

# NAVY **Future of the Fleet** **RECRUITER**

## 18 Navy Recruiters Worldwide Receive Top Recognition

Sailor Reflects On Year Of Recruiting

A Family's Commitment To Serve

The Modern Centurion



May - June 2018  
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# From the Admiral



Rear Admiral Peter A. Garvin  
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

Just over a year ago I took command of this grand enterprise and, now that I am leaving, I'm convinced a year is far too short a time to be a member of such an incredibly hard-working, passionate, and dedicated team. But even that understates the reality. You are much more than teammates to me, you are family, you are shipmates, and that doesn't end when I depart.

It's an exciting, yet challenging time to be in Navy recruiting. Today the nation is asking us to build a bigger, more capable, more talented fleet; one that is networked, agile, and ready to stand up to near-peer competitors. This is an all hands effort and I'm glad that so many of recruiting nation felt empowered to share their good ideas. In the last year we instituted over 30 new initiatives that have turned into a tangible reality: bringing in over 3500 outstanding future sailors who otherwise would have been turned away.

The sense of urgency, the bias for action is driven by one thing: Navy recruiters are out there, right now, working crazy hours and, despite a challenging market, winning the competition for talent. Headquarters' role in the battle is to make recruiters as effective and efficient as possible, to remove barriers to success. Whether it be resources, manpower, better software, new marketing and advertising or policy relief, we must continue to pull every lever at our disposal to give our recruiters the competitive advantage.

We've also made great strides to expand our recruiting force, by bringing aboard hundreds of recalled reservists and Navy veterans. It is no secret that recruiting duty offers one of the best chances for advancement in the Navy, and we've taken steps to make recruiting duty even more attractive, by offering the potential for increased special duty pay, as well as increased potential for promotion.

In response, recruiters have consistently met or exceeded every expectation. Simply put, you are crushing it.

In recruiting we are in the business of people, and that means working a broad range of issues that require a skilled team to make tough decisions. I have been privileged to work for an amazing team! It's been an absolute honor and privilege to serve you all.

My final bit of advice would be:

- Continue to make the most of your time while you're here.
- Live the Navy's core values.
- Be great ambassadors to our nation.
- Lean in, don't just talk about innovation, be about it.
- Always have a bias for action. Barriers are meant to be removed, even some of the biggest windmills will come down with enough persistence, tenacity, and the support of your chain of command.

Men and women of recruiting nation: what you have accomplished during my time working for you is nothing short of extraordinary. To say I'm proud of you would be an extreme understatement. I know that when I hear our tagline, "forged by the sea," I will remember the time I got to be a part of this amazing family, and I will smile. I will always be proud to say I served with each and every one of you... and I'll always be a recruiter.

Rear Admiral Peter A. Garvin  
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command



### FRONT COVER:

The Navy recruiters of the year pose for a group photo during the Navy Recruiting Command Recruiters of the Year (ROY) event on the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kyle Hafer)



### BACK COVER:

Sailors walk the catwalks during flight operations on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeff Sherman)

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# From Turkmenistan To NRD Atlanta



Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class LaTunya Howard, Navy Recruiting District Atlanta Public Affairs

"I have always known I was a leader but one thing I was missing out on was knowing how to follow. I was missing that component of leadership and boot camp gave me that."

Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Orazali Aydogdiyev was born in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan.

Aydogdiyev visited the United States for the first time in 2003 as an exchange student to Elkhart, Indiana. The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program he participated in is a competitive, merit-based scholarship program funded by the U. S. Department of State. FLEX students who pass multiple rounds of testing earn a scholarship to spend an academic year in the United States living with a volunteer host family and attending a U.S. high school (discoverflex.org/).

After attending high school for a year in the U.S., Aydogdiyev returned home. However, he was able to come back to the U.S. the following year to attend Indiana University's South Bend campus. He also tried his hand with various business ventures to include real estate management, flipping homes, project management for corporate America, and finally retail.

This five-year 1st class petty officer ran a chain of novelty stores in Michigan before joining the Navy in 2012.

"I almost joined the Marines because the Marine recruiters were the ones who were kind of active in my area," said Aydogdiyev. A salesman by nature, Aydogdiyev struck up a conversation with two Marine recruiters who passed his store in the mall, and the idea to serve in the military was born.

"The Navy recruiter who recruited me was Aviation Structural Mechanic (Equipment) 2nd Class Newton out of Portage, Michigan," said Aydogdiyev. "He was my customer and we became friends. We kind of talked a lot but we never really talked about the Navy. He never tried to sell me on the Navy until one day when I was returning to the Marine office. I almost had walked into the office but he saw me and called out my name. He said 'hey Orazali what are you doing over here?' We started talking and he told me to come inside (his office) and let's carry on a conversation."

There were two recruiters in the office. Aydogdiyev said everything the recruiters were talking to him about was exactly what he needed in life.

"I needed a change of pace, a change of life, I wanted to travel, I wanted to see the world because I'm an international person myself so I've always wanted to travel," said Aydogdiyev. "I wanted to start something new. So I said forget the Marines, this is what I need. I need the education they are talking about; I need the tuition assistance."

**left top: Then Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Orazali Aydogdiyev prepares for general quarters as a member of the damage control team aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). (U.S. Navy Photo )**

During Aydogdiyev's conversation with his recruiter, he noticed the second recruiter was working on his college coursework. He said that sealed the deal for him.

"I knew the Navy had the legitimate tuition assistance," said Aydogdiyev. "They can guarantee me travel. They can guarantee me the social credit of being able to serve this country and give back for the freedom I got from them. All-in-all it was a win-win-win, that's exactly what the Navy was for me and I decided to sign up."

Aydogdiyev says he loves being a personnel specialist because he is able to impact Sailors, there's a lot of room for advancement, there's a lot of room for leadership but he plans to cross-rate to Navy Counselor to change lives like his recruiter did for him.

While aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve, Aydogdiyev accomplished surface warfare, air warfare and information dominance qualifications.

"I loved being out to sea: I loved being on the Truman, I loved being a Sailor in the middle of the fight," said Aydogdiyev. He was able to qualify in several shipboard qualifications; eventually joining the damage control training team. Additional accomplishments include completing sixteen credit hours with Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) and distance learning coursework.

"I have gone to school the entire time I've been on active duty and now I'm on the brink of graduation," said Aydogdiyev.

Aydogdiyev's commitment to personal growth and intellectual development pushed him to becoming quadrilingual, speaking fluent Russian, Turkmen, Turkish and English. He explained there is no greater value than tuition assistance to him and the ability to take classes while serving. He says his educational opportunity is one of the things he is proudest of and is appreciative to the Navy for. Aydogdiyev will receive his Bachelor of Science degree in Global Business from Troy University. The fact that he was able to complete his educational goal allows him to be a better recruiter.

"I can talk about it (educational benefits); I can show it on paper in black and white, I can answer questions or concerns, I can be that example for the future applicant at any given time," said Aydogdiyev. "My 34-Future Sailors know that I'm active duty, their mentor and I'm going to school at the same time, they are able to resell themselves at the same time they know that this is possible."

A father of two sons and husband to Alina, also from Turkmenistan, Aydogdiyev says he was able to grow in the Navy from someone who was being lead when he entered, to someone who is leading again.

# 30 Years Of Fleet Week New York



Story and photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Travis Simmons, Navy Recruiting District New York Public Affairs

More than 2,500 members of the sea services flooded the streets of New York prior to Memorial Day to celebrate the 30th year of Fleet Week New York.

Throughout the weeklong event, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen participated in numerous community relations projects, including visits to schools, soup kitchens, senior centers, revitalization projects with Habitat for Humanity, outreach efforts through Project HOPE, and community parades.

To kick it all off, four U.S. Navy ships, three U.S. Coast Guard cutters, four U.S. Naval Academy yard patrol boats, two Military Sealift Command ships, and one Royal Canadian Navy vessel transited into the city's Upper Bay for the parade of ships. Service members manned the rails and rendered honors as they passed the Statue of Liberty and the site of the Twin Towers.

Ships were moored in each of the five boroughs, but they weren't the only thing being showcased. At public parks and high schools, Navy helicopters flew in to insert Explosive Ordnance Disposal members by fast-roping. The helicopters then landed to let the public get inside, talk to pilots and take pictures. The Blue Angels

drew nearly 300,000 people to see their performances at the Bethpage Air Show in Long Island.

Navy divers entered a portable tank in Times Square to show off their equipment and play tic-tac-toe with passersby while members of the Navy Band held several concerts under the bright lights.

Recruiters stood outside the Navy's virtual reality experience to actually show, not just talk about, the Navy experience. Participants immersed themselves in a Special Warfare Combat Craft Crewman mission to rescue a SEAL team pinned down by enemy fire.

Fleet Week New York is the city's time-honored celebration of the sea services. It is an unparalleled opportunity for the citizens of New York and the surrounding tri-state area to meet Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as witness firsthand the latest capabilities of today's maritime services.

**top: The amphibious transport dock ship USS Arlington (LPD 24) passing the Statue of Liberty during Fleet Week New York's Parade of Ships.**

# St. Louis Holds 60th Cardinal Division Ceremony

Story and photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Latrice Jackson, Navy Recruiting District St. Louis Public Affairs



Eighty Future Sailors from Missouri, Illinois, Kansas and Kentucky took the oath of enlistment to join the Navy during a pre-game ceremony at Busch Stadium June 7. The new recruits make up the 60th Cardinal Division.

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, administered the oath of enlistment to the recruits in front of their family, friends and baseball fans.

"It is an honor to be with you here this morning as we celebrate these young men who are about to depart on what I call an awesome adventure," said Garvin.

He stated the recruits were joining a long legacy of Sailors who have lived lives forged by the sea.

"They have made the decision to join the ranks of those who are serving in the most admirable of all professions, the defense of our great country and its way of life," Garvin added.

Before the ceremony at Busch Stadium, the future Sailors attended a pre-game event and picnic at City Hall and Poelker Park. The newly sworn in recruits along with Sailors from Navy Recruiting District (NRD) St. Louis then marched in formation through the city's streets downtown to the ballpark.



After watching the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Miami Marlins, the recruits boarded a bus and headed to Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois, to start their basic military training.

Cardinal Division is the longest-running sponsored recruit division in all of the military services. The Cardinals and Navy Recruiting District St. Louis have worked together with the St. Louis Navy League to form and sponsor the division since 1958.

Prior to departing St. Louis, Garvin also visited with Sailors at some of the local recruiting stations including Navy Recruiting Station (NRS) Carbondale, NRS Fairview Heights and NRS West County.

Chief Navy Counselor John MacPherson, division leading chief petty officer, Division 7, said Garvin's visit to St. Louis was very motivating.

"He brought a lot of great information on the way forward for the future of Navy recruiting," said MacPherson.

NRD St. Louis' area of responsibility covers more than 200,000 square miles, which encompasses all of Missouri, parts of Illinois and Kansas, as well as a portion of Kentucky. More than 100 officers, enlisted, and civilian staff comprise 29 recruiting stations, two Navy Officer Recruiting Stations and the headquarters. Additionally, two Military Entrance Processing Stations - one at the headquarters in St. Louis and one in Kansas City, Mo., - handle applicants' processing, classification, and physical examinations.

*opposite page:* Recruit Division Commanders and recruits assigned to the 60th Cardinal Division stand at attention during a pre-game event at Busch Stadium.

*top:* Cmdr. Nathan Rockholm, commanding officer, Navy Recruiting District St. Louis, speaks to family members and friends of the 60th Cardinal Division during a swearing-in ceremony at City Hall.

*above right:* Navy Recruiting District St. Louis Sailors and members of the 60th Cardinal Division march in formation through the streets of St. Louis to attend a pre-game enlistment event at Busch Stadium.

# Sailor Reflects On Year Of Recruiting In America's Navy

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Giselle Christmas, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio Public Affairs

Gas Turbine System Technician 1st Class Jalisa Green, a recruiter assigned to Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, shows that not shying away from hard work and responsibility does not go unnoticed.

Green, a Louisiana native, longed to travel and see the world beyond her hometown of Baton Rouge. She believed joining the Navy would give her that opportunity.

After enlisting in 2009, she was stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, serving on USS Cowpens (CG-63) with follow-on assignments on USS Spruance (DDG-111) and USS William P. Lawrence (DDG-110).

"Working on a ship was challenging; it meant long hours, a lot of sweat, dirt, and wrench-cranking, but I loved it," explained Green.

Although her passion is to travel as much as possible, early in her career she knew one day she would transition to shore duty as a recruiter.

"I had a great recruiter, who has been a positive influence from day one in my decision to become a recruiter, and continues to support me throughout my career," said Green.

Recruiters are representatives of America's Navy and act as ambassadors in their communities. To become one requires previous experience in the Navy or other branch of the military, an outgoing personality, creativity, initiative, and strong organizational and time-management skills, among other skills.

For some Sailors, transitioning from the fleet to recruiting can be challenging. Many find it difficult adapting to office work after spending time in more operational rates on a ship.

"For me the biggest difference was all the paperwork," said Green. "But the long hours and dedication you have to put in are the same. Ship life had already groomed me for that."

Green has proven her strength and ability to adapt within the recruiting world. As a second class petty officer, she was given the position of leading petty officer (LPO) for her division, a role that is traditionally given to a first class petty officer.

"Becoming a LPO was a tough experience. I had to



make sacrifices in my personal life for my career," admits Green. "It was hard, at first, to find that balance and to remember to take care of myself and make time for other goals, like college."

Green says she finds strength through her many mentors in the recruiting community as well as through her family.

"I reach out often to my chief, division leading chief petty officer, and my first class petty officers," said Green. "They all encourage me to never back down and to always strive for more from myself and my recruiters."

Green's grit and strong work ethic made her a standout Sailor within the recruiting community and lead to her meritorious advancement to first class petty officer through the Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP) on June 30.

Earning meritorious advancement was a huge milestone for Green, who says she was completely surprised by her selection.

"I honestly did not think it was an achievable goal for me," she explained. "It is hard to be competitive within your rate as a recruiter, so I did not think it would happen."

Successful recruiters can apply for reclassification under the Navy's Career Recruiting Force (CRF) program. Green has chosen not to convert to CRF, instead hoping to one day return to the fleet.

"As much as I have enjoyed recruiting, shore duty has reminded me of why I joined the Navy in the first place, which was to travel and do something different," Green said. "I have not traveled enough," she added.

Green says that making first class has not been a big change for her.

"Serving as the LPO for my division as a second class made me already think like a first class, so this advancement is only the beginning and makes me want to work harder to achieve my goals," said Green.

Those goals, Green said, are to eventually finish college and make chief petty officer or become a commissioned officer.

"I am thankful for this opportunity, but personally it is not enough; I need to keep pushing," she admits. "I also need to humble myself and remember all the recruiters and chiefs who have gone before me and to those whom have given me guidance to get me where I am today. I wouldn't be here without their help."



above: BROOKLYN, N.Y. (May 23, 2018) Students from Saint Anselm Catholic Academy in Brooklyn, N.Y., show off their their push-up technique to Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Patrick Joseph, assigned to Sub Group 10. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Christopher Previc)

## Eye On The Field

below: NORRIDGE, III. (May 27, 2018) Recruits from Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., participate in the 25th Annual Norridge Veterans Memorial Day Program. (U.S. Navy photo by Scott A. Thornbloom)



U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, Navy Recruiting District San Antonio Public Affairs

# The Modern Centurion: Changing 100 Lives Through Navy Recruiting

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Timothy Walter,  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group Nashville Public Affairs



The number can represent a perfect score or the percentage of complete devotion to a mission. It can mean much to many different people. But in the world of Navy Recruiting, the number 100 is an elusive goal that few achieve. Recently though, Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Andrew Kingston, a native of Columbus, Ohio, did just that when he helped guide his 100th applicant to join the Navy.

At Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Nashville, a common goal to aim for is 21 contracts per year in order to earn entry into the "21 Club". Yet even these efforts somewhat pale in comparison to Kingston's achievement when he earned the informal title of centurion. It required a sustained rate of achievement that almost doubled his peers for years on end. And as he got the news, he looked back on what it took to achieve it.

"It was a lot of hard work and I do get some pride out of it and the fact that I will always be able to take this accomplishment with me," Kingston said.

Rather than ascribing his success to some particular talent or gift, he said it was simply a matter of consistency.

"I took it month by month, trying to help change as many lives as possible," he said.

And with 100 people on his record, he has his fair share of stories and successes. Some of them stop by during a break from their regular duty just to tell him how they feel.

"There are a lot of kids that say thank you and that makes it worth it," he said. "It feels great to be able to help someone who wants to join the Navy accomplish their goal, especially when they don't come from particularly great circumstances to begin with."

The three years of recruiting in the same region has had a profound effect on him as he has grown to know the people around him and the immense amount of

*above page:* Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Andrew Kingston poses for a photo during a training event for Navy Talent Acquisition Group Nashville.

*above:* Cmdr. Todd Sullivan, commanding officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Nashville, presents a Roman centurion helmet to Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Andrew Kingston to recognize him for recruiting 100 Sailors into the Navy.

people who have decided to volunteer for the Navy. "I like being part of the community and going to the schools to talk to people. I met so many people doing this job and it's been such a privilege to know them and help those who wanted to serve," he said.

He says that each time he talks to a new applicant, he tells them of the lessons that he has learned. One lesson is take advantage of opportunities like he is currently doing by using the benefits he has to earn a higher education. But mostly, he tells them to not be afraid to do something different, whether that is joining the Navy or taking a hard assignment once they are in uniform.

"Don't be afraid to ask and don't be afraid to volunteer for a job that may take you to a new place," he said.

NTAG Nashville is one of 12 districts which make up Navy Recruiting Region East. More than 100,000 square miles are assigned to Navy Recruiting District Nashville including counties in Tennessee, Arkansas, northern Alabama, northern Georgia, northern Mississippi, southern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia.

For more information on NTAG Nashville, visit us at <http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/nashville/> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NTAG.Nashville/>

# Guiding From Behind The Screen

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Eshleman, Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs



In the modern world, a Future Sailors' first step towards joining the Navy is typically to research the job online. This creates the need for a unique type of recruiter, someone to bridge the gap between curiosity and the physical recruiting station. Fire Controlman 1st Class Dwyane Clement, from Phoenix, Arizona, is a cyberspace recruiter, and he's one of the many Sailors behind the Navy.com chat service, helping to find and remotely mentor quality candidates around the country.

Clement has to be able to quickly answer any question a Future Sailor may have, all while giving the information a human touch to help guide them in the right direction for who they are. It can be a difficult job, but for Clement, mentorship is second nature, and being able to lead people towards self-improvement and career advancement is very personally rewarding.

Navy Recruiting Command operates the chat from 8 a.m. to midnight to be able to respond instantly to any questions someone might have. At the click of a button, anyone can get personalized advice and direction from

an experienced Sailor, from anywhere in the world.

In his limited spare time after work, Clement volunteers as a scoutmaster in Memphis, and he takes classes at the University of Memphis, working towards a Masters of Health Administration.

As a scoutmaster, it's his job to keep his young scouts heading in the right direction, both in scouting, and in their personal lives. He sees it as a way to improve society as a whole. "The older boys that have jobs, they're going to go out and be respectful, upstanding citizens because scouting teaches you that," says Clement. He has also set up a mentorship program in his troop in which the older boys spend time with the new and younger scouts. He set this up so he could teach them leadership and the importance of community.

This calling to help others has been with Clement throughout his entire life. At 14, he earned the title of Eagle Scout. This required him to earn 21 merit badges, completing hundreds of community service

hours and learning valuable life and leadership skills.

After high school, he took his pursuit of service to a new level, going on a two-year mission to Brazil. He had saved up the money to self-fund this trip, working construction while going to high school. He went with a group from his church, and lived and volunteered there, trying to help people all over Brazil in any way he could.

The trip had a large impact on his outlook on life. "Growing up I always had respect for the flag, and then I went and lived in Brazil," Clement said, "I mean, America is not perfect, but I realized we have it pretty good here, and I wanted to give back to that."

Clement's way of giving back started with joining the Navy in 2009. After fire controlman 'A' school, he was stationed on the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), and he completed a deployment before being stationed at Navy Recruiting Command in Millington, Tenn.

He's enjoyed his time recruiting and the life it allows him to have. "It's been really nice to be able to be

around for my kids and spend time with my family," said Clement. "I've also learned a little bit of leadership being here as well."

Looking forward, Clement hopes to finish his master's degree and possibly seek a commission in the Navy Medical Corps. The one thing that's certain though, is that no matter where he's at, he will continue to mentor and serve his community.

If you want to talk to a cyberspace recruiter, go to <https://www.navy.com/> and click "Let's Talk."

The Navy's recruiting force totals more than 6,100 total personnel in more than 1,000 recruiting stations around the globe. Their combined goal is to lead, mentor, and develop future generations of Sailors.

For more news from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visit us on the web at [www.cnrc.navy.mil](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil); on our YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwvY3VG-bGCo8ZPrdzKw>; on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting](http://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting); and on Twitter, @usnavyrecruiter.

# America's Navy Hosts Navy Day At The Alamo During Fiesta San Antonio

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



Sailors from several local commands, to include the "Destroyers" of Navy Band Southwest from San Diego, Calif., gathered at the Alamo to participate in Navy Day during Fiesta San Antonio, April 26.

The year's celebration marks the 127th Anniversary of Fiesta San Antonio which coincides with the city's Tricentennial.

Hosted by Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) Lackland, Navy Day at the Alamo honors the history of the Alamo and raises awareness of America's Navy in Military City USA.

El Paso, Texas native, Capt. William Bindel, officer-in-charge, Navy Element, Joint Information Operations Warfare Center located on Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland served as the keynote speaker.

"Today, many of the military operations conducted at Joint Base San Antonio are both unique and essential. Every year, more than 132,000 service men and women from all branches of the military train at multiple San Antonio

installations," said Bindel, a native Texan. "The U.S. Navy has been in existence for 242 years and continues to protect and defend America on the world's oceans, the battlefield, and shore stations around the world."

According to Bindel, approximately 10 percent of Navy personnel are recruited from Texas.

At the conclusion of Bindel's remarks, he administered the oath of enlistment to 20 young men and women who will serve in the world's greatest Navy.

Following the swearing in ceremony, Cmdr. Jeffrey Reynolds, commanding officer of Navy Recruiting District San Antonio, joined by Command Master Chief Eric Mays and other recruiters, presented Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship checks to four high school seniors of Smithson Valley High School totaling \$720,000.

Other activities conducted during Navy Day were a display of Navy Corpsmen from Navy Medicine Training Support Center and why they are called "Doc",

a demonstration from the funeral honors detail of Navy Operational Support Center San Antonio, along with the national anthem and color guard provided by Navy Information Operations Command Texas.

Sailors from the Master-at-Arms "A" school provided demonstrations that show how the Navy stays proficient through vigorous training evolutions.

The first demonstration was an oleoresin capicum confidence course, conducted by staff and students.

The final demonstration involved the Military Working Dog (MWD) program in which MWDs and their handlers conducted controlled aggression techniques such as the field interview, escort and search, the "bite" exercise.

"We want to thank the public for attending Navy Day at the Alamo," said Cmdr. Bob Arias of Moriarty, N.M. and NTTC commanding officer. "This was a great event, not only to showcase a portion of what the Navy does, but also to provide an opportunity for our public to meet and know our Sailors."

**spread:** Capt. William Bindel, officer-in-charge, Navy Element, Joint Information Operations Warfare Center located on Joint Base San Antonio–Lackland, administers the oath of enlistment to 20 future Sailors.

**top left:** Retired Marine Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala, director, Office of Military Affairs for the City of San Antonio, delivers a Navy Day Proclamation on behalf of City Mayor Ron Nirenberg during Navy Day at the Alamo.

**top right:** The "Destroyers", the popular music group of Navy Band Southwest from San Diego, performs during Navy Day at the Alamo.



*above:* NORFOLK, Va. (May 11, 2018) Sailors assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) participate in line handling training during a simulated pierside nighttime replenishment-at-sea with USNS Leroy Grumman (T-AO 195). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jonathan Pankau)

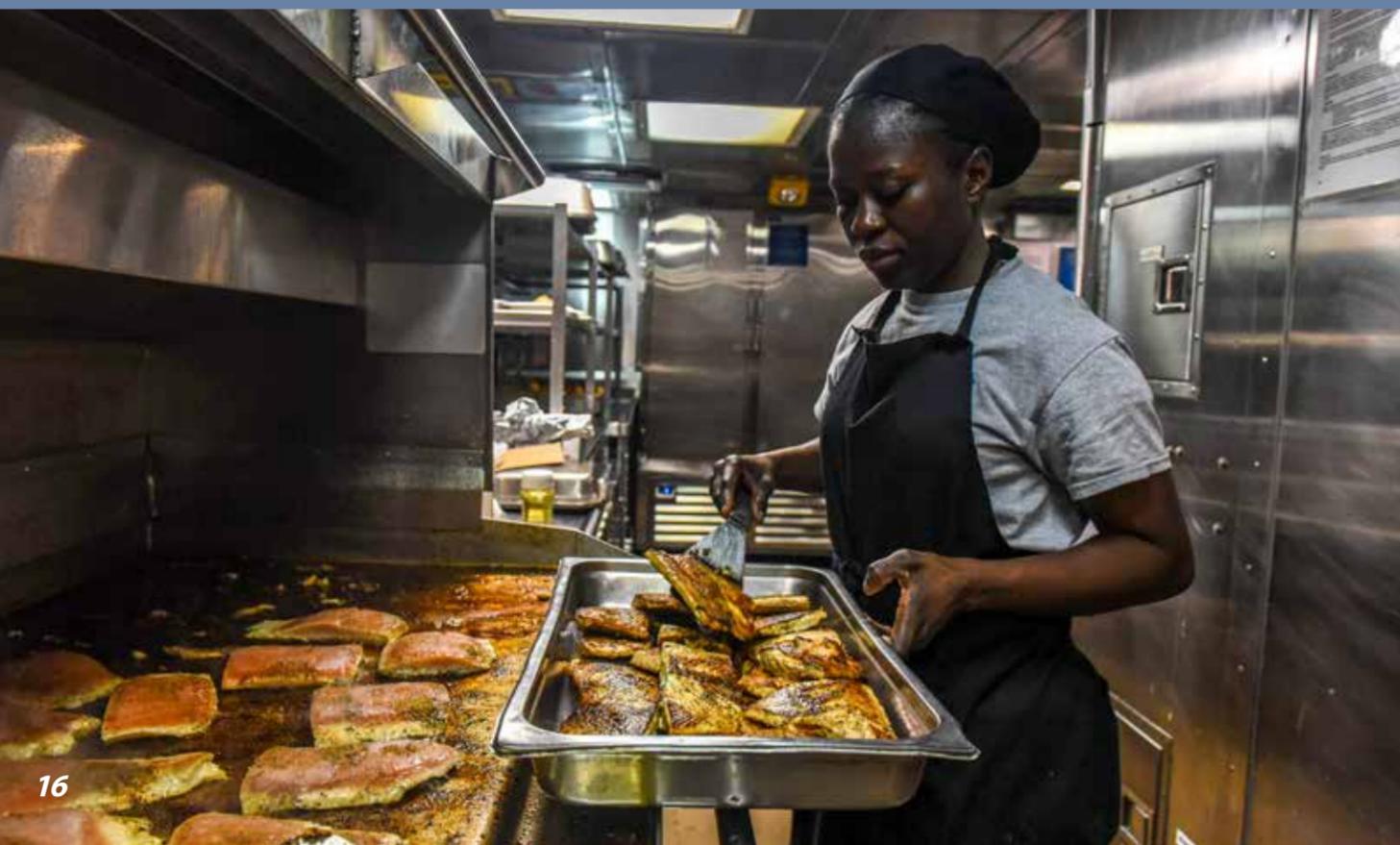
## Eye On The Fleet

*below:* SUEZ CANAL (June 27, 2018) Culinary Specialist Seaman Magdalene Davies prepares food for a meal in the galley of the Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Laboon (DDG 58). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kallysta Castillo)



*above:* MEDITERRANEAN SEA (May 13, 2018) An F/A-18E SuperHornet (right) assigned to the "Knighthawks" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136 launches from the flight deck as an F/A-18F Super Hornet (left) assigned to the "Fighting Checkmates" of Strike Fighter Squadron 211 prepares to launch from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kaysee Lohmann)

*below:* SAN DIEGO (May 9, 2018) Sailors assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron (CRS) 3 maneuver a Mark VI patrol boat off the coast of San Diego, Calif., during unit-level training conducted by the Coastal Riverine Group (CRG) 1's Training and Evaluation Unit. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Boatswain's Mate Nelson Doromal Jr.)



# 18 Navy Recruiters Worldwide Receive Top Recognition

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

The top Navy recruiters of 2017 were recognized for Navy Recruiting Command's (NRC) Recruiter of the Year (ROY) ceremony held at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., May 17.

Selection for this award is a testament to all the Sailors for their talent acquisition expertise and positive impact in their local communities.

Attendees of the event included Adm. Bill Moran, vice chief of naval operations, Vice Adm. Robert Burke, chief of naval personnel, Rear Adm. John Nowell, director, military personnel plans and policy, Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, commander, NRC, Rear Adm. Andrew

Mueller, deputy commander, NRC, and Command Master Chief of NRC, Command Master Chief Petty Officer Donald Charbonneau.

"The Navy is growing in readiness, capability and capacity in order to be a more lethal, resilient and agile force to deter and defeat aggression by great power competitors and adversaries.... in other words, the Navy the nation needs," said Burke at the awards ceremony. "Some may think that our ships, aircraft and submarines are the Navy's most important assets, but really it's our Sailors."

Rear Adm. Garvin expounded upon the qualities that make up a Navy recruiter.

"We are here tonight to recognize the superb work of these outstanding Sailors," said Garvin. "They are the best recruiters in the United States Navy, and they represent the finest recruiting has to offer."

Legalman 1st Class Trisha Poynter, assigned to Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Ohio, believes her decision to become a recruiter was worth the challenge.

"Being chosen as a ROY is a great honor, I am very thankful and humbled to be chosen," said Poynter, recruiter of the year, Navy Reserve. "It shows that hard work, dedication, and passion does lead to great accomplishments. I have had excellent leaders and mentors along the way that have made a great impact on my career and this accomplishment."

Also recognized for out-performing every other recruiting district was NRD Phoenix, NRC's Gold "R", District of the Year.

The ceremony was just one event during a three-day occasion held in our nation's capital city. The 18 awardees had the opportunity to visit the Pentagon and meet with senior Navy leadership including Robert Woods, assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower and reserve affairs, and Patrick Barrett, deputy chief Navy Reserve.

The 2017 winners include: Operations Specialist 1st Class Ryan Clark, Enlisted Recruiter of the Year, Active; Lt. Victor Agunbiade, Officer Recruiter of the Year, Active; Lt. j.g. Massimo Ongaro, Officer Recruiter of the Year, Navy Reserve; Navy Counselor 2nd Class Jason Ellis, Sourcer of the Year; Navy Counselor 1st Class James Condon, Sales of the Year; Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class John Redshaw, Assessor of the Year; Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Louis Smith, Onboarder of the Year; Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Luis Saucedo, Nuclear Field Coordinator of the Year; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Suemaya Dib, Station Leading Petty Officer of the Year; Navy Counselor Chief Petty Officer William Currie IV, Division Leading Chief Petty Officer of the Year; Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Fritz Castillo-Trinidad, Diversity Enlisted Recruiter of the Year; Lt. Derek Strauser, Diversity Officer of the Year; Navy Counselor 1st Class Matthew Weldy, Medical Officer Recruiter of the Year; Lt. Jeffery Shepard, Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Recruiter of the Year; Utilitiesman 1st Class Kevin Yaksich, Navy Special Warfare/ Navy Special Operations Recruiter of the Year; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Paul Lagman, Classifier of the Year; Yeoman 1st Class Roy Stanley II, Support Person of the Year; Ms. Erin Abram, Customer Service Person of the Year and Mr Reid Basso, Innovator of the Year.

For more news from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visit us on the web, [www.cnrc.navy.mil](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil); on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting](http://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting); and on Twitter, @USNRecruiter.



The awardees pose with the National Chief Recruiter, Navy Recruiting Command, Master Chief Navy Counselor Franklin Tiongco (second from left); Deputy Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Admiral Andrew Mueller (fourth from left); Commander Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Admiral Peter Garvin (tenth from left); and the Command Master Chief, Navy Recruiting Command, Command Master Chief Petty Officer Donald Charbonneau (fourth from right).



Enlisted Recruiter of the Year, Active  
**OSI(IW) Ryan J. Clark**  
Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh



Enlisted Recruiter of the Year, Reserve  
**LNI(AW) Trisha R. Poynter**  
Navy Recruiting District Ohio



Officer Recruiter of the Year, Active  
**LT Victor O. Agunbiade**  
Navy Recruiting District Richmond



Officer Recruiter of the Year, Reserve  
**LTJG Massimo Ongaro**  
Navy Recruiting District Houston



Sourcer of the Year  
**NC2(SS) Jason D. Ellis**  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group New Orleans



**top left:** Personnel Specialist 1st Class Paul Lagman, classifier of the year for Navy Recruiting Command Recruiters of the Year (ROY) 2017, tours the Navy Memorial in Washington D.C.

**top right:** Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (center right), poses for a photo with Navy Counselor 2nd Class Jason Ellis (left) Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Louis Smith (center left) and Yeoman 1st Class Roy Stanley (right).

**center:** The winners of the ROY attend an office call with Robert L. Woods, Assistant Secretary (manpower and reserve affairs).



**bottom left:** Brian Shlit, Manager of the GEICO military department, north east sector (left), shakes hands with Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Fritzi Castillo-Trinidad.

**bottom center:** Retired Force Master Chief Ronnie Wright (left), a member of the USAA military affairs team, shakes hands with NC1 James Conden.

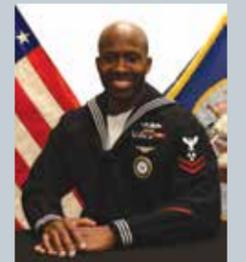
**bottom right:** Bob Hill, financial advisor for first command financial services (left) shakes hands with Lt. Jeffery Shepard.



Sales Person of the Year  
**NCI(EXW) James J. Condon**  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland



Assessor of the Year  
**AMI(AW) John L. Redshaw**  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland



Onboarder of the Year  
**MM2(SW/AW) Louis F. Smith**  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group New Orleans



Nuclear Field Coordinator of the Year  
**MMNI(SS) Luis I. Saucedo**  
Navy Recruiting District Phoenix



Station LPO of the Year  
**MMI(SW/AW) Suemaya Dib**  
Navy Recruiting District New York



Division LCPO of the Year  
NCCS(FMF) William L. Currie IV  
Navy Recruiting District Phoenix



Medical Officer Recruiter of the Year  
NCI Matthew Weldy  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group New Orleans



Diversity Officer Recruiter of the Year  
LT Derek B. Strauser  
Navy Recruiting District St. Louis



Diversity Enlisted Recruiter of the Year  
SHI(SW/AW) Fritzi Castillo-Trinidad  
Navy Recruiting District San Diego



NUPOC Officer Recruiter of the Year  
LT Jeffrey M. Shepard  
Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain



*top left, center and right:* Navy Counselor 2nd Class Jason Ellis, Sourcer of the Year, is reenlisted by Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, during a tour of the Pentagon.

*above left:* Congressman Gregg Harper (center) of Mississippi's 3rd district poses with Rear Adm. Peter Garvin (left), Commander, Navy Recruiting District, and Rear Adm. Andrew Mueller (right), Deputy Commander, Navy Recruiting Command.

*above right:* (left to right) Command Master Chief Donald

Charbonneau, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Adm. Peter Garvin, Deputy Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Adm. Andrew Mueller and National Chief Recruiter, Master Chief Navy Counselor Franklin Tiongco pose for a photo in front of the White House.

*bottom left:* Lt.j.g. Massimo Ongaro tours the 911 viewing room at the Pentagon.

*bottom right:* Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Adm. Peter Garvin addresses the attendees during the ROY week ceremony.



NSW/NSO Recruiter of the Year  
UTI(EXW/SCW) Kevin M. Yaksich  
Navy Recruiting District Ohio



Classifier of the Year  
PSI(AW) Paul H. Lagman  
Navy Recruiting District San Diego



Support Person of the Year  
YNI(AW) Roy E. Stanley II  
Navy Recruiting District New York



Customer Service Person of the Year  
MS. Erin K. Abram  
Navy Recruiting District San Diego



Innovator of the Year  
MR. Reid M. Basso  
Navy Recruiting District Nashville

# Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit Graduates Latest Recruiters

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

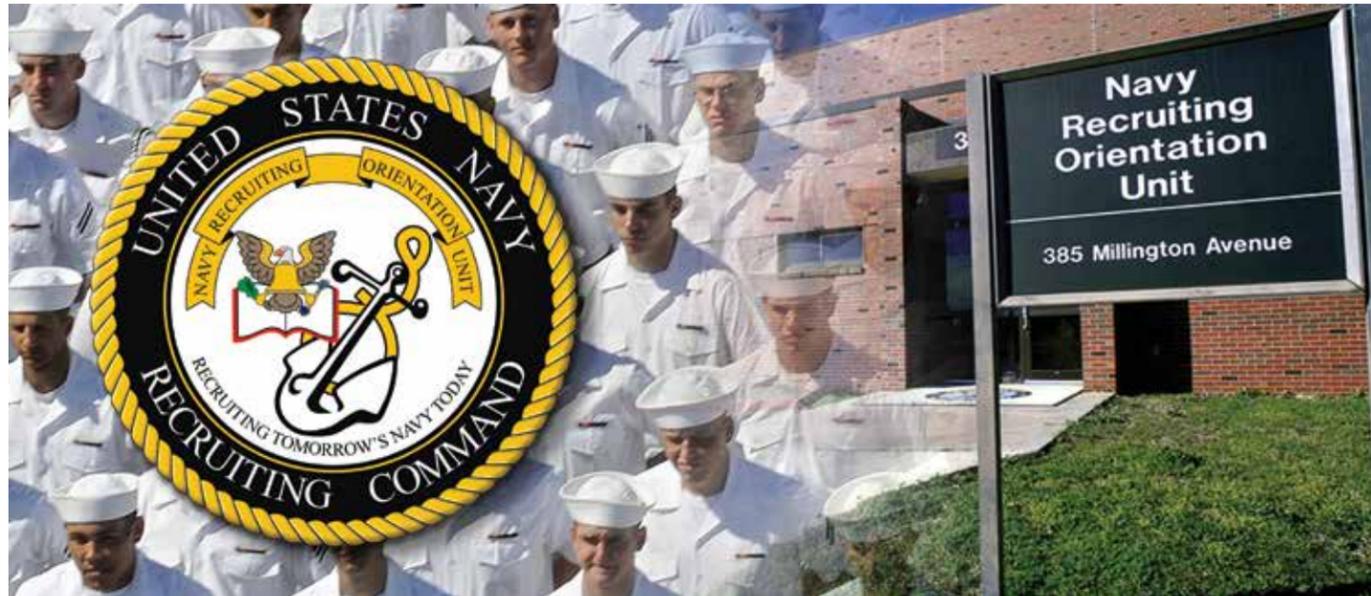


Illustration by Kim Hyback, Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit (NORU) celebrated the hard work and dedication of 26 Sailors who trained, graduated and officially became Navy recruiters, June 22.

Over the last five weeks, these Sailors have learned and applied the professional knowledge and skills that are key to the success of a Navy recruiter.

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command Rear Adm. Peter Garvin spoke at the graduation ceremony: "Today, you join a team of stellar performers that shape the future of our fleet," said Garvin. "You will represent our Navy to the American people...in places where the Navy does not sail. You will encourage and inspire individuals to join them in being shaped, molded, and ultimately forged into the best possible versions of themselves. It's a challenge that I am confident each of you are up to, as you've gotten an excellent foundation for your recruiting career here at NORU."

NORU is the Navy's only recruiting schoolhouse and is responsible for the instruction of enlisted and officer personnel in professional sales, prospecting techniques, marketing, applicant processing, recruiting terminology, leadership, ethical behavior and activity analysis.

Operations Specialist 2nd Class Alexa Azbell is one of the Sailors that graduated with the group. Azbell said she's excited to contribute to the fleet the nation needs.

"I am looking forward to molding future Sailors," said Azbell. "Navy Recruiting has also given me the opportunity to be closer to family. I hope to succeed in recruiting and to one day become a career recruiter."

I know with the knowledge and tools the instructors have taught us will make that dream a reality."

Without recruiters finding talented individuals to join the Navy, force numbers would plummet. The instructor duty at NORU is an important and essential role in the Navy. They lay the foundation and give future recruiters the tools needed to be effective in their new field of work.

"As an instructor I am very fortunate to be able to shape the future of Navy recruiting," said Chief Navy Counselor Jamal Clarke, a NORU instructor. "I joined the Navy to be a positive role model. It has been a blessing to have found my calling and being able to help and teach others."

The Officer in Charge of NORU Cmdr. Mark Yates expresses that the graduating recruiters are more than ready to accomplish the Navy recruiting mission.

"When new recruiters leave here they are very motivated," said Yates "They are ready to go out in the field and be that recruiter they wish they had when they first enlisted. These Sailors want to make sure that the Sailors going to the fleet are the best the nation has to offer and they are prepared to do that."

The day's graduates will continue on to fill billets across 26 Navy Recruiting Districts and Navy Talent Acquisition Groups across America.

For more news from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, visit us on the web, [www.navy.mil/local/cnrc/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnrc/); on our YouTube channel, U.S. Navy Recruiter and on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting](http://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruiting).



above: CARROLLTON, Texas (July 01, 2018) Electician's Mate 2nd Class Derrick Camino, assigned to Navy Recruiting District Dallas, represents the Navy during a Military Appreciation church service at Prestonwood Baptist Church. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Nolan Pennington)

## Eye On The Field

below: RENO, Nev. (June 22, 2018) Capt. Ryan Heilman, commanding officer of the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Nevada (SSBN 733), administers the Oath of Enlistment to 15 future Sailors from Navy Recruiting Station Sparks, Nev. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Abigayle Lutz)



# Michigan Sailors And Students Set Sail With SeaPerch

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen D. Doyle II, Navy Recruiting District Michigan Public Affairs

Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) and Midwest Region City Outreach Program in cooperation with Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Michigan hosted a Regional SeaPerch Underwater Robotics Challenge Qualifier at Western International High School, April 14.

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting.

37 teams from 18 high school, middle school, and elementary schools around Michigan and Chicago competed to advance to the International SeaPerch Championships to be held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, June 1-3.

"For many of these schools this is the only real hands on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) they get the opportunity to interact with," said Chief Navy Councilor Joshua Harless, City Outreach Midwest Chief. "A lot of the stuff they are learning is more theory out of a text book. But with the SeaPerch program we bring the theory with application and we provide the training for the teachers."

The SeaPerch Program provides students with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science,

and mathematics (STEM) while building an underwater ROV as part of a science and engineering technology curriculum.

"It's given our kids lots of opportunities; it provides them with a wide range of scientific concepts as well as the engineering process. Build it, test it, and adjust from what they've learned," said Ron Schaffner, Clinton High School Science teacher, representing five teams in the competition. "Having the ability to apply the science is 90% of it, we could just talk about some of scientific concepts but the opportunity for trial and error and having guidance helps bring all of those things together for the students."

Throughout the project, students learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications.

"I was really interested, in the program," said Jose Franco, from Wayne Metro Schools. "The big thing is that you have to rely on your team, you can't just do everything by yourself."

Students build the ROV from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts, following a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme, all provided by Navy Outreach and the local recruiting district.

According to Harless, going into schools as a recruiting command typically means asking for things, but with a program like SeaPerch the Navy is giving and teaching, building a strong relationship between the school and the Navy.

While working with the Navy through a program like SeaPerch, both students and faculty get the opportunity to learn more about the Navy and what it means to serve in the Navy.

"This has changed the way I see the Navy, two years ago our local recruiter came out and brought us the kits and it really opened my eyes to see what opportunities kids have in the Navy," said Schaffner. "I was able to see what the Navy offers after someone leaves the Navy and comes back to civilian life; their ability to be prepared, to be equipped with a skill set that makes them employed and valuable."

Although many of the students are not yet ready to make the decision to join the military there is a reason for reaching out to them now.

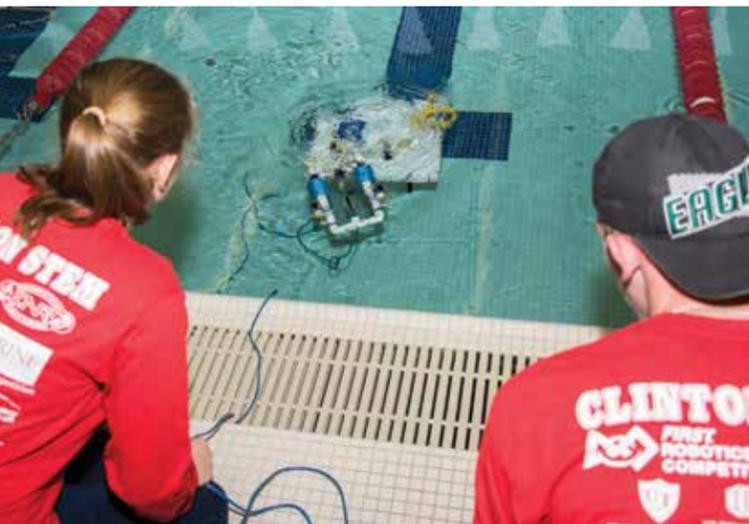
"Contacting the kids early is important," said Harless. "While they may not be eligible to serve now, if recruiters are able to build a relationship through a program like this beginning in middle school it helps keep students on the right track, so when the time comes they are able to join the Navy or get a career in STEM."

"Participating in the event really made me more interested in joining the Navy," said Hezekiah Asherkarr, a student at Recce Puffer High School. "It is definitely a great program for kids who are interested in science and math and defiantly anybody interested in robotics. Even if they're not interested in the Navy they should defiantly come out check it out they'll get a lot of information they did not know, I fully recommend this."

The regional qualifier consisted of three evolutions: speed obstacle course, challenge course, and interview/presentation. The top six teams with the best scores from each division advanced to the interview portion of the competition.

For more information on the SeaPerch Program visit [www.seaperch.org](http://www.seaperch.org).

Students from Clinton High School navigate their remote operated vehicle during the 2018 regional SeaPerch competition at Western International High School in Detroit.



# A Family's Commitment To Serve

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Nolan Pennington, Navy Recruiting District Dallas Public Affairs



From a young age, Logistics Specialist 1st Class Melissa Diaz, leading petty officer of logistics at Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Dallas, has embarked on a life-long journey of volunteering and a commitment to serve those less fortunate.

"I joined the Navy because I felt it was something that I could do that would make a difference," said Melissa. Melissa learned about the importance of volunteering and giving back to her community from one of her first role models: her mother Susana Diaz.

When Susana was a young single parent, she struggled to create a modest lifestyle for her family, but Susana continued to volunteer with her children at local shelters and would gather resources all year to donate to other less fortunate families, even when they had very little to give.

"My mother was really big into volunteering and we would do anything we could to help, especially during the holidays," said Melissa. "We would go to shelters or donate what we could even though we didn't have much."

For Susana, her desire to provide support to others is a reflection of her own past struggles as a single mother.

"There was a point in my life when my kids were really young, I had lost my apartment and I had very little money," said Susana. "I remember we were living out of a car, I knew my kids were hungry and there was an old man that willingly shared his plate of food with my children and then he directed me to a shelter that allowed me and my kids to stay for two weeks while I saved my money."

Today, Susana continues to gather resources year-round such as jackets she collects from yards sales to donate to local shelters. She also spends every Saturday buying and distributing food and water to the homeless in her community.

"Some have more than others, even with clothes, things that mean nothing to you are treasures to someone else," said Susana.

For Melissa, helping others in need now translates to her new role as the luminaria ceremony coordinator for fundraisers sponsored by her local Relay for Life.

Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society that raises money, encourages prevention and provides support for cancer patients.

In 2015 at a Relay for Life event, Melissa was introduced to a young girl named Bailey who was battling cancer.

"Seeing how young Bailey was and listening to her speak about her experiences with cancer at the ceremony, I got to see how strong this girl was and how much Relay for Life meant to her. It was super touching," said Melissa. "It's really heartwarming to know that my involvement with Relay for Life helps bring everyone together."

Melissa continues the tradition in her family by bringing her daughter, Arielle, to every Relay for Life event and educates her about their family's shared beliefs about the importance of volunteering just like when Melissa volunteered with her mom at that same age.

"I am helping raise a child who understands empathy, and understands that even if you don't have much to give, that any little bit helps," said Melissa.

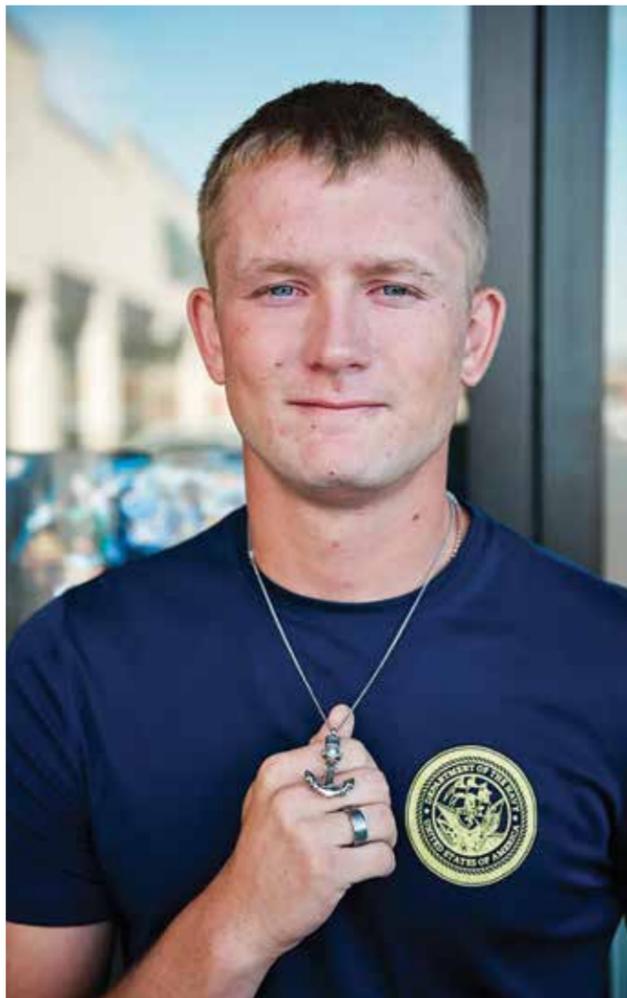
Because of her dedication to help others in need, it is no wonder then, why Melissa would eventually become a U.S. Navy Sailor where the opportunities for her to volunteer would be plentiful, or why she would receive a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in January 2017. Melissa's dedication to service would earn her the 2017 Support Sailor of the Year for NRD Dallas.

"Volunteering is definitely a big part of my life," said Melissa. "It's not just something I do because I'm supposed to. I do it because I want to and I want to help others and do whatever I can. So I will continue to volunteer even after I finished my career in the Navy."

For more information on NRD Dallas, visit: <http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/dallas/>

# Your Dream Is My Dream

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Shannon Renfoe,  
Navy Recruiting District Seattle Public Affairs



Taylor Green fumbles with a silver pennant he pulled from beneath his fitted shirt. A silver anchor dangles from his fingers, and he pauses for a moment while studying it.

His voice cracked, and his lips tightened, "He was more than a best friend. He was my brother. He was the only friend I had my whole life. I promised that I would join the military for him because he couldn't."

In late January, Taylor will rise before the sun breaks and head down to Butte Airport to board a plane bound for Recruit Training Command Great Lakes. He is only 18, but his heart and mind are set in living out the dream his best friend Andrew Green always had. Andrew was born on Veteran's Day, and everyone that met him knew it. He was proud and intended to follow the footsteps of his father and join the Army. Andrew and Taylor had met about ten years ago when Andrew was introduced in his 4th-grade class.

"When I found out we had the same last name I thought it was the coolest thing! Everyone had always asked if we were related. We did everything together," he exclaimed.

They were inseparable and spent most days together,

whether it was in class, on a paint ball field or weekends together exploring the countryside. Andrew didn't have many friends growing up because he spent most of his days in and out of the hospital treating his fragile immune system. It only became worse over the years.

"I sat in the room with Andrew, and he was crying because the news was devastating to him. I looked at him and said 'because you can't join I'll join for you. I will live your dream for you so you can have part of it through me because I am your brother and I want you to have that, even if it's through me.'

It was during a career fair that Taylor met with the recruiters that would make this dream a reality.

"I walked up to every booth, and Army just kept pushing on me and pushing on me. Petty Officer Wilson was just a lot more relaxed and told me that he can't make a choice to join for me and I looked at him and said 'I'm going to join the Navy'. I promised him that my sophomore year."

Operations Specialist 1st Class Wilson, Taylor's recruiter described him as being extremely dedicated, motivated and one of the most memorable Future Sailors he has worked with.

"I'd be more than happy and honored to work side-by-side with him. That's the most rewarding part of this job. Providing applicants an opportunity to see that there is more to life than just college or working behind a desk and making ends meet."

Wilson mentions that those that come back to visit him in Billings, Montana, enter the office a little taller and sit with a certain confidence and that there is a complete transformation from when they left for boot camp.

"Seeing that change reignites that spark within me and why I serve!," said Wilson.

At a point in their friendship, Andrew began pushing those closest to him away, when the burden of his sickness became too much. Taylor tried his best to be there for him whichever way he could, even with months in between their casual hellos.

One afternoon Taylor was summoned out of his Statistics Class and down to the school's office.

"I see my Dad standing there, and he has tears in his eyes, and his face is red and I can tell he has been crying, and I ask him what's the matter. I didn't want to believe it. I didn't want to believe it was actually happening," he recalls.

On March 28, 2017 Andrew Green passed away. He was only 18.

Taylor visits his room time to time and sits there on the edge of his bed with the anchor necklace that holds his ashes wrapped tightly around his fist. Andrew's family presented it to him so that he could always have a part of his brother with him.

"I talk to him all the time. Tell him how much I miss him. What's going on in my life or stories we shared,"

Taylor isn't nervous for the unknown of boot camp and the adventure that follows. He beams when explaining to me his Physical Standard Test scores that qualified him for Aircrew.

"The most important thing. I am going to go visit his gravestone and just talk to him. Tell him, 'This is it. We're finally doing it...'



## Swearing-In On The Newly Commissioned USS Portland

Story by Dan Rachal, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland Public Affairs

In the summer of 1988, at five-years-old, Chief Interior Communications Electrician James Wolfe went to the Portland Rose Festival for the first time. A native of Portland, OR, Chief Wolfe remembers seeing the grey-hulled ships and that played a part in his joining the Navy after graduating high school.

"The Sailors seemed like they were having a lot of fun," Wolfe said. "The ships seemed really big and important."

He has spent plenty of time in his hometown during his Navy career, first as a recruiter for Navy Recruiting District Portland from 2007-2010 and now back at Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland since 2015 as the Marketing and Advertising Officer.

Childhood trips down to the Tom McCall Waterfront weren't his only experiences with the Portland Rose Festival, either, as he was stationed on the USS Lake Champlain when they participated in the Portland Rose Festival in 2011.

With Navy ships and submarines being named after cities across the United States, Wolfe always hoped that his hometown would also receive such recognition one day.

"I'd always dreamed they'd name a ship after my home city," he said.

On April 19, 2018, while the USS Portland was in Portland, OR for their commissioning, Chief Wolfe stood on the flight deck, prepared to re-enlist in the Navy, which would take him to almost twenty years of honorable service. It was a moment he had been

hoping for since the amphibious ship was named.

"It was an ideal culmination of Navy opportunities to capstone my career," Wolfe said. "I've been thinking about the day, the possibility of it, for two years."

One hour prior, on the same flight deck, Future Sailor Megan Schnell, a native of Portland, OR, was about to raise her right hand and take the Oath of Enlistment, part of a joint Navy & Marine ceremony held onboard the USS Portland (LPD-27).

When her recruiter contacted her about the opportunity to swear-in onboard the ship, she jumped at the chance.

"Absolutely, I wanna go," she said. "It was in my hometown, named after my hometown."

Schnell grew up in southeast Portland and lost her father when she was four and mother at sixteen. The future hospital corpsman is looking forward to starting anew, traveling to different counties and being a part of something bigger than her.

"Going into the Navy I'm going to be a part of something again," she said. "When I'm in boot camp I'm not going to be alone. I'm gonna meet people that are a part of my life for the rest of it."

The 22-year-old hasn't left for basic training yet, but a Naval career has already offered her a very unique experience not afforded to everyone.

"A lot of people they just swear in the regular way," Schnell said. "But I got to do it, on a ship, on a beautiful day in Portland."

*top left:* Future Sailor Megan Schnell, of Portland, OR, stands in formation on the flight deck of the USS Portland (LPD-27), awaiting to take the Oath of Enlistment during the USS Portland's commissioning visit to Portland, OR on April 19, 2018.

*top right:* Chief Interior Communications Electrician James Wolfe, of Portland, OR, is re-enlisted by Navy Talent Acquisition Group Portland Commanding Officer, Noah Bellringer, onboard the USS Portland (LPD-27) while the ship was in port before their official commissioning April 21, 2018.

## Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters For April 2018

NRD Atlanta - STG2 Chaz S. Russell  
 NRD Chicago - BM2 Jaqueline Vandergraaff  
 NRD Dallas - MM1 Janas Garcia  
 NRD Houston - MM1 Jakeemia Rankin  
 NRD Jacksonville - QM2 Abbe Beaston  
 NRD Los Angeles - EN2 Terry Taylor  
 NRD Miami - NC1 Angel Cintron  
 NRD Michigan - CM2(SCW) Jacob E. Jewell  
 NRD Nashville - AT2 Bryan Bourke  
 NRD New England - AME2 Nicholas Perfetto  
 NTAG New Orleans - Sales - MM2(SW) Taylor Hatcher  
     Sourcing - NC1 Louis Gaines  
     Assessing - OS2(SW) Mark Nelson  
     Onboarding - FT1(SS) Adam Thomas  
 NRD New York - HT2(SW) Anthony Delorenzo  
 NRD Ohio - AO2 Charles Mack  
 NRD Philadelphia - GM1(SW) Anthony R. Kurasz

NRD Phoenix - DC1 Guadalupe Gonzales  
 NRD Pittsburgh - OS1(IW) Ryan Clark  
 NTAG Portland - Sales - AO2(AW) Arthur A. Stanley  
     Sourcing - OS1(SW) Michael V. Scottolavino  
     Assessing - EMN2(SW/AW) Megan P. Willis  
     Onboarding - MM1(SW/EXW) Brigham C. Snowdon  
 NRD Raleigh - FC2(SW/AW) Lewis R. Crook  
 NRD Richmond - HT1 Michael T. Wilson  
 NTAG Rocky Mountain - Sales - LS2 Heather Hopkinson  
     Sourcing - AE2 John Evans  
     Assessing - AM1 Wendell Ramos  
     Onboarding - EN1 Nicholas Juliano  
 NRD San Antonio - NC1(SW) Ivan Aguilar  
 NRD San Diego - MM1 Alejandro Ibarra  
 NRD San Francisco - GSM2(SW) Runbing Liu  
 NRD Seattle - EN1 Brian K. Smith  
 NRD St. Louis - ET1(SW) Branden D. Boatwright

## The District's Top Stations For April 2018

NRD Atlanta - NRS Douglasville  
 NRD Chicago - NRS Greenfield  
 NRD Dallas - NRS Denton  
 NRD Houston - NRS Humble  
 NRD Jacksonville - NRS Mayport  
 NRD Los Angeles - NRS East Bakersfield  
 NRD Miami - NRS Clearwater  
 NRD Michigan - NRS Lansing  
 NRD Nashville - NRS Columbia  
 NRD New England - NRS Schenectady  
 NTAG New Orleans - TAOC - Detachment Baton Rouge  
 NRD New York - NRS Hempstead  
 NRD Ohio - NRS Lexington

NRD Philadelphia - Virtual Recruiting Station  
 NRD Phoenix - NRS Saguaro Valley  
 NRD Pittsburgh - NRS Erie  
 NTAG Portland - TAOC - Rip City  
 NRD Raleigh - NRS Jacksonville  
 NRD Richmond - NRS Lynchburg  
 NTAG Rocky Mountain - TAOC - Ogden  
 NRD San Antonio - NRS Dezavala  
 NRD San Diego - NRS Henderson  
 NRD San Francisco - NRS Daly City  
 NRD Seattle - NRS North Anchorage  
 NRD St. Louis - NRS Springfield

## From the Archives

*The Navy Recruiter October 1986*

### Sail Omaha



*left:* USS Hazard was designated a National Historical Landmark in 1986

Story and photo by Journalist 2nd Class Alan Skripsky, Navy Recruiting District Omaha

When Lynn Weinfurter graduated from Omaha's Benson High School in 1985, she never imagined that one day she would be standing on the deck of a ship at sea. But on July 3, 1986 she reported for duty aboard the repair ship USS Jason (AR-8) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. According to Seaman Weinfurter, her interest in the Navy as a possible career was sparked by a visit to the USS Hazard, a World War II mine sweeper in Omaha's Freedom Park. The Hazard, which was towed up the Missouri River and dry-docked in the sand, was designated a national landmark in 1986.

"After visiting the Hazard with my mother, I told her

that I wanted to be part of the Navy and its tradition," the 19-year-old sailor said. In October 1985, Weinfurter visited Petty Officer 1st Class Ray Cole in downtown Omaha and shortly thereafter signed her first enlistment contract. She completed recruit training in Orlando, Fla. in May 1986 and attended the Navy's apprenticeship training for shipboard orientation, also in Orlando.

Some people may think a ship stranded in sand just outside of Omaha is out of place. But as an extra recruiting tool, USS Hazard is right where it ought to be, capturing the attention of prospective sailors and calling them to the sea.

## Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters For May 2018

NRD Chicago - ETN2 David Anderson  
 NRD Dallas - MM1 Jonas Garcia  
 NRD Houston - FC2 Carl Miller  
 NRD Jacksonville - QM2 Abbe Beaston  
 NRD Los Angeles - EM2 Zhong Yang  
 NRD Miami - CS2 Daniel I. Ramos  
 NRD Michigan - DC2(SW) Ethan L. Retland  
 NRD Nashville - STS1(SS) Robert Koontz  
 NRD New England - EMN1 Stephen Snider  
 NTAG New Orleans - Sales - MNC(SW) Henry Glen  
     Sourcing - NC1 Nasir Islam  
     Assessing - EM2(SW) Manuel Martinez  
     Onboarding - MA2 Christopher Pierce  
 NRD New York - GSE2 Johnathan M. Bragaglia  
 NRD Ohio - GSM2 Eathon Mosher  
 NRD Philadelphia - CS2(SS) Erik R. Schnitzenbaumer  
 NRD Phoenix - IC2 Alexius Russel

NRD Pittsburgh - GSM2(SW) Marcus Walker  
 NTAG Portland - Sales - AE1(AW) Carlos A. Salinas  
     Sourcing - NC1(SW) David Anderson  
     Assessing - EM1(SW) Jacob W. Eastman  
     Onboarding - DC1(SW) Daniel M. Mancine  
 NRD Raleigh - GM2 Jackson Covington  
 NRD Richmond - HT1 Michael T. Wilson  
 NTAG Rocky Mountain - Sales - IC2 Walter Wenzel  
     Sourcing - MA2 Joshua Yates  
     Assessing - ET2 Boston Hastings  
     Onboarding - EN1 Nicholas Juliano  
 NRD San Antonio - GM1(SW) John L. Rentz  
 NRD San Diego - GSE1 Richard Klempin  
 NRD San Francisco - EN1(SW) Larissa V. Guarino  
 NRD Seattle - MM2 David Talkington  
 NRD St. Louis - ET1(SW) Branden D. Boatwright

## The District's Top Stations For May 2018

NRD Chicago - NRS Wausau  
 NRD Dallas - NRS Tulsa South  
 NRD Houston - NRS Huntsville  
 NRD Jacksonville - NRS Kissimmee  
 NRD Los Angeles - NRS Guam  
 NRD Miami - NRS Port St. Lucie  
 NRD Michigan - NRS Muskegon  
 NRD Nashville - NRS Morristown  
 NRD New England - NRS Danvers  
 NTAG New Orleans - TAOC Baton Rouge  
 NRD New York - NRS Tinton Falls  
 NRD Ohio - NRS Columbus East

NRD Philadelphia - NRS Lansdale  
 NRD Phoenix - NRS Tempe  
 NRD Pittsburgh - NRS Tonawanda  
 NTAG Portland - TAOC Outlaws of Reno  
 NRD Raleigh - NRS Anderson  
 NRD Richmond - Newport News  
 NTAG Rocky Mountain - TAOC Longmont  
 NRD San Antonio - NRS Dezavala  
 NRD San Diego - NRS Temecula  
 NRD San Francisco - NRS American Canyon  
 NRD Seattle - NRS Skagit Valley  
 NRD St. Louis - NRS Springfield



[www.cnrc.navy.mil/navy-recruiter-magazine](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/navy-recruiter-magazine)

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