with 100 percent certainty, I know I was.”

The annual Eagles Military Appreciation Day has been going on for over a decade, and in 2013 it began taking place at the Eagles stadium, Lincoln Financial Field.
NRC Gains Interest at APAMSA Conference

Various representatives from Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) attended the 2015 Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) National Conference at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine on Sept. 27.

APAMSA is a national organization of medical and pre-medical students committed to addressing the unique health challenges of Asian and Pacific Islander American communities.

The national conference brings members of APAMSA from across the country together to participate in workshops and a career fair.

The event served as a venue for NRC diversity program managers to increase accessions from the collegiate Asian Pacific population in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

“This event gave the Navy the opportunity to showcase the Navy as a career of choice for these medical students,” said Chief Navy Counselor Gerald Madduma, diversity program manager at NRC. “It was a great success!”

Also in attendance serving as a guest speaker was Capt. Joe Dervay, the lead of medical operations group for NASA and Navy flight surgeon, and Lt. Cmdr. Markeece Murriel, deputy director of medical program accessions at NRC.

During his workshop, Dervay provided useful insight about his experiences as both a physician serving onboard an aircraft carrier and his time as a NASA flight surgeon.

“I learned a lot during Dr. Dervay’s workshop,” said Helene Nepomuceno, a student at University of Arizona. “It was great to see the information on the various opportunities in the Navy for doctors.”

Murriel’s workshop was geared toward the pre-medical college students and he elaborated on many scholarship opportunities available through the Navy.

“It was an honor to participate as a guest speaker for the 2015 APAMSA Pre-Med Day,” said Murriel. “Navy Medicine has a keen interest in actively engaging with the best and brightest healthcare professionals in today’s marketplace. The Navy is proud of our partnership with APAMSA. We are enthusiastic about sharing our vision of delivering world-class healthcare anytime, anywhere.”

The conference proved to be of great platform for Navy recruiting.

“It was great to interact with the medical students and to see how excited they were about the opportunities in the Navy as a Flight Surgeon,” said Lt. Joel Peña, diversity program manager at NRC. “We received 20 new students that were interested in the Navy Medical Program, which is a 400 percent increase from last year’s APAMSA conference.

For more news from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visit us on the web, www.navy.mil/local/cnrc/; on our Youtube channel, U.S. Navy Recruiter; on Facebook, www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting; and on Twitter, @usnavyrecruiter.

Capt. Joe Dervay, the lead of medical operations group for NASA and Navy flight surgeon, addresses students at his workshop during the 2015 Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association National Conference at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine on Sept. 27. (Photo by Chief Navy Counselor Gerald Madduma)
The New York Mets are top-rated with Third Naval District Reserve Recruiters. Commander J.G. Fitz Gerald, Director of Naval Reserve Recruiting and Retention reports that during the 1968 season the Mets held meetings and visited schools and hospitals in support of his office’s mission.

In support of minority recruiting, Mets Third Baseman Ed Charles visited schools to point out advantages offered by the Navy. During the last week of the season the Mets set aside a day at Shea Stadium for all Reserve Recruiters, announced their presence over the public address system and flashed a welcome over the electric scoreboard.