NAVY RECRUITER

Future of the Fleet

Esports Team Applications Taken

Pages 16-17

Sailors Swarm C2E2 Comic-Con Chicago

Pages 20-21

Finding Success in the Sea Cadets

Pages 22-24

January - March 2020
Vol. 68 No. 1

AMERICA'S NAVY
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From the Admiral

Rear Admiral Brendan R. McLane
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

Recruiting Nation!

Serving as your leader in Navy recruiting has been a great honor. We have accomplished many amazing things over the last two years and you should all be extremely proud. In FY18, we shipped 39,018 and FY19 we shipped another 39,027 future Sailors in the toughest recruiting environment ever. During a booming economy and the lowest unemployment rate since before the all-volunteer force was established, we still succeeded. Thank you all for your unwavering dedication to our recruiting mission!

This quarter we experienced challenges that required our enterprise to be agile. We continue to challenge you with transformation, swarms, goal shifts, weekly shipping and many new policy and program changes and you rise to the challenge. We shifted to a 100% digital market, introduced our esports initiative, and set a new standard for ourselves in all aspects of recruiting.

From decreasing federal budgets to an evolving global pandemic, you answered the call and never let the quality of your work or your commitment to our future Sailors suffer. As we move forward, I want each of you to know that WHAT YOU DO MATTERS! There are more challenges on the horizon, especially with our evolving response to COVID-19. Recruiting is an essential military mission, and we have taken the steps to make that mission through transformation, virtual prospecting, teleworking and the use of social media. We are prepared to continue the mission through the crisis. I appreciate your flexibility as we navigate this situation and its effects on mission readiness.

Although many events are on hold during this volatile time, we must still focus on the future: standardizing DEP PT; moving away from Web RTools and toward Salesforce; continuing with the acceleration of onboarding; and the esports initiative. We do all of this to ensure you have the tools necessary to keep doing what we ask of you. You are recruiting your own replacements and the future of our Navy and I couldn't be more proud. Please continue to take care of each other and lead by example. You are inspiring lives and transforming civilians into Sailors, who are our best asset and our greatest strength.

God bless you all and God bless America!

Rear Admiral Brendan R. McLane
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

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FRONT COVER:

A Navy esports team player holds a game controller while wearing the new Navy esports team jersey, March 20, 2020. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Austin Breum)

BACK COVER:

Coast Guard assets, along with New York Police Department and New York Fire Department assets, provide a security escort for the USNS Comfort arrival into New York Harbor, March 30, 2020. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class John Q. Hightower)

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Navy Recruiter encourages the submission of "Letters to the Editor" and articles expressing the opinion of individuals in the Navy recruiting community. All submissions must be signed. Send submissions to: elijah.g.leinaar@navy.mil

National Chief Recruiter's Rudder

A note from your NCR regarding COVID-19

We wanted to take some time to ensure that each of you have the resources you need during this unprecedented event. We at Navy Recruiting Command have never been impacted by something of this magnitude and our response requires flexibility and quick thinking as changes come rapidly. Please use the following websites to stay up to date on the latest information:

My NAVY HR: https://www.facebook.com/MyNAVYHR/

COVID 19: https://www.facebook.com/CDC/

Navy Live: https://navylive.dodlive.mil/2019/07/25/2019-personnel-and-policy-changes/

Many of you may get overwhelmed with questions that cannot be answered. Information is changing so quickly that we need to ensure we refer all of our Sailors to the above three websites, and we must update our local chain of command with situations regarding Sailors and their families.

In the links below are the COVID 19 screening questionnaires currently being used by RTC. If a future Sailor/Officer or applicant answers in the affirmative, refer them to a health care provider and avoid face-to-face interaction until cleared by a competent medical authority.

https://sites.google.com/view/recruitingetoolbox/hr-covid-19-resources?authuser=0

https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/news.htm

We have never faced a challenge like this and we are learning as we go. By leveraging today's technology, it's possible to still prospect and create Navy awareness. In the links above, there is information that will help you overcome social distancing, closed schools and cancelled social gatherings.

Now is the perfect time to update all social media platforms. Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and Facebook can be a lot to handle with the constant pace of recruiting, but now we can take some time and make our photos and content current. We encourage you to read the attachments in the links above to help improve your skills as more of us are required to telework.

Again, this is an unprecedented event that is changing every minute. Please stay patient as we work to provide updated information to the field. Our thoughts are with each and every Sailor, civilian team member and their families during this trying time. Always remain vigilant and agile, and I thank you for what you do each and every day.

Here's some information on how COVID-19 works.

- Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases
- Common symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure
- Fever above 100.4 °F, dry cough, fatigue, productive cough and shortness of breath
- Less common symptoms are sore throat, headache, joint/muscle aches, chills and nausea/vomiting
- Infection without symptoms has been reported, but it is thought to be rare
- Complications can include pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, organ failure and death
- Personnel who recently traveled to the following CDC restricted countries are considered high risk for exposure and should be quarantined as of 05 March 2020: South Korea, Iran, Italy, Japan and Hong Kong
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is airborne
- Infectious for several hours – worst the first hour
- Mostly dissipated by 3-4 hours
- Lives on cardboard for 24 hours (don't open packages right away)
- Lives on other surfaces for 72 hours

Commanders must stay abreast of local COVID-19 conditions and manage staffing to prevent exposure; this involves identifying essential and non-essential personnel. Maximize use of electronic and telecommunications assets (i.e. telework) whenever possible.

Recruiters must mitigate exposure risk when screening applicants and future Sailors before face-to-face interaction; for this, use the following screening questions.

- Do you have a fever (100.4 °F), and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough and/or shortness of breath)?
- In the past 14 days since first onset of symptoms, have you traveled to a CDC level 2 or 3 designated area?
- In the past 14 days since the first onset of symptoms, have you traveled in the continental United States to geographical areas with reported cases?
- Have you been in contact with a person known to have COVID-19?

NCCM Frank Tiongco

CNRC Welcomes Aboard New CMC

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Austin J. Breum, Navy Recruiting Command

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) received a new command master chief (CMC) Feb. 3.

Command Master Chief Ricardo Moreyra relieved Command Master Chief Donald Charbonneau as CNRC's newest CMC.

CNRC is Moreyra's third tour as a CMC having prior served as CMC of Navy Recruiting District Miami and CMC aboard the USS Kearsage (LHD 3). Moreyra joined CNRC after coming off of an extensive deployment with Kearsage.

"I was excited to be a candidate for CMC at CNRC because I wanted to come back to recruiting and see the process of transformation," said Moreyra. "One of the visions I have for CNRC is to complete transformation by 2023."

Moreyra is excited to be a part of the future of Navy recruiting and see the transformation process to the end. He hopes to enhance the quality of life for Sailors in the recruiting community while maintaining the Navy's recruiting goal.

"I am here to support the recruiters, the national recruiter, and Navy Recruiting Command to make sure the transformation process goes smoothly and we continue to achieve our goals," said Moreyra. "At the same time I want to give Sailors more time to enable their personal and professional development while still being productive out on the field."

Moreyra hopes to enhance Sailors' work-life balance and ensure they maintain the highest levels of professionalism as they recruit the best and brightest future Sailors for the Navy.

"I believe if you do the right thing, and you work hard, you will be rewarded," said Moreyra. "I look forward to meeting Sailors in recruiting and hearing their success stories."

Navy Recruiting Command consists of a command headquarters, two Navy Recruiting Regions, 15 Navy Recruiting Districts and 11 Navy Talent Acquisition Groups that serve more than 815 recruiting stations across the world. Their combined goal is to attract the highest quality candidates to assure the ongoing success of America's Navy.

Navy EOD Seeking OCS Applicants for September 2020 Board

Story by Navy Recruiting Command

The Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Community is seeking highly motivated officer candidates for their annual Officer Candidate School (OCS) accession board, which will be held in September 2020. The application is due by Aug. 7 and is open to both civilians and fleet transfers who have completed a bachelor's degree.

Interested civilian candidates should contact their local officer recruiter to begin the OCS application. Fleet candidates should submit required information in accordance with the Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Program (OPNAVINST 1420.1B). In addition to the standard officer application process, both civilian and fleet officer candidates must complete an EOD Warfare physical screening test as well as an interview and assessment with an EOD officer.

Cmdr. Nicholas Quihuis, the community manager for EOD officers, recommends that candidates begin preparing their applications now as the board is only held once a year and is competitive. He said the ideal candidates are strong in mind and body and ready to serve the Navy as a commissioned officer.

"As one of the five unrestricted line warfare communities, we are looking for officer candidates with an agile mind who can excel in any critical role they are placed in," said Quihuis.

Quihuis also recommends that interested officer candidates contact him via email (nicholas.r.quihuis@navy.mil) to learn more about the community, arrange for an officer interview and schedule their physical fitness assessment at the nearest EOD command or Navy Talent Acquisition Group.

Navy EOD officers are charged with small-unit leadership and receive specialized training to handle chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive weapons to clear explosive hazards on land, at sea and under the sea. They work closely with special operations forces and conventional forces to provide access and maneuverability to achieve their missions. The intelligence they gather from rendering safe foreign weaponry can be used to paint accurate intelligence pictures to defeat networks and deter future threats.

Quihuis said the EOD community is tight-knit and looks for humble, problem-solving, physically fit and mentally tough men and women who desire to serve their country and are willing to work toward creating an environment where America is undeterred by the threat of explosives.

"Right now, we are developing the future of the EOD force to face threats associated with great power competition," said Quihuis. "We need servant leaders and quiet professionals who can conceptualize the tactical and strategic impacts that the EOD community makes every day in defense of our nation."

ROCKINGHAM, Australia (Nov. 13, 2019) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 2nd Class Jackson Johnson, from Dade City, Florida (right), and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 3rd Class Timothy Hekker, from Stony Point, New York, assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Five (EODMU5) prepare to use a lift balloon to recover a simulated mine during a mine-countermeasures training evolution as part of exercise Dugong 2019. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Julio Rivera)

ROCKINGHAM, Australia (Nov. 13, 2019) Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Five (EODMU5) prepare to locate an underwater training mine during exercise Dugong 2019. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Julio Rivera)

Eye on the Field

LOS ANGELES (Jan. 20, 2020) U.S. Navy recruiters "high five" attendees at Six Flags Magic Mountain, Los Angeles, during Navy Recruiting Command's Swarm Los Angeles evolution. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Jarrett)

DALLAS, Texas (Jan. 20, 2020) Chief Navy Counselor Tony Murphy, director of community outreach for Navy Recruiting District Dallas, meets members of the public during a parade held in honor of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Grant P. Ammon)

Eye on the Fleet

ARABIAN SEA (March 6, 2020) Seaman Edward Hogan, from Kildeer, Illinois, stands phone talker watch on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) during a replenishment-at-sea in the Arabian Sea. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kelsey Trinh)

ARABIAN SEA (Feb. 24, 2020) Ensign Danny Samson, assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Normandy (CG 60), from Columbus, Ohio, takes the bearing of the dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6), not pictured, as Normandy makes its approach for a replenishment-at-sea. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael H. Lehman)

Navy Recruiters Swarm Los Angeles

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Richard Perez

(Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Jarrett)

LOS ANGELES (NNS) – Recruiters from Navy Recruiting Command, and top regional and national recruiters from Navy Recruiting Districts and Navy Talent Acquisition Groups, teamed with the Navy's mobile virtual reality asset, the Burke, comprised a swarming team, that visited 25 high schools and participated in three community outreach events to bring Navy awareness to Los Angeles Jan. 20-26.

The Los Angeles Unified School District is the second largest in the country and introducing them to 113 recruiters from around the nation is a huge undertaking.

"Los Angeles is a great market for strong candidates," said Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Allard. "In California the school systems are rich in academic excellence so the swarm is a great method for uniformed service members to showcase Navy opportunities to students."

In a city with more than 4 million residents, the recruiters have two primary goals. The first is to recruit future Sailors and the second is to bring outreach to the city. Los Angeles is a thriving city with many job and career opportunities. The swarm team's goal is instrumental in highlighting the benefits of naval service, and creating Navy mission awareness in the community.

"We're here to open peoples' eyes to other options and opportunities that other career paths may not offer," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Faustina Deguzman, assigned to Navy Recruiting District Phoenix.

Overcoming Hollywood stereotypes of the military and educating a city filled with pop culture and movie-made perceptions can be a challenge to the nation's best recruiters.

"The students out here reminded me of myself; highly motivated, but lacking the knowledge of opportunities that many youth aren't aware of," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Joshua Yates. "I pushed them to ask themselves, where their money was at; a metaphor I use when I show them the Navy has a bank full of opportunities to cash in on."

The city is a melting pot of people and cultures. The Navy advocates diversity as a tool that strengthens its forces, and it is one of its key elements in being the world's greatest Navy. Through community outreach and recruiting events like Swarm Los Angeles, Navy Recruiting Command plans to bring in future Sailors that reflect America's diverse population.

The Navy plans on swarming Chicago, Illinois, next and will continue to hold swarming operations in support of the Navy the nation needs.

Damage Controlman 1st Class Veronica Scott, assigned to Navy Recruiting Command, speaks to Carson High School students about Navy career opportunities.

U.S. Navy recruiters "high five" attendees at Six Flags Magic Mountain, Los Angeles during Navy Recruiting Command's Swarm Los Angeles evolution.

A Shop Full of Pride

Story and photos by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson, Navy Recruiting Command

▲ Machinist's Mate 2nd Class James Walls (right) assists Personnel Specialist Seaman Apprentice Guilherme Carvalho with the Personalized Recruiting for Immediate and Delayed Enlistment module.

▶ Senior leadership in the Personalized Recruiting for Immediate and Delayed Enlistment (PRIDE) office review available jobs for Military Entrance Processing Stations.

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) - Tucked away in a corner office space at Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) in Millington, Tennessee, sits a maze of cubicles. In the center is an open area where a collection of seven desks sit. Rising above this area is a large laminate sign emboldened with the word PRIDE. This is where the Personalized Recruiting for Immediate and Delayed Enlistment (PRIDE) staff are located.

PRIDE is the portion of CNRC that helps Navy classifiers at Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) give jobs to incoming Sailors. Data from applicants, including their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores and education level, is uploaded into the PRIDE system to determine eligibility for different jobs in the Navy.

This small office of only seven personnel is responsible for disseminating the thousands of jobs the Navy needs to fill throughout all the MEPS' nationwide. PRIDE receives its job quotas from Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), and their needs are uploaded into the PRIDE database where MEPS personnel are able to track what is available.

"Imagine a stock exchange, but instead of stocks, we control the buying and selling of jobs," said Lt. Robert Slye, the PRIDE branch head. "The Navy tells us what jobs and rates they want to fill, we get those and put them in the system for the field to see and buy."

This means that every applicant who visits a MEPS and is offered a job is indirectly interacting with the personnel at PRIDE. However, contrary to popular belief, the PRIDE office is not directly in control of what jobs are available at any given point in time. They are simply in charge of the system that enables classifiers to give jobs to future Sailors.

Slye stated that he would like to clarify that PRIDE does not hold back or reserve jobs from classifiers.

"I get the jobs from NETC and I open those up for the field," said Slye. "We put out what we can, that's reasonable, and that we know is certain. We support the field in knowing what's out there and what's available."

Being in charge of the system that allows classifiers to see what jobs are available is one part of what PRIDE does. They also help upload data from applicants, including their ASVAB scores and education level, which are updated in the PRIDE system to determine eligibility for different jobs and enlistment bonuses in the Navy.

They also offer support to MEPS' nationwide through their operators, enlisted personnel who answer calls, who are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Standard Time. The operators provide help for a wide range of issues encountered in the field. They can help classifiers upload ASVAB scores into the system, provide information on eligibility for enlistment bonuses, and approve various cut-score waivers.

Cut-score waivers allow entrants who might not have scored high enough on the ASVAB to qualify for jobs if certain criteria are met. These waivers are handled on a case-by-case basis and are reviewed and approved by PRIDE personnel.

"It really depends on the call or what the classifier needs, but there are some things that we cannot do," said Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Jennifer Rodriguezpacheco. "If a person doesn't qualify for jobs we can't just make something available for them. Whenever there is something that we can do to make the process easier, then we do it. We get to help people who really want to join and eventually may get to work with them once we go back out to the fleet."

▲ Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Athena Obregon reviews job requirements for a detailer who called into the Personalized Recruiting for Immediate and Delayed Enlistment.

PRIDE shop is manned during all hours of the day. This includes late nights on Fridays when MEPS stations nationwide are working past normal hours to ensure they've met the week's goal. However, with such a small office, PRIDE is unable to answer every call immediately as they are fielding calls from all 65 MEPS at any given time, a point Slye wants to make clear.

"People think it's a huge building with hundreds of people, but it's literally a little bitty cubicle section with about seven people. That's it," said Slye. "So if you have a wait time, it's because we're serving the whole nation with very few people."

PRIDE shop offers a bit of advice for future Sailors who might have their minds set on a specific job for their naval career. The jobs are listed at the beginning of the month and are taken on a first come, first serve basis. That means that prospective Sailors have a greater chance of receiving the job they want within the first two weeks of the month.

◀ Members of the Personalized Recruiting for Immediate and Delayed Enlistment team pose for a group picture in their office.

Every Sailor, A Recruiter; Every Reserve Center, A Recruiting Station

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Jarrett, Navy Recruiting Command

▲Navy Recruiter, Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) 2nd Class Colin England from Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, speaks to students at Hamburg High School during the Philadelphia Swarm. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson)

Walking into a Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC), one can learn a lot about the Navy Reserve. These centers provide training, administration, logistic, medical and operational support to all Navy Reserve personnel across the globe. But up until recently, the one thing this one-stop shop couldn't provide, was a way into the reserve.

To close the gap, and better achieve the Chief of Naval Personnel's fiscal year 20 goals for MyNavyHR, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) placed recruiters in NOSCs around the nation.

"Quite frankly, having recruiters continuously working in close proximity with NOSC staff directly supports the strategic design of Naval Education and Training Command (NETC)," said Rear Adm. Robert C. Nowakowski, Deputy Commander, Navy Recruiting Command. "It provides a mechanism to more actively and routinely engage civilians and Active, Reserve and Full Time Support (FTS) Sailors to share experiences, knowledge, opportunities and benefits."

By placing recruiters in NOSCs, CNRC hopes to participate in more local market recruiting, partner with NOSC staff in a unity to align the proper assets to the proper markets, and maximize outreach by engaging in community events and efforts. They are also hoping to introduce Sailors coming off active duty to the opportunities available to them in the reserves. This is particularly effective in fleet concentration areas.

"The placement of a reserve recruiter in the building has been a welcome addition to the NOSC Pearl Harbor family," said Cmdr. JoAnn O'Beirne, commanding officer, NOSC Pearl Harbor. "Being in a fleet concentration area, the added reserve recruiting presence has provided a direct line for active-duty Sailors to seamlessly transition to the reserves once they leave active duty. It has been a huge win to have a person who can reach out to local commands and engage with the Sailors face-to-face ensuring they get their questions answered, and making the transition process from the active to the reserve component less complicated and more personable."

To win in today's competitive environment, Nowakowski said it is imperative that we adapt our processes to ensure that every component of the Navy's Force Development enterprise transforms to become better, faster and more effective.

"Every Sailor matters," said Nowakowski. "We must act with precision and exquisite coordination in every aspect of our daily business."

"This isn't a new concept," said Cmdr. Del Gray, director for Prior Service Accessions. "Before 2006, this was something the Navy was already doing. But in 2006 there was a large active component/reserve component integration that merged all recruiting functions under CNRC, and pulled recruiters out of the NOSC's and into recruiting stations."

However, over the past decade CNRC discovered that the best rate of return for reserve center placement is in markets where reservists are located, and that meant putting reserve recruiters back into the NOSCs. This allows the recruiter to leverage reservists, educating them on different commissioning and affiliation programs. This allows reservists to be force multipliers and contribute to the reserve mission.

Active-duty Sailors who serve less than eight years will transition to the Navy Reserve in some capacity in order to finish out their military service obligations, so they will come through a reserve center. It is there that recruiters are hoping to educate them about the benefits of the Selected Reserve (SELRES), vice the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR).

Benefits of joining the SELRES directly after serving on active duty include:

- No break in service
- Smooth transition to the reserves
- Career transition office direct assistance
- Transitional Assistance Management Program medical benefits

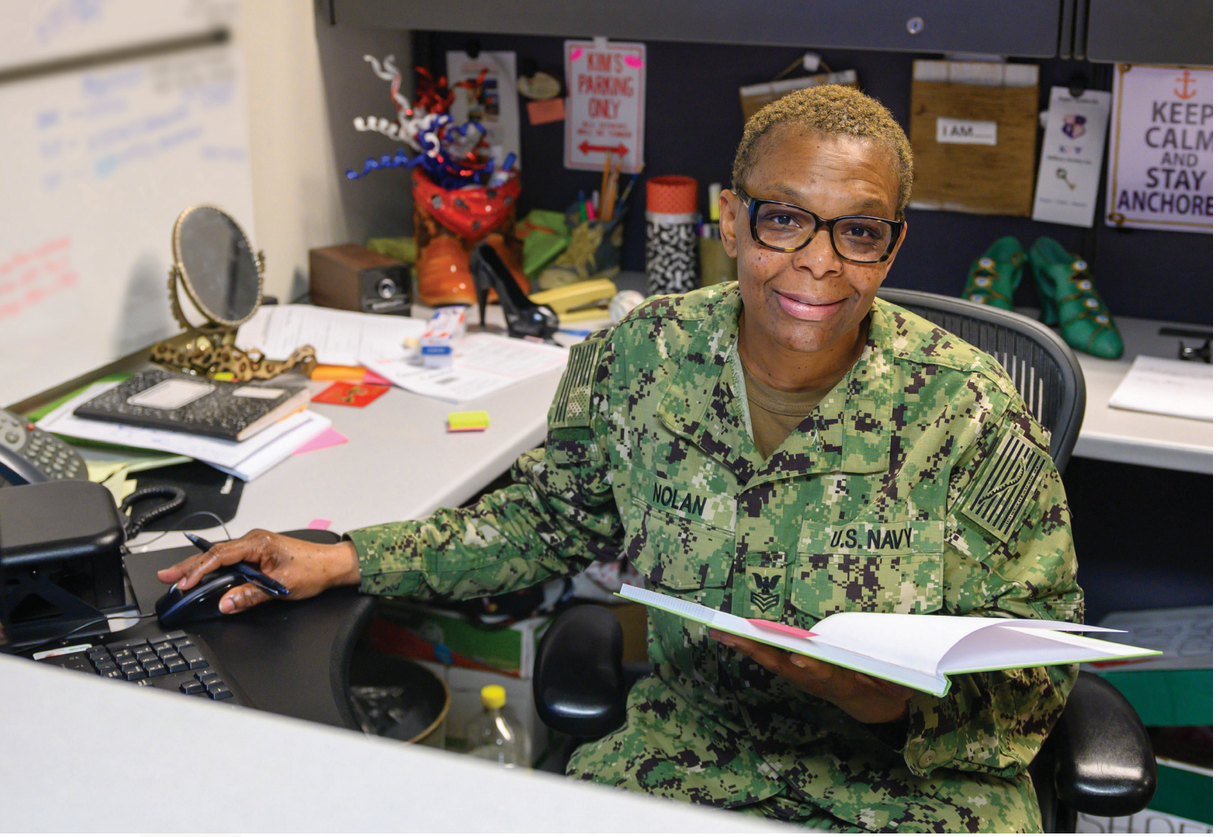
Benefits of joining SELRES vs. IRR

- 48 paid drill days and two weeks paid annual training per year
- Reserve retirement
- Low cost medical and dental coverage
- Education benefits
- Personal and professional development and support
- Base privileges

For those active-duty Sailors who fulfill their Military Service Obligation, they are not required to transition through a reserve center. However, with recruiters not only working side by side with active-duty members, but also educating all Sailors passing through about the benefits of joining the Navy Reserve, each of those Sailors is now equipped with the knowledge and can become centers of influence. Those Sailors can pass the information to friends and prior coworkers still serving, contributing to the "every Sailor is a recruiter" initiative and allowing the reserve force to spread their message to a broader audience.

"I do believe it has been a worthwhile initiative to place these recruiters back in the NOSCs and focus solely on reserve recruiting goals," said O'Beirne. "In a time when recruiting must concentrate on the current active-duty manning shortfalls to maintain a more lethal force; we must not lose sight of our sailors leaving active service. A dedicated reserve recruiting presence is key to reaching active-duty Sailors before they separate. This allows us to educate them on the benefits of serving in a reserve capacity; while ensuring as a total force we retain the investment we have made in our trained Sailors who still have a propensity to serve."

▼Navy Recruiter, Electronics Technician (Nuclear) 1st Class Stephen Bugaj from Naval Recruiting District Philadelphia, gives a presentation and speaks to students at Hamburg High School during the Philadelphia Swarm. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson)



Sailor's Kindness Shines Despite Adversity

Courtesy Story, Navy Recruiting Command

Quartermaster 1st Class Kimberly Nolan poses for a photo as she works from her office space at Navy Recruiting Command. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Austin J. Breum)

Quartermaster 1st Class Kimberly Nolan helps organize Navy Recruiting Command's summer picnic. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zachary Eshleman)

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) – "Your risk of breast cancer has increased to 100%," the breast (cancer) surgeon told Kimberly Nolan, a Quartermaster 1st Class in the Navy Reserve.

That was the kind of drastic, life-altering news that Nolan was not prepared to hear. However, like most things in Nolan's life, she faced it head on, looking for the blessing amidst the beast; and she found it. Not long after Nolan was pronounced cancer free, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I truly, truly believe that when we go through things, it's not for us. It's for someone else," said Nolan. "God is preparing us to assist someone else. I had to be her strength."

Nolan, now working as a chaplain's assistant for Navy Recruiting Command (NRC), has spent her life using her strength and experience to uplift those around her.

Nolan recalled attending LaRose Elementary School in Memphis when she was a young girl. She said she had a teacher who made all of the students in her class recite the poem "Mother to Son," by Langston Hughes every day after the morning announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance. At the time, she had no idea just how meaningful that poem would be throughout her life.

"Now as I look back on it, she was really telling a story," Nolan said. "It's a mother speaking to her son and letting him know the struggles she had – letting him know that "yes, I've had it hard, but when you find it hard, don't you sit down. Don't you stop. Because I'm still going. I'm still climbing. Because life for me, it ain't been no crystal stair."

Nolan's parents divorced when she was a teenager in middle school. After that, she watched her mother raise her and her two younger siblings as she worked two full-time jobs and even overtime when able. Her mother was her heroine, which undoubtedly shaped her understanding of the word.

"My personal definition of a hero/heroine is basically a person who puts themselves last to help someone else," said Nolan. "It's a selfless person who goes outside themselves to help others without a second thought."

The strength Nolan's mother embodied during her childhood was instrumental in Nolan raising her four boys as a single parent. The poem she recited every day in elementary school made more sense with each passing day, especially after becoming a mother. Despite life's difficulties and her responsibilities as a mother and a Sailor, Nolan had something in her heart that longed to do more and help others.

"I like to pour kindness into other people," Nolan said. "When you can pour into other people, it makes them feel that they can go on to a brighter tomorrow – that there is hope for tomorrow. I just feel it's a need to help others. I truly do. I just feel like what the world needs now is love. People will remember how you made them feel. An act of kindness goes a long way."

At NRC, her kindness is ubiquitous. From handing out treats to planning the next holiday party as a part of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) committee, she's always extending herself. Her care for the morale and wellbeing of her fellow Sailors led her to create the "positivity energy lounge," which she dubbed Café La Rue. The energy lounge is a break area where people can come to relax and let their stress disappear.

"You can tell that she cares a great deal for the people in her life – professionally and personally," said Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brandon Woods. "I would go so far as to say that she is the command's spirit and morale!"

Nolan has especially left an impression on those who work closely with her every day.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Petty Officer Nolan for over a year now, and the selfless nature with which she works is one that is exhibited by very few," said Lt. Cmdr. Christopher West, program manager of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Candidate Program. "She truly has a heart for serving, and has a very unique gift of hospitality. She gives back to the community through her serving as a mentor for incarcerated females, helping them to prepare for their return to the general population after release, and further giving them guidance after they are released to ensure that they do not make the same mistakes that led to their incarceration. She also serves our command in a variety of avenues. She has served the MWR committee, as well as on various cultural committees. It is a pleasure working with her, and witnessing her heart for service!"

Even after a routine mammogram in 2016 that led to a biopsy and subsequent surgery, Nolan stayed focused on how her breast cancer diagnosis would affect her family, not her. For years after the surgery Nolan experienced a seemingly never-ending loop of scares and follow-ups. Scares she experienced ranged from having a breast surgeon tell her that her risk of breast cancer had increased to 100% to finding out she had a cyst the size of a golf ball.

Despite the toll it took on her, Nolan was more concerned about her loved ones than anything else.

"I was thinking about my children," she said. "Everybody can say that I'll do this, and I'll do that, but nobody does it like mom."

Luckily, Nolan had a moment of clarity after the surgery. It was then that she realized how to push herself forward down the painful road of recovery. The first thing was not to get the prescribed painkillers filled.

"They are still in paper form to this day," she chuckled. "That was my fight or flight time. I didn't want to give up. I feel like everything starts in your mind. You either do it or you don't. You either can or you won't. I think I can, I think I can, I know I can. So I told myself that I have to fight."

She kept the pain to make sure she never lost focus of what mattered most.

"Pain over matter," said Nolan. "I had to be there for my children."

And then she had to be there for her mother.

Now with Nolan and her mother both cancer free, Nolan can give back to herself from time to time. She has participated in poetry enactments where people don costumes and bring their favorites to life. Nolan recalled, "One time I gave an amazing performance of 'Mother to Son' by Langston Hughes, with hope that somehow my dream of acting in Hollywood would come true."

Whether that is destined to happen, only time will tell. In the meantime, Nolan is already a star to those around her – and brighter than most.

Esports Team Applications Taken

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Zachary S. Eshleman, Navy Recruiting Command

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) – With the release of NAVADMIN 048/20, Navy Recruiting Command (NRC) has officially launched the first Navy esports team, Goats&Glory. Esports is part of NRC's initiatives to reach the next generation of Sailors in a digital environment.

Skilled gamers from across the fleet are invited to apply for a spot on the team. The next window for submissions to join the team will be March 15 through May 1, 2020. Applicants must be experienced gamers and meet the qualifications to be a recruiter.

It's open to any Sailor who is E-4 and above, within Body Composition Assessment standards and who has passed the last three years of regularly scheduled physical fitness tests.

Detailed requirements are listed within MILPERSMAN 1306-964 and on Commander, Navy Recruiting Command's (CNRC) website at www.cnrc.navy.mil/ESPORTS/index-esports.htm. When the submission window opens, a link will be provided on that website to allow Sailors to apply.

The team will be focused on competing in the game Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, but Sailors who are talented at other games are welcome to apply, and they will also be able to compete in individual events and stream other games online.

NRC's goal is to promote awareness and understanding of the Navy's mission and opportunities by keeping an ongoing presence in youth culture. By obtaining this cultural relevance, NRC hopes it's Sailors will become more relatable to the public, opening a door to conversations and thought about naval service.

"Like the Navy, esports is a competitive environment that requires loyalty, teamwork, effective communication under pressure and a strong commitment to continual improvement," says Rear Admiral Brendan McLane. "By aligning with unique gamers, streamers and leaders in the popular esports space, the Navy will improve relatability with prospective Sailors and be able to better share sea stories about Navy life."

Potential selectees will be further screened for the team, and upon approval, they will receive orders to CNRC in Millington, Tennessee. En route from their current command, they will also be sent to Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit in Pensacola, Florida, to develop the skills required to be a Navy recruiter.

The Navy's esports campaign kicked off on Feb. 20, 2020 at DreamHack Anaheim, where the Navy's esports ambassadors played one-on-one with gamers, challenging them to a variety of games and getting a foot in the door of this culture. This was the first step in testing the environment and the Navy's plan to get involved.

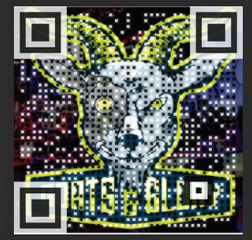
This is an unprecedented opportunity for Sailors, and it represents the innovations necessary to recruit the Navy the nation needs in a challenging and ever-changing environment.

Navy Recruiting Command consists of a command headquarters, two Navy Recruiting Regions, 15 Navy Recruiting Districts and 11 Navy Talent Acquisition Groups that serve more than 815 recruiting stations across the world. Their combined goal is to attract the highest quality candidates to assure the ongoing success of America's Navy.

GOATS & GLORY - The Navy's Official Esports Team

Goats have sailed with the Navy on ships for centuries. They're hearty voyagers and one of the few animals who can keep their sea legs steady even in the roughest storms. So, when it comes to entering a new world, goats are a trusted shipmate to bring ashore. Goats&Glory is the Navy's first venture into the esports arena, where globally-recognized teams are competing in the most popular video games. Our team is meant to showcase the skill and excellence of our United States Sailors at the top game titles, while helping to support national recruiting efforts of America's Navy.

Navy Goat History



▼ Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Andrew Crosswhite plays video games during DreamHack Anaheim.

Ohio High Schoolers Enlist During Columbus Swarm

Courtesy Story, Navy Recruiting Command

MILLINGTON, Tenn. — Eighteen-year-old Dennis Fox did not have big dreams of joining the Navy. But, as he sat in the lunch room listening to a recruiter speak, he felt something shift. With big blue eyes and purple hair, he may have seemed like an unlikely recruit. A few days later he made history as one of the earliest future Sailors to ever sign a contract during a Navy swarm, which brought top recruiters from across the United States to Columbus, Ohio, March 1-7.

The goal of a swarm is to promote the Navy's mission and strengthen ties with local communities throughout the recruiting area. It is a strategy Navy recruiting has been using for the last year, and it is a strategy that connected Fox with a previously unimagined future.

"I was looking for something that would help me financially, while also allowing me to travel," said Fox, a senior at Preble Shawnee High School in Camden, Ohio. "Toward the end of the presentation I knew the Navy was the right fit for me and would give me an opportunity to build my future."

Fox wasn't the only one who decided to join during the Columbus Swarm. Samantha Everhart, whose father and grandfather both served in the Navy, also decided the Navy was the right choice for her.

Everhart, a music lover and a senior at Licking Heights High School in Pataskala, Ohio, was planning to go to technical college to learn instrument repair, but changed her mind after hearing a recruiter talk about the Navy.

"My dad was in the Navy," said Everhart. "Once he heard I was interested he said, 'I'm picking you up Tuesday after school.' Then he drove me straight to the recruiting station."

Both Fox and Everhart took their official oath March 5 at Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Ohio River Valley in Columbus. Fox enlisted to become a mineman and Everhart will come in as an information systems technician.

"I have been doing this for four years and it doesn't get old," said Petty Officer 1st Class Tyler Manning, who recruits out of Dayton, Ohio. "The Navy sells itself. I am helping to change lives; that's the joy in the job."

Fox said one of the biggest selling points was that Manning didn't talk bad about the other services or try to discourage him from seeking opportunities in those services.

"I just share my experiences with the students," said Manning. "With the technology available, Google, things like that, it is important to be honest and transparent. All of the information is online, so if I am not truthful, it won't be hard for these students to find that out."

Swarm Columbus was one of the most successful swarms Navy recruiting has done, setting record numbers in presentations, surveys, interviews, appointments and contracts during the actual swarm. Part of that is due to a seven-person E-Talent team focused on following up with every lead in real time.

E-Talent is a team that follows up all leads coming in from the field and social networking sites. As leads come in through surveys, apps, and other online methods, the E-Talent lead filters them, and the team contacts potential Sailors immediately.

"The caliber of leadership in this area contributes to the results we are seeing," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Justin Noble, assistant to the national chief recruiter and a swarm leader. "They provide all of the tools and training necessary to make sure every Sailor is successful. It speaks volumes that we brought the best recruiters from all over the nation, and the Ohio recruiters are still leading the way."

Cmdr. Robert Moran, commanding officer, NTAG Ohio River Valley, said he had little doubt about how his team would perform during the swarm.

"It was all about preparation," said Moran. "We did our best on the front side and it is paying off. I drew a line in the sand that I knew was achievable, and my team sailed past that line. But swarm or no swarm, this is what my team does."

The team began preparing months in advance, deciding which schools to visit, which recruiters to send where, and what areas to concentrate on. Lt. Cmdr. Morgan Didjurgis, the operations officer for NTAG Ohio River Valley, along with the E-Leads director, the Talent Acquisition Operations Command Columbus officer in charge, and other key entities throughout the command, not only had to make those crucial decisions, but they coordinated travel for the local and national recruiters throughout the area of operation. In order to orchestrate an event of this caliber, support is needed from the entire chain of command, said Didjurgis.

"If the entire NTAG sees the event as positive and worth spending their time to prepare for, it is far more likely to go well," added Didjurgis.

Both Fox and Everhart, who will ship to boot camp in September, said they are nervous and excited.

"Overall, this is a great opportunity," said Fox. "I am honored."

However, he knows the purple hair will have to go.

Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley personnel congratulate Dennis Fox, a Preble Shawnee High School student, and Samantha Everhart, a Licking Heights High School student, after swearing in to the U.S. Navy during the Ohio Swarm. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Jarrett)

Lt. Cmdr. Morgan Didjurgis, the operations officer at Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley, gives the oath of enlistment to Dennis Fox, a Preble Shawnee High School student, and Samantha Everhart, a Licking Heights High School student, during the Ohio Swarm. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Jarrett)

Sailors Swarm C2E2 Comic-Con Chicago

Story by Aren Everett, Navy Recruiting District Chicago Public Affairs Office

CHICAGO (NNS) –Navy recruiters from across the country joined forces with Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Chicago recruiters to swarm Chicagoland on a mission dedicated to locate elite candidates who have what it takes to excel in high-demand, cutting-edge fields offered by the world's greatest Navy and increase Navy awareness Feb. 22 – March 1.

"The Navy, like in business, depends on recruiting the best and brightest," said Rear Adm. Brendan R. McLane, Commander of Navy Recruiting Command. "The Navy competes for elite talent with a range of competitors, which is especially challenging during a hot job market."

"We are looking for intelligent, hardworking, and strong-willed individuals who want to be on the cutting edge of innovation," said Chief Navy Counselor Henry Cruz, division leading chief petty officer for Navy Recruiting Station (NRS) Milwaukee. "Currently, we are focused on spreading the word about the opportunities available in nuclear engineering, special warfare, cryptology, intelligence and information systems management."

The swarm officially began with a future Sailor swear-in at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Panther arena during the Milwaukee Admirals hockey game. Vice Adm. Dirk J. Debbink (ret.), from Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, said he was honored to administer the oath of enlistment.

"It was such a great way to start the swarm," said Cruz. "The goal is to completely immerse into the local community and I feel like we were able to accomplish that. The future Sailors got a standing ovation from the crowd; it really helped set the tone for the rest of the week."

After that, the 137-member swarm team came out in force, visiting 31 high schools, five universities, and 11 community outreach events, culminating in the first ever Gaming Zone event at the Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo (C2E2).

"We have a lot of competition for the best people, so we have to make sure we're putting in our best efforts and using every opportunity," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Amber N. Holmes, NRD Chicago recruiter currently stationed at NRS Six Corners and Chicago native. "Getting the chance to set up at C2E2 was a great way to meet a lot of different types of people and be able to show them that there is a place for everyone in the Navy. It was a great experience."

NRD Chicago, part of Navy Recruiting Command, is assigned 61,945 square miles across Northern Illinois, Northwest Indiana, Eastern Wisconsin and the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It includes 46 recruiting stations divided into nine divisions charged with the mission to provide the Navy fleet with the proper quantity and quality of Sailors to keep our Navy and our nation strong.

Rear Admiral Robert Nowakowski and U.S. Navy Recruiters interact with attendees of the Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo during Chicago Swarm. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Austin Breum)

U.S. Navy Recruiters interact with attendees of the Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo during Chicago Swarm. (Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Austin J. Breum and Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson)

Naval Sea Cadet Corps Chief Petty Officer Mason Ayers (center) is capped by Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Kevin Eldredge. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson)

Finding Success in the Sea Cadets

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson, Navy Recruiting Command

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) – Located approximately a mile and half north of Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) in Millington, Tennessee, and across the street from Navy Operational Support Command, Memphis, sits a simple, understated building. The building may not look like much, but big things can be found in this understated package. Approximately 30 Navy Sea Cadets from the BB-43 division come together one weekend a month to practice drill, learn seamanship and understand naval traditions, among other subjects.

According to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) website, the program was established in 1958 under direction from the Department of the Navy by the Navy League of the United States to "create a favorable image of the Navy on the part of the American youth." The organization is officially sponsored by the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard. Although it is not an official branch of CNRC, the program does receive $1.7 million annually from CNRC. They also receive $4.3 million annually from Congress.

"I like the military environment, and I love going to the Sea Cadets trainings," said Chief Petty Officer Mason Ayers, a member of Sea Cadets BB-43 division. "Sea Cadets is a lot of fun, and I suggest that anyone interested in the military, specifically the Navy, tries it out. "

Ayers said he was first inspired to look into military service after watching "The Battle of Midway" when he was five years old. Ayers joined the Sea Cadets at the age of 11, and for the past five years, he has ascended the ranks to become the only chief and highest ranking Sea Cadet currently in his division.

The USNSCC program is divided into two groups. First is the Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC), which is a junior program for individuals aged 10 to 13. NLCC introduces their members to the basics of seamanship and leadership through monthly drill sessions. NLCC prepares their members for entry into the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC).

Children aged 13 through 17 are enrolled in the NSCC who, after completing a two-week recruit training camp, are able to participate in more advanced trainings conducted nationwide. Sea Cadets are also eligible to attend ship visits and participate in the NSCC's International Exchange program, which allows them to visit other Sea Cadet units worldwide.

NSCC simulates a military environment including rank structure. Rank is the same as both the Coast Guard and the Navy where individuals are able to rank up from seaman recruit (E-1) to chief (E-7) through completing time-in-rate requirements and passing examinations. Much like active duty, cadets are required to put in a package to be considered for chief. Some consider making chief in the Sea Cadets equivalent to making Eagle Scout. The package requires a certain number of trainings to be attended before a cadet may rank up.

While the specialized trainings are run by active-duty personnel and professional organizations, the majority of time spent with the cadets will be at their home division. These programs are run entirely by volunteers. Volunteers don't have to be active-duty Sailors or have prior military experience in order to qualify, but for a program like the Sea Cadets, it does help.

This is why volunteers like the husband-and-wife team of Chief Aviation Electronics Technician Jonelle Eldredge and Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Kevin Eldredge can be so valuable to the NSCC divisions. The Eldredge family was inspired to volunteer at the USNSCC after learning about the organization at a previous command. However, at the time, they were unable to volunteer due to the time commitment and unpredictability of being attached to a sea-going command.

Since being stationed in Millington, they have more ability to plan and more time to help improve the community through mentoring youth interested in the Navy.

"A lot of kids come into the program, and they say they didn't really have any

Naval Sea Cadet Corps Chief Petty Officer (Select) Mason Ayers (right) is counseled in the admin office of United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps division BB-43. United States. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson)

confidence, or they were out of shape and the program has helped them to understand what to do to improve," said Jonelle Eldredge. "It's a place that allows them to mature because we do expect a lot out of them."

BB-43 division had no active-duty Sailors volunteering prior to the Eldredge's involvement in the organization, and it is now set up to run much like a ship. Through their efforts, BB-43 division now has an announcement system similar to a ship's 1MC intercom, bells, a quarterdeck and the various positions that help a ship function.

"I spent two drill weekends just slowly going through watch teams, and I had one of the cadets make up a watch bill, and we established an officer of the deck and a messenger of the watch so they could understand their responsibilities and that they have a job to do," said Kevin Eldredge. "We made our front entrance the way we wanted it to look, and then from there, we just spread the discipline throughout."

The division also includes other ship-necessary jobs like yeoman, gunner's mates and leading petty officers. Having the responsibility of the various jobs helps the cadets grow both personally and professionally.

"It's just like joining the actual military with these cadets becoming a part of something bigger than themselves," said Jonelle Eldredge. "They see cadets get ribbons, they see them going to trainings, they see them growing and getting more responsibilities, and it makes them want to achieve that."

Not only are the cadets being exposed to the responsibilities of life in the Navy, but they now have an established link to active-duty Sailors. This allows for better exposure to the different jobs the Navy provides. Although the program does provide a basic curriculum for the Cadets, the Eldredges wanted to provide more in-depth training based on interactions with active-duty personnel.

"Having access to the base and working with Sailors allowed us to get the cadets to learn from Sailors," said Kevin Eldredge. "I asked myself, 'Are we teaching first aid?' Then let me get a corpsman out here. 'Are we teaching security?' Then let me get an MA (Master-at-Arms) out here."

Kevin Eldredge went on to say that not only does this method provide thorough training, but it also allows the cadets to learn about the different experiences that personnel have in the Navy. It shows the cadets the many unique opportunities the Navy provides.

The Sea Cadets can help prepare individuals for a possible career in the military. Qualifying cadets receive E-3 out of boot camp and are better prepared for a Reserve Officer Training Corps program. It can also help cadets prepare for enrollment into one of the service academies.

According to the NSCC website, 12% of the 2019 class at the U.S. Naval Academy were once Sea Cadets.

"I think being in the Sea Cadets opened my eyes to all of the options that were out there, and I think it helped me to get in to the academy for sure," said Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Cline, a former Sea Cadet who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2010. "Being in the Sea Cadets helped me with basic leadership, how to handle responsibilities, and professionalism, the basics of how to conduct yourself on a daily basis, and I would say it sparked interest in the different career fields that were out there."

Ayers is following the same sentiment in his decisions for his future. He is now actively pursuing enrollment in the U.S. Naval Academy after learning about the various opportunities in the Navy through the Sea Cadets. He said that he now wants to be an engineer in the Navy.

"Through the Sea Cadets, I learned that the military is more subdivided into different jobs, and I could be an engineer in the military," said Ayers. "I also want to be an officer, so I thought the Naval Academy would be the best route for me."

Ayers has a few words of inspiration for any Sea Cadet prospective chief petty officers.

"At my first training, it was hard, and I wanted to quit," said Ayers. "Sometimes the training is not going to be a lot of fun. Sometimes you will feel like you want to quit, but just keep going, push through it, and eventually you will get to where you want to be."

If you would like any more information on the Sea Cadet Program such as enrollment or volunteering opportunities, you can visit them at seacadets.org.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps Chief Petty Officer Mason Ayers (right) is pinned by his mother, Dawn Ayers. United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a youth leadership development organization that promotes and develops skill in naval disciplines. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Anderson)

NORU Legacy Gift Memorializes Pensacola Shooting Victims

Story by Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. - The Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit (NORU) presented Class 20-080's legacy gift, which was a special memorial for the victims of the shooting onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola in December 2019, to the Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC), which was the location of the shooting, during a ceremony Feb. 13, at the NASC in Pensacola, Florida.

The incident in December claimed the lives of Airman Mohammed Sameh Haitham, 19, of St. Petersburg, Forida; Airman Apprentice Cameron Scott Walters, 21, of Richmond Hill, Georgia; and Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, 23, from Coffee County, Alabama.

The legacy gift offers remembrance and respect for the fallen, while offering their class motto as a strong reminder to all of Recruiting Nation that "Our Recruits are our Family and our Family is our Legacy."

The walls of the passageways of NORU are adorned with plaques and creative artwork presented by the graduating classes to the staff of NORU. From the moment they arrive, the students are encouraged to come together as a class, and as a team, to take ownership of their legacy that they will leave behind while serving onboard their various Navy Recruiting Districts and Navy Talent Acquisition Groups at Navy Recruiting Command. As the first class to attend NORU since the tragedy, Class 20-080's gift stands out as one of the most heartfelt and motivating gifts to date.

"It was a distinct honor to witness and express sincere condolences and dedicate this special legacy gift in remembrance of the victims, colleagues, loved ones, friends and family of the shooting at Pensacola in December," said Rear Adm. Robert C. Nowakowski, Deputy Commander, Navy Recruiting Command. "The Navy is a family for many, and we are eternally grateful to be able to remember the victims forever throughout the halls of our Navy's finest recruiting university. The honor, courage and commitment they demonstrated while serving our country will be part of the DNA of every recruit, student, staff member and visitor to NORU."

The memorial will be hung in NASC's temporary facilities until BLDG 633, the exact sight of the shooting, is re-opened for classes.

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U.S. Navy Recruiters Swarm Los Angeles FitExpo

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Jarrett, Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

▲U.S. Navy recruiters pose for a group photo at the FitExpo, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, during a swarm. A swarm event is a large-scale recruiting effort run by the nation's top Navy recruiters to saturate a specified market with Navy outreach, information and recruiting assets. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Preston Jarrett)

LOS ANGELES (NNS) – U.S. Navy recruiters from around the nation participated in the 2020 Los Angeles FitExpo on Jan. 25-26 to raise Navy awareness during the Los Angeles Swarm event.

The FitExpo is a California-based event that includes competitions, classes, health food and supplement promotions, and other fitness-related activities.

Navy Counselor 1st Class Josh Yates, assigned to Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain, said he was excited for the opportunity to participate.

"I got a call asking if I wanted to come to the swarm, and I said 'of course,'" said Yates. "California is great. I've been here three other times, and it's always a good experience."

Being a fitness enthusiast, Yates said his motivation comes from both his father and his two daughters.

"My dad was in the Army for 20 years," said Yates. "I remember when he got back from one of his deployments in Bosnia, he was super ripped, looking like the Hulk, and I thought 'that's my goal.' I was 160 pounds when I came into the Navy. I'm 205 now. I've got a pretty good stature now, I'd like to think, but I just want to be healthy for my kids. I want to be able to run around with them, when they get older, without getting hurt."

Formerly a Navy Master-at-Arms, Yates said that he became a career Navy recruiter because he wanted to help others.

"I wanted to be able to take somebody from a tough situation and give them something better with more stability," said Yates. "I wanted to make a life-changing impact."

Yates said that he'd consider the swarm evolution to be a successful endeavor on the Navy's part.

"It was long. Long hours and hard work, but I feel like it was very beneficial as far as spreading Navy awareness," said Yates. "We made a lot of great connections. I don't know how other swarms have gone outside of LA, but we met a lot of influencers, so it definitely boosted the Navy's following."

When asked about attending future swarms, Yates expressed an interest in taking part.

"It's easier than the regular recruiting 9-to-5," said Yates. "I'd love to do it again."

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CNRC's Facebook Set To Merge with MyNavyHR

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command's (CNRC) Facebook officially merged with the new MyNavyHR Facebook page.

Through a Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP)-led initiative, multiple Navy personnel pages have merged together to form MyNavyHR. This was done to streamline information dissemination across all enterprises within the Navy.

The merger brought together Facebook pages from multiple personnel pages to include the Navy Personnel Command and Navy Detailers pages. Now users will experience a one-stop-shop for news, NAVADMINS, stories and more.

No action is required on part of the users. Simply log-in on April 4 and experience the new MyNavyHR page.

MyNAVYHR
Serving Sailors 24/7

Survivor, Sailor, Mother Inspires Daughters to Follow in Her Footsteps

Story by Gregory White, Navy Recruiting Command

Quartermaster 3rd Class Malaysia McKnight and Fire Controlman 3rd Class Qunisha Lytch pose for a photo. (Photo by Gregory White)

RALEIGH, Va. - Oct. 12, 2000 is a day that will live in infamy for American Sailors who served and are serving aboard the USS Cole. Seventeen Sailors lost their lives that day and 38 were wounded when suicide terrorists exploded a small boat next to the destroyer off the coast of Yemen.

For Quartermaster 2nd Class Malaysia McKnight and her sister, Fire Controlman 2nd Class Qunisha Lytch, the attack struck close to home.

"I was about 4 years old and my sister was 7 when the Cole was struck," said McKnight. "We were living with my grandmother at the time, and like many grandmothers, mine watched the news religiously."

The day the Cole was struck McKnight and her sister were playing in the living room at their grandmother's house. McKnight remembers it all too well.

"I heard my sister say 'that's mommy's ship,'" said McKnight. "We knew it was hers because she used to take us onboard to tour it and meet people she worked with. My grandmother wasn't so sure but we were all really nervous because we hadn't heard anything from my mom for days. It was really shocking and terrifying to see that big gaping hole in the side of the ship and the words 'breaking news' on the TV screen."

Turned out that Lytch was right. It was their mother's ship. Tayinikia Campbell, McKnight's mother, served as a corpsman on the Cole. Her office was right in the blast zone. Yet, she is among the survivors.

"Thankfully, my mother wasn't in her office at the time of the attack because we might not have her here today if she was," said McKnight.

Campbell, who is now medically retired, is just as grateful, and she could not be more proud of her daughters, who are both serving honorably in her footsteps.

In spite of knowing about the attack, feeling that fear, and seeing their mother go through surgery, McKnight and Lytch received enough positive insight from Campbell to shape their decisions to join.

"She always talked really positively about the Navy, and although she experienced that (Cole attack) and now suffers PTSD she still smiles and is super happy when she talks about her life in the Navy," said McKnight. "She says 'oh I miss that,' or 'I wish I could do that.' That's a big reason for me joining. My sister and I have always thought it would be cool to join and kind of let our mom relive the good stuff through us. Sure, there may come a time when your life is at risk but I just think if my mom can do this I can do it too."

McKnight is a Raleigh native who spent a year and a half recruiting out of Naval Recruiting Station Gastonia. Lytch is stationed in Norfolk. The two of them have plans to join their mother at the USS Cole memorial for the 20th anniversary of that dreadful attack later this year.

"Whenever we reenlist we'll do it at the memorial of the USS Cole for our mother," said McKnight. "And we go to all the big milestone anniversaries. It feels good that my sister and I are serving together in honor of our mom."

Recruiter Spotlight

Every week, a selected Navy Talent Acquisition Group or Navy Recruiting District chooses one Sailor with a special story to tell. We are highlighting them here so people across the country can see who our recruiters truely are. To learn more about these extraordinary Sailors, visit our website at www.cnrc.navy.mil.

October

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 1st Class Silvio Osorio

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) 1st Class Curtis Markle

Personnel Specialist 1st Class Tonya Roberts

Gunner's Mate 1st Class Christopher Donahue

November

Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Juan Cadena

Damage Controlman 1st Class Patricia Johnston

Builder 1st Class Felice Goldman

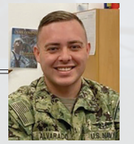
Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Barn Henderson

Navy Counselor 1st Class Truman Bush

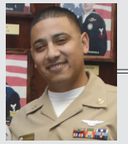
December

Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Wayde Oberholzer

Navy Counselor 1st Class Jakeemia Rankin



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Gabriel Alvarado



Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Daniel Balajadia

COVID 19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

If you have been in China or in close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks and develop symptoms, call your doctor.

For more information: **www.cdc.gov/COVID19**

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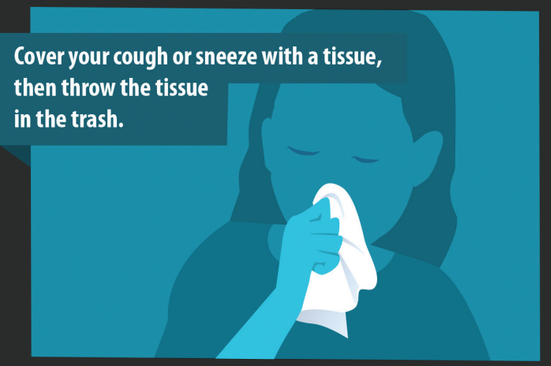
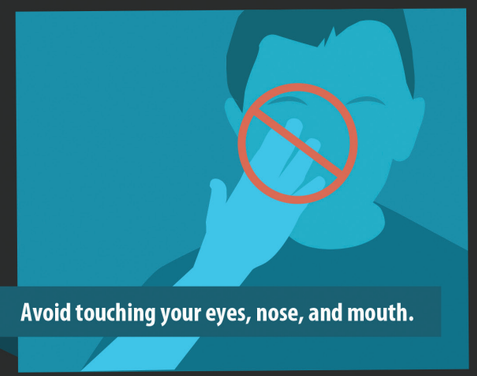
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.





cdc.gov/COVID19

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For more information about the Navy's response to COVID-19

For careers in Navy Medicine

NAVY RECRUITER

Future of the Fleet