

# NAVY RECRUITER

magazine



*The Magazine for Navy Recruiters*

**September-October 2010**  
Vol. 58 No. 5

**NROTC Program**  
**NRD Seattle Sets the Bar**

**Sailors Volunteer...**  
**Two-State Habitat for Humanity**  
**Living Green**  
**Pennsylvania Youth Camp**  
**Cleaning Cleveland**

**Homerun!**  
**Future Sailor in the Minor Leagues**

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

### Features...

- 5** *Sailors Rescue Nine from Overturned Tour Boat*
- 6** *Doctor Sworn in as Navy Reserve Captain* •
- 7** *Son of WWII Sailor Undertakes Two-Year Quest for Father's Medals*
- 9** *Student Standout Makes Outstanding Recruiter*
- 11** *Future Sailors Compete for Captain's Cup* •
- 13** *Two Sailors Began, End Navy Careers in Houston*
- 15** *NRD Seattle's NROTC Program Sets the Bar High*
- 16** *Sailors Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in Two States*
- 17** *Commissioning Ceremony Held On Board USS Gettysburg*
- 18** *School Principal Takes Flight with Blue Angels* •
- 19** *Recruiters Soar to New Heights at Jones Beach Air Show* •
- 20** *Sailors Teach Kids about Living Green*
- 21** *Recruiters Clean Cleveland Beaches*
- 22** *Spokane Navy Week a Gigantic Success*
- 24** *NRD New York Recruiters Walk for a Cause*
- 25** *Sailors Volunteer at Pennsylvania Youth Camp*
- 26** *Los Angeles Recruiter Crowned Pageant Winner*
- 27** *Mother's Three Children Set Sail for the Navy*
- 29** *Navy Days Conducted in Bakersfield* •
- 30** *Minor Leaguer Hits Homerun for the Navy*



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volume 58 number 5

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## Regulars...

**4** *A Word From the Admiral*

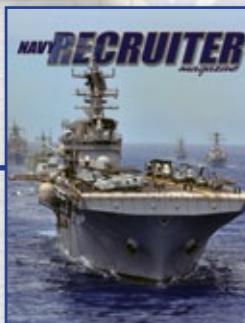
**31** *The Districts' Best Stations*

**31** *Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters*



**Front cover:** The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) and other ships assigned to the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010 combined task force transit the Pacific Ocean during RIMPAC exercise 2010. The world's largest multinational maritime exercise, RIMPAC is a biennial event which allows participating nations to work together to build trust and enhance partnerships needed to improve maritime security.  
(Photo by MC3 Stephen M. Votaw)

**Back cover:** LS3 Brian Becker, front, from Salt Lake City, and LS3 James Heckwine, from Decatur, Ill., run to safety after connecting a cargo pendant to an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Eightballers of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 8 during a vertical replenishment aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76). *Ronald Reagan* is underway participating in Rim of the Pacific 2010, a biennial, multinational exercise designed to strengthen regional partnerships and improve multinational interoperability.  
(Photo by MC2 Joseph M. Buliavac)



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# A Word From the Admiral



Shipmates:

Our 235th birthday on October 13th gives us a chance to reflect on what countless Sailors and civilian teammates of the Navy's Total Force have accomplished, since our Nation's birth, by answering the call to serve.

As part of this amazing force, here in Navy Recruiting we are responsible for helping our Sailors, and future Sailors, answer that call to serve. I encourage each of you to take a moment with your shipmates, future Sailors and your family members to remember – and celebrate – our contributions to the cause of liberty and freedom, and to rededicate yourself to our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. We must recruit with integrity, always demanding that we conduct ourselves the right way, all of the time. Establishing and maintaining trust in our Navy and Nation is the key to future success.

Looking back on a very successful FY10 recruiting year, your efforts resulted in success in recruiting for all enlisted and officer missions, as well as other critical ratings essential to Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). We raised the bar on quality with record low DEP attrition, higher ASVAB scores and fewer waivers. Our active medical recruiting mission success was an all-time "best ever" for Navy Recruiting.

As we look toward FY11, let's challenge ourselves to raise the bar on all dimensions of quality: Quality of future Sailors, quality of our customer service, and the quality of our processes. To remain competitive for the best talent in the nation, we must embrace a culture of quality in all we do.

Our Navy Recruiting Force is poised for continued success in FY11, and our priorities remain focused to

ensure we achieve mission success today while preparing for the future:

1. Informing, inspiring, influencing and hiring the best and brightest for service in America's Navy;
2. Focusing on ensuring our Recruiting Force has the resources today and is prepared for tomorrow;
3. Continuing to ignite awareness in America as the face of the Navy to the Nation.

America's Navy and our recruiting force are the finest in the world. We must ensure we stay that way by "Recruiting Quality Today – Building for Tomorrow." This is the reason for our agenda for change and Recruiting Force 2020 (RF 2020). Our Nation's security and future depend on our ability to recruit our reliefs.

Thank you for your contribution to our Navy's most important mission – recruiting – and for making America's Navy a global force for good. I'm proud to serve with the dedicated, high-achieving professionals of Navy Recruiting.



Rear Admiral Craig S. Faller  
Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

September is designated as Ombudsman Appreciation Month. The ombudsman is a volunteer appointed by the commanding officer as the communication link to Navy families, a source of information and referral resources, and an advocate for family members. The ombudsman is an official command representative and a point of contact for spouses, parents, and extended family.

The Navy Ombudsman Program was officially created Sept. 14, 1970, by then-Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr. The program was designed to improve communications between Navy commands and families. Ombudsmen are involved in many programs to support this concept. Using the links below, contact your ombudsman and thank them for their service.


# Sailors Rescue Nine from Overturned Tour Boat

**Story by MC2 Nick Kaylor, NRD Philadelphia Public Affairs, and Naval Special Warfare Command Public Affairs**  
**Photo by MC1 Tim Miller**

**PHILADELPHIA** – While preparing for a tree planting ceremony July 7 at the Schuylkill Banks to honor SEAL Medal of Honor recipients, things took an abrupt and dramatic turn. Sailors from Naval Special Warfare Unit 2 had to cut their ceremony short to conduct a rescue.

Twelve special warfare boat operators at nearby Penn's Landing immediately responded to a radio distress call and sped to the scene in small boats to recover people in the Delaware River. The rescue involved tourists riding in a "duck" boat on a tour of the city.

According to Philadelphia police, the boat was struck by a barge and capsized, throwing all 35 passengers and two crewmembers in the river.

"We were the first responders," said SB1 Garrett Rodriguez.

"Some of us jumped out and started grabbing people. They were just exhausted, in shock."

Rodriguez said some of his team members pulled people into boats, while others jumped off a jetty and swam to tourists struggling in the water.

Sailors from Special Boat Team (SBT) 20 helped rescue nine passengers. The Navy crewmembers worked together with the Coast Guard, Philadelphia police and fire rescue teams.

HC1 Patrick Perdew, a medic assigned to SBT 20, said the nine passengers they rescued didn't have discernible injuries and were ambulatory when they brought them ashore.



July 7 Sailors with Special Boat Team 20 helped rescue nine people from an overturned tourist boat in the Delaware River. The Navy crewmembers worked together with the Coast Guard, Philadelphia police and fire rescue teams to rescue the 35 passengers and two crewmembers after the boat was struck by a barge and capsized.

Commander, Naval Special Warfare Group 4, Capt. Chuck Wolf, who was with the SEAL and special warfare combatant-craft crewmen team said that it was great to work together with local responders to rescue the stranded.

"We were just happy to help," said Wolf. "The city responders

deserve all of the credit, but our guys really showed why the Navy is 'America's Navy – A global force for good,' and it shows our ability to adapt to our surroundings and assist with any and all situations."



# Doctor Sworn in as Navy Reserve Captain

**Story and photo by MCC Gabe Puello, NRD Miami Public Affairs**

**MIAMI** — Dr. N. Benjamin Barnea was recently sworn in to the United States Navy Reserve Medical Corps as a captain at his Coral Springs, Fla., office by Lt. Sheree Williams, NRD Miami's chief of officer recruiting.

Barnea holds an unprecedented three board certifications in neurology, psychiatry and sleep medicine.

A graduate of the University of Rome, Italy, Medical School, Barnea speaks four languages fluently and completed his residency in psychiatry at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

"After years of running a successful practice, I really wanted the chance to give something back to this country. Once you have left it for a while, you realize we aren't perfect but this is the best country to live and serve in," Barnea said. "I also think I may be the only doctor in the Navy to hold three certifications at once," he added.



Dr. N. Benjamin Barnea is sworn in to the United States Navy Reserve Medical Corps as a captain at his Coral Springs, Fla. office, by Lt. Sheree Williams, NRD Miami's chief of officer recruiting. The Honorable Ray Mabus, 75th Secretary of the Navy, approved Barnea's commissioning to captain because of his background and experience. Barnea speaks four languages fluently and holds three board certifications in neurology, psychiatry and sleep medicine.

Because of Barnea's qualifications, vast personal experience and prior service in the United States Air Force, he joined the Navy at the highly prestigious rank of captain.

"It's not very often we get to recruit and commission an officer into becoming a Navy captain. It's quite unusual and requires no less than the Secretary of the Navy's personal approval," said Williams.



# **Son of WWII Sailor Undertakes Two-Year Quest for Father's Medals**

**Story and photos by MCC Jeremy J. Siegrist, NRD Pittsburgh Public Affairs**

**PITTSBURGH** – For U.S. Navy Sailors, awards and medals are given for multitudes of reasons. But for one World War II Navy veteran, the road to receiving his well-earned awards took over six decades.

Photographer's Mate Third Class Daniel M. Harbaugh was recently presented the Philippine Liberation medal and USS *Lexington*'s Presidential Unit Citation in a surprise ceremony under the guise of a family get together.

With all the formality and dignity deserving of this combat veteran, Cmdr. Jonathan Shoemaker, NRD Pittsburgh commanding officer, presented the awards.

Harbaugh's son (also named Dan) grew up hearing of his father's time on board USS *Lexington* (CV 16), the "Blue Ghost," and her combat tours in the Pacific theater during World War II.

"He was always a hero to me. Two years ago my father mentioned that there were two awards that he was eligible for but did not

receive as they were presented to those that served in 1943 to 1945 but after my father left the Navy in November 1945," Dan said.

That's when Dan began a two-year quest to see that his father got the honor and recognition he deserved. With the help of business contacts and friends, he was able to research the medals through Navy Personnel Command and secure them for his father.

"My father has not been aware of the efforts and, quite frankly, with all that he has done for my sister and me, it was no effort at all," said Dan.

For active duty Sailors, verifying the validity of one's personnel record can sometimes be a daunting task. But for Harbaugh, the process took approximately 65 years after the end date of the award time frame.

With Shoemaker's approval of his plan, Dan set about to surprise his father.

He contacted old friends and family and set the stage for the ceremony. Awards presented included a letter from



NRD Pittsburgh Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Jonathan Shoemaker, talks with veteran Dan Harbaugh at the surprise ceremony where Harbaugh received two medals he earned while serving on the USS *Lexington* during World War II. Projected on the wall behind the two men is a photo of young Photographer's Mate Third Class Harbaugh in uniform.

former U.S. President George H. W. Bush, who himself spent some time on board the deck of the storied aircraft carrier.

"I contacted the Navy Recruiting District in Pittsburgh and during the planning of this day, those that have been involved have been a tribute to what is great about the United States Armed Forces," said Dan.

As part of the ship's company and photo lab on board, Harbaugh was responsible for the aerial photography units attached to the underbelly of two of the ship's compliment of fighter aircraft, as well as filming in both still and motion picture every single takeoff and landing that graced her deck. It is very apparent that Harbaugh's memory is as sharp as a tack as he recalled stories of planes jumping barricades and the lights in the sky during the Battle of the Philippine Sea, put there to guide the aviators back to the ship. He even went so far as to note the exact type of cameras they used.



Before the medal ceremony got underway, WWII veteran Dan Harbaugh is introduced to Cmdr. Jonathan Shoemaker, commanding officer of NRD Pittsburgh. Harbaugh's son spent two years obtaining the medals his father earned during his tour on USS *Lexington* (CV 16) from 1943 to 1945.

During his presentation, Shoemaker recognized some of the major engagements that Harbaugh had been a part of. The names of the naval battles ring out in our minds even today as events that changed the course of history: Kwajalein, Philippine Sea (also known as the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot), and Leyte Gulf. Harbaugh, who was then a third class photographer's mate, recollected stories about each of them, even recalling the names of pilots and friends he stood on gun mounts with.

"It was a real thrill for me to present these two awards to Petty Officer Harbaugh. It was obvious as we stood there in the room packed with nearly a hundred family and friends that he was loved as a father, grandfather, and friend. As for me, I was there to represent the Navy and the nation, and tell him how we appreciate him as a combat veteran, hero, and national treasure," said Shoemaker.

"What a once-in-a-lifetime experience it was for me to hear Petty Officer Harbaugh tell his first-person account of combat in the Battles of the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf. I had never met a Sailor that witnessed a kamikaze attack before. He was there, saw the damage, and did his duty continuing to fight the battle," Shoemaker said.

The smile on Harbaugh's face was clear as he told sea stories that are not all that common even among his own generation. As the ceremony ended with an enjoyable meal, the sparkle in his eyes was very telling as to how much he valued not only the awards he received that day, but also his family and friends.

"The most important things to my father have been family and country. There is a touch of sadness that my mother could not be here. Their 63 years of marriage was another living example for me as I grew up. However, to have the family members here today displays the important part my father has had in their lives. It is with great honor that we celebrate the service of my father to his country on this day," said Dan.



# Student Standout Makes Outstanding Recruiter

**By Pam Branch, NRC Public Affairs**

**Photo by MCC Anthony Briggs, NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs**

**MILLINGTON, Tenn.** – Jesup, Iowa, native Damian Smith was one of those gifted students with a Midas touch --- he excelled at everything.

While attending Jesup High School, his athletic accomplishments were many and varied: 13 varsity letters; six-time all-conference member; two-time all-regional member; starter on the 1998 state semifinalist baseball team; and starter on the 1999 state third-place basketball team.

His athletic prowess did not overshadow his academic achievements: 12 consecutive quarters on the honor roll; 3.91 GPA; student council member; recipient of a Lions Club certificate of merit, National Science Merit Award, and USAA award; John Hodges National Honor Society member; two-time member of academic all-state team; four-time member of all-academic, all-district team; recipient of the Jerry Donlea Industrial Technology Award;

recipient of a \$1,000 Dollars for Scholars scholarship; and awarded a four-year (full tuition) scholarship to the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Technology Symposium.

Graduating third in his high school class, he attended two semesters at UNI where he majored in industrial technology. Giving up his UNI scholarship, Smith then transferred to Iowa State University (ISU) to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

It was in 2002 while attending ISU that Smith enlisted in the Navy as a nuclear propulsion officer candidate (NUPOC). Smith said his decision to join the Navy was simple.

"I wanted the chance to serve my country, especially after the 9/11 terrorists' attacks. I applied the next week to the NUPOC program," said Smith.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from ISU in 2004.

Smith was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy after graduating in December 2004 from Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Pensacola, Fla. He then reported to Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C., followed by training at the Nuclear Prototype Training Unit in



Lt. Damian Smith joined the Navy in 2002 and became a recruiter in 2009. He is currently stationed at NRD Los Angeles where is the general officer programs manager, nuclear officer programs manager and engineering recruiter for the officer programs office.

Balston Spa, N.Y., and Basic Submarine School in New London, Conn.

Beginning in July 2006, Smith reported on board USS *Helena* (SSN 725), where he served 31 months as main

propulsion assistant and communications officer. He was promoted to lieutenant in January 2009 while on *Helena*. According to Smith, "Life on a submarine is very unique."

His next assignment was with NRD Los Angeles in February 2009, where he is currently serving as the general officer programs manager, nuclear officer programs manager and engineering recruiter for the officer programs office. Simply put, this means he is accountable for the entire recruiting process of every applicant in nuclear or general officer programs, from the first meeting to the day they graduate from OCS.

"I actually chose recruiting duty due to the location. The chance of being stationed in Los Angeles while on active duty is very slim for naval officers, so I jumped at the opportunity. Being an officer recruiter is a great chance to help mold the future of the naval officer corps and the future leaders of this country," said Smith.

Smith gets satisfaction in telling an applicant he or she was selected for a commission.

"Being able to make that phone call when, after months of work with an applicant, I get to say: 'Congratulations, you are going to become a naval officer,'" said Smith.

He also enjoys other benefits of being a recruiter, such as independent duty.

"Independent recruiting duty is the first time in my career to this point that I have been able to control my day-to-day schedule," he said. "This is beneficial

to me professionally because I am very efficient with my schedule. Personally it is beneficial because I am able to compete in [Morale, Welfare and Recreation] recreational sports leagues, work on a master's degree, and I control my weekend schedule," said Smith

Earlier this year he was recognized by his high school alma mater when they named an award after him --- the Damian Smith Science Award. The award consists of a plaque and small college scholarship which will be presented to one graduate at the school's academic awards night each spring for at least four more years, possibly longer. The recipient must excel in academics in their high school studies at Jesup, particularly in science-related courses, and display a potential for superiority at the college level.

"I feel very blessed to have my alma mater high school name an award after me, especially at such a young age," Smith said. "I remember when I received the Jerry Donlea Award in high school and now to have it come full circle where the award is in my name is a great honor."

Although not able to personally present the award this year, Smith plans to do so in the coming years.

Smith said, "Being an officer recruiter has given me the opportunity to network with other current active duty officers as well as get involved with some of the local area retired officers and their associations. I'm sure this network of very supportive officers will help me throughout my career."



AO1 Christopher Smith, recruiter for NRD Houston, practices operational risk management by averting a collision with a child in the water slide at Buckhorn Ranch and Lake during a command training and picnic day.  
(Photo by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs)

# Future Sailors Compete for Captain's Cup

**Story and photos by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs**

**HOUSTON** – NRD Houston's Zone 5 recruiters held a Captain's Cup event for future Sailors and their families at Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy, Texas.

The event was kicked off with the recruiters presenting colors and future Sailor Rudy Taylor III of NRS Bear Creek singing the National Anthem.

Commanding Officer Cmdr. Melanie O'Brien thanked the families for coming out to support their future Sailors. "Now you are a part of the big Navy family," she said.

Future Sailors representing NRS Alief, NRS Katy, NRS Rosenberg and NRS Bear Creek showed their preparedness for boot camp. The competition included the Sailor's Creed, general orders, rank recognition, sit ups and pushups. The Texas heat would not allow for the 1.5 mile run, but they did squeeze in a tug-of-war competition.

NRS Bear Creek won the overall competition to claim the Captain's Cup trophy. "They made me so proud!" said AE1 David Thurnvalsassina, recruiter in charge of NRS Bear Creek. "The future Sailors came out with high motivation. What more could I ask for? We have mandatory one-on-one training with each future Sailor once a week at

our station," said Thurnvalsassina. "We also allow their families to come to Delayed Entry Program meetings to ask us any questions."

"I was in the Navy as a gunner's mate," said Joe Valls, Houston Police Department (HPD) police officer and one of the guest speakers. "The requirements in the Navy



Future Sailor Rudy Taylor III of NRS Bear Creek sings the National Anthem to kick off a Captain's Cup competition for NRD Houston Zone 5 future Sailors.

are easy to attain which allow you to have a respectful career. Let's face it; in this economy it is very difficult to find a job."

Valls did not retire from the Navy, but he explained how his military experience helped him to get a job with

HPD. "You must have military experience or some college to be on the force," said Valls. "It was great that I had both."

Other speakers included a nutritionist, nuclear programs coordinator, as well as the Naval Special Warfare Program recruiter.

"We had the Captain's Cup event to create awareness within the zone," said NCC Matthew Maduemesi, Zone 5 supervisor. "Many times parents don't know what their children are doing at Navy functions. By bringing parents out to see and ask questions, they will get a better understanding of what the Navy is and has to offer."



Future Sailors from NRD Houston Zone 5 competed against one another during a tug-of-war challenge at a Captain's Cup event. The grimace of determination is reflected in participants' faces.



NRC's recent command picnic at Centennial Park in Millington, Tenn., was a barrel of laughs. Events included face painting, air castles, swimming, various games and, of course, lots of good food. Enjoying the festivities were Lt. Cmdr. Diana Alloway, back left, and Lt. Lino Gutierrez, both of NRC's Operations Department, along with Tess Hendrickson, and Riley and Jack Rouse. (Photo by Chris Desmond, NRC)

# Two Sailors Began, End Navy Careers in Houston



**Story and photos by MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs**

**HOUSTON** – Two men from different backgrounds and different small towns in southeastern Texas joined the Navy 28 years ago on the exact day: June 25, 1982. Both had the same mission: Serve their country for an enlistment then get out.

The two master chiefs stationed at NRD Houston have replaced “getting out” with “retiring” in two years with a combined total of 60 years of naval service.

## NRD Houston CMDCM

James D. Brown, a native of Conroe, and NCCM James E. Hayes, a native of Dickinson, both agreed this was an ironic and unique situation to be stationed together after all this time.

“It started out as a master chief to master chief random joke as to who was senior to the other by rank,” said Brown.

“I remembered his face and name from somewhere when he arrived here, but that is all really. I just couldn’t place him,” said Hayes.

To their dismay and weeks of friendly bantering, they

discovered they were sworn into the Navy on the same day at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Houston.

“It’s pretty cool,” said Hayes. “In my time in the Navy, I have never heard of this before. It’s strange, really.”

Brown, the senior enlisted advisor at NRD Houston, joined the Navy as a radioman – a rating which later changed to information systems technician. “I simply joined for patriotic reasons,” said Brown. “My plan was to do my four years in the Navy for God and country, get out and join the fire department.”

Brown had the same experience most Sailors do once they get to boot camp. “What the h~#\*? Are they really cutting my hair?” laughed Brown.

“The first question I was asked [after arriving at his first command] was if I was afraid of heights,” said Brown. “The next thing I knew, I was 30 feet in the air on an antenna – in shock!”

Brown then realized he actually liked his job, and like many Sailors,



NRD Houston CMDCM James D. Brown will wrap up his 30-year naval career back where it all started --- in Houston, Texas.

he began to have a family. The 1980s and 1990s recession also hit, so he decided, "I am better off in the Navy."

Stationed almost on the other side of the United States at Great Lakes, Ill., Hayes was having the same thoughts about the Navy, "Do I stay in or get out?"

Hayes joined the Navy as an undesignated seaman, meaning he came in without choosing a particular job. When he went to boot camp, he was classified as an operations specialist. After arriving at his first duty assignment, he found that he was really good at his job, but he had some difficulty being a Sailor.

"I realized the Navy is very different from other jobs," said Hayes. "I didn't like it, and I kept getting

into trouble. I decided that I didn't want to go back into the environment I came from. A lot of my friends from Dickinson were and are still doing the same things they were when I left many years ago." When his first tour of duty was about to end, he extended for a little longer. After that, he decided he would make the Navy a career.

Both master chiefs persevered through the Navy ranks, each taking different routes and each earning the next rank at different times in their careers. However, each chose to step out of their current jobs and take on much bigger challenges.

"When I was stationed in Italy, I was asked to fill in for command master chief until the command could get someone," said Brown. He was reluctant to enter the command master chief program in the beginning but found he liked helping Sailors.

"Helping Sailors in Navy Recruiting is the same process as anywhere else," said Brown. "It's a great way to finish a 30-year Navy career."

In 1993, Hayes decided to try Navy recruiting for a while. He went to the Enlisted Navy Recruiting Orientation course and set sail to NRD Dallas. Hayes enjoyed recruiting so much that he decided to convert to the

career recruiting force and be a full-time Navy recruiter.

"The Navy has changed over the years with the technology and the way we do things. It is a kinder and gentler Navy ... people also make rank quicker. Chief petty officers used to be older," laughed Hayes. "Applicants have also changed. They are much brighter and educated than in years past, so recruiting had to change."



NCCM James E. Hayes joined the Navy on the same date as a coworker and shipmate at NRD Houston. The two will also retire at the same time, contributing a total of 60 years of service to the U.S. Navy.

Traveling all over the world, a free education, and job security are all incentives the Navy uses to get people to join now. The bottom line is, these two Sailors joined the Navy without much thought to the incentives, and each decided to make it a career simply because this is the path in life they chose.

The friendly bantering of who outranks whom will continue for the next two years as these master chiefs prepare to retire. Their careers started in Houston with them simply raising their right hand and they will soon retire from the Navy with a salute with that same right hand and cross over into a new chapter of their lives.

Who outranks whom? The Sailors at NRD Houston may never know.



# **NRD Seattle's NROTC Program Sets the Bar High**

**Story by YN1 James Kinney, NRD Seattle**

**Photo by YN1 Tara Miller, NRD Seattle Public Affairs**

**SEATTLE** – As the fiscal year 2011 Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) application process begins, Navy Recruiting Districts across the nation ask themselves, “How do we improve?” Answering this question is especially difficult this year when every district met their objectives for 2010. But that doesn’t faze the NROTC cadre at NRD Seattle.

The most geographically expansive district in the nation, NRD Seattle covers over 1.125 million square miles in four states and four time zones. With over 1,000 high schools, many in isolated areas, the team uses every means possible to provide students, counselors, and community leaders information about this prestigious scholarship program. This year, 521 people heard the message and started the application process.

NRD Seattle was first in the nation to reach their fiscal year application goals and had the highest attainment percentage at the 100 percent gate.

MMCM Trey Abbott, district coordinator, freely shares the keys to NRD Seattle’s success. He said, “We’re not doing anything secret around here. I’m willing to share with anyone who wants to know how we do business.”

Last year, the program was expanded from one district coordinator trying to meet application goals to seven area coordinators. Placing a dedicated NROTC area coordinator in strategic locations around the district

paid immediate dividends. Creating a grassroots network, the challenge of communicating with schools over 2,000 miles from NRD headquarters is as easy as working with the school across the street.

Another great advantage of area coordinators is the opportunity to provide individual guidance to applicants. Working with teachers, counselors, coaches, and advisors as strategic partners, NRD Seattle’s area coordinators help applicants on the content and completeness of their scholarship application packages.

Before final submission, all scholarship applications go through a final step at NRD Seattle that Abbott credits as a primary key to their success. With an extraordinary



Cmdr. Scott Murdock, commanding officer, NRD Seattle, center back, is surrounded by NRD Seattle's NROTC team members at the recent annual command conference in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Murdock awarded the team baseball bats to symbolize being the first district in the nation to attain 100 percent of their goal.

attention to detail, Chikako Cataldi provides a final quality assurance check on every document submitted. Her expertise is derived from six years experience in the program and ensures that once a package is submitted from NRD Seattle, it rarely returns for corrections. As scholarship selections are made on a first-come, first-served basis, this can make the difference for some applicants regarding their selection.

Most importantly, the NROTC coordinators are a vital part of the NRD Seattle team. For those applicants that are unable to qualify for the program, referrals are made to some of the Navy's premiere programs such as nuclear power and the Bachelor's Degree Completion Program.

Recognizing that future officers can begin their development in the Junior ROTC (JROTC) programs at the local high school, coordinators are frequently involved in these programs with exceptional results.

Curtis Senior High School Navy JROTC Program in University Place is an excellent example of this. For the

last two years, 80 percent of the applicants from this school have been selected. No other school in NRD Seattle has provided as many future fleet leaders.

This September, 70 students from NRD Seattle have the opportunity to enter college, earn their bachelor's degree, and become naval officers. At an approximate scholarship value of \$180,000 dollars each, this is a \$12.6 million-dollar investment the Navy is prepared to make. It is here that the NRD Seattle NROTC cadre has found their goal.

Although applications are the official goal they are responsible for, the team goal is to have the highest selection rate in the nation. This commitment to ensuring the youth of the Pacific Northwest actually get selected for the NROTC scholarships is their driving force.

Considering that NRD Seattle had a 32.8 percent selection rate this year compared to the national average of 20 percent, the bar is certainly set high.



# **Sailors Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in Two States**

**By MC1 Kimberly R. Stephens, NRD Houston Public Affairs**

**HOUSTON** – The letter “v” in “Navy” is often jokingly referred to stand for the word “volunteer.”

All Sailors volunteer to join the Navy and, later on, volunteer to work community service projects. Volunteering eventually comes naturally to Sailors, especially those stationed at NRD Houston’s Zone 10.

Recently nine Sailors in the zone participated in Habitat for Humanity housing projects in Lufkin, Texas, and Shreveport, La.

“My Sailors are so spread out over Texas and Louisiana. We just planned two projects so all that wanted to could participate,” said NCC Leonard Whitehead, Zone 10 supervisor.

In Shreveport, Sailors put up drywall. In Lufkin, they built cabinets for a water heater, installed insulation, as well as anything else that needed to be accomplished.

“We volunteer to help make a difference in our respective communities,” said BM1 Michael Cassidy. “Any day we can help people less fortunate and show them another side of the Navy is a great day for us.”

Community relations projects allow Sailors to give back to the area where they are stationed.

“Helping isn’t about what you or I get out of it,” said CS1 Todd Wise. “It’s about helping the community and spreading Navy awareness.”

“We are an organization with deep core values, and we don’t stop living them when we take off our uniforms at the end of the day,” said Cassidy. “It’s an overwhelming feeling to know not only can we defend our nation, but we can also help our neighbors.”



# Commissioning Ceremony Held On Board USS Gettysburg

Story and photo by Ensign William A. Salter, NRD Jacksonville

**MAYPORT, Fla.** – A Direct Commission Officer (DCO) commissioning ceremony took place on board USS Gettysburg (CG 64) at Naval Station Mayport, Fla. on July 17.

Dr. Saryn Hatcher was commissioned under the Navy Reserve DCO Program as an ensign in the Supply Corps.

The oath of office was administered by Cmdr. Joe Baxter, executive officer of *Gettysburg*. Among those present to witness the occasion were Hatcher's wife, Michele, daughter, Regan, and son, Saryn II.

The Navy Reserve DCO Program allows university-educated professionals between ages of 19 to 35 – or older with prior active military service – the opportunity to be appointed as an officer in the Navy Reserve.

The program serves the expanded needs of the Navy in certain officer skill areas such as law, science, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nurse corps, intelligence, supply-logistics-transportation, engineering, public affairs, chaplain corps, oceanography, merchant marine affairs, and others.

Hatcher said, "While serving aboard USS *Mobile Bay* (CG 53) several years ago, I had the opportunity to work under the leadership of retired Rear Adm. D. S. Bill III. Bill was a dynamic commanding officer. He stressed going all out to achieve your mission while allowing nothing to impede you from your destination of excellence."

When asked why he chose to join the Navy Reserve DCO Program, Hatcher said, "Accepting a direct commission has allowed me to return full circle to continue the core values of commitment, leadership and



Cmdr. Joe Baxter, left, presents Ensign Saryn Hatcher with a commissioning certificate at his commissioning ceremony held on board USS *Gettysburg* (CG 64) on July 17, 2010.

service in my new role as a supply officer and mentor to the next generation of servicemen and women."

Currently Hatcher is the principal of Green Cove Springs Junior High School in Clay County, Fla. His first reserve assignment will be with Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Reutilization Team at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.



# School Principal Takes Flight with Blue Angels

**Story and photo by Kelly Wright, NRD Raleigh Public Affairs**

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels visited Eastern North Carolina to perform at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point air show.

Not only did they perform amazing air stunts all weekend, but the days prior to the air show they were busy promoting the Navy by giving rides to key influencers in the community.

The people chosen to take a flight in an F/A-18 Blue Angels airplane #7 were Karen Wood, principal of H. J. MacDonald Middle School in New Bern, N.C.; Tom Marsh, principal of New Bern High School also in New Bern; Henry Rice, principal of Pamlico Middle School in Bayboro, N.C.; and broadcast news reporter Andrea Pacetti of News 14 and her photographer, Kevin Reopelle. Some are guaranteed a flight while others are chosen as alternates in case the first rider is unable to participate.

All participants are briefed on what to do and how to deal with powerful g-forces.

The first to go on a flight was Wood who said, "It's a good experience to take back to students. It's definitely stepping outside of my comfort zone." She compared her opportunity and willingness to fly with the Blue Angels to the choices students have in life.

Marsh described his upcoming ride as a "once in a lifetime opportunity." On being chosen to ride with the Blue Angels, he said, "I was not expecting the phone call." He waited in the VIP area in the air traffic control tower with other participants while Wood took her flight.

Rice, an alternate, said he might even get to ride Fat Albert during the actual air show. Fat Albert is a C-130T Hercules that usually starts out each Blue Angels air

show before Blue Angels airplanes #1 through #6 perform.

When Blue Angels #7 was ready to lift off with Wood, pilot Lt. C. J. Simonsen taxied out to the runway, sped up and quickly shot straight up into the clouds. That was the last those on the ground saw of them for the next 40 minutes.



Blue Angels pilot Lt. C. J. Simonsen and middle school principal Karen Wood leave the F/A-18 after their flight. The Navy's key influencer program gives opportunities to educators and other leaders in the community for flights with the Blue Angels in order to promote the Navy and Navy recruiting. The Blue Angels performed at the 2010 Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point air show in Havelock, N.C.

Wood exited the F/A-18 flushed and asked her pilot, "We got up to how many g's?" She said, "Once you get over the cloud cover, it gets hot up there!" Her favorite part of the trip was the take-off, and it was the only part of the flight visible to those on the ground on the overcast day.

Along with giving key influencers flights, the Blue Angels often visit area schools before an air show.



# Recruiters Soar to New Heights at Jones Beach Air Show

Story by MCC Eric Durie, NRD New York Public Affairs

Photos by Cmdr. John Skarin, NRD New York

**GARDEN CITY, N.Y.** – From its beginning in 2004, the Bethpage Federal Credit Union New York Air Show at Jones Beach has been one of Long Island residents' favorite Memorial

Day weekend activities. Each year, more than 300,000 spectators are thrilled by the aerial acrobatics of a variety of performers ranging from the Army's Golden Knights to this year's headline performers, the Navy's Blue Angels.

Attended by 380,000 area residents, the 2010 air show featured several stunning performances. However, one of the most impressive performances of the day was not delivered in the air. In fact, it took place firmly on the ground, in front of the Navy Suburban recruiting exhibit.

Over the course of two days and 10 hours, NRD New York recruiters were able to collect an astounding 116 qualified leads. To put this in perspective, at last year's air show over the same time frame, eight qualified leads were identified.

While the increase seems dramatic, NRD New York's chief recruiter NCCM Chad Anders was far from shocked. "I'm not really surprised by the results," said Anders. "Our recruiters are extremely motivated and they love the Navy. This love truly shows through in the effort they put into their jobs day in and day out. I'm extremely proud of every one of them. They're all top-notch Sailors."

According to AE1 Anthony Yodice, who, along with two other recruiters, collected 68 leads on the first day of the air show, a motivated, energetic approach was the key to their success. "We definitely brought a lot of energy to the event," said Yodice. "Plus we had a lot of help from our future Sailors, which was crucial."

There was another, less obvious, factor contributing to the success of the Sailors working this year's air show.

"There's obviously an element of competition," Yodice said. "You want to beat everyone else who has worked a similar event."

The effort put forth by Yodice and the rest of his team was crucial in overcoming the relatively small Navy "footprint" at the show. "Looking around at the exhibits set up by the Army and the Air Force at the show, I was surprised by how large they were," said Anders. "The fact that we were able to do just as well, if not better, than the other services with a smaller display just speaks to the excellence of our recruiters. We don't need a big display to sell the Navy," Yodice added. "We just don't need that."



The Blue Angels enthralled the crowd of 380,000 at the 2010 New York Air Show at Jones Beach. NRD New York recruiters collected an unprecedented 116 qualified leads at the two-day event.

What Yodice did have, however, was a burning desire to help others join the service he loves. "I'm from here [Long Island]," he said, "and I want to provide others with the opportunities that I've had. That's why I approach this job with such passion."

This passion was responsible for the most successful recruiting effort ever delivered at the Jones Beach air show.



# Sailors Teach Kids about Living Green

**Story and photo by MC1 Keith Bryska, NRD Ohio Public Affairs**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** – Brightside is a non-profit organization that unites people in clean and green activities to beautify the city and foster community pride. Brightside is unique because it functions as a public/private partnership, merging the resources of the metro government with those of private citizens.

Sailors from NRD Ohio teamed up with Brightside to teach children the importance of energy conservation and keeping the environment clean for generations to come.

Sailors were on hand as Brightside hosted over 500 kids on the University of Louisville campus. They were taught different environmental subjects, such as how energy is created and how to recycle to keep our planet clean.

"We have been partnering with Brightside for a couple of years now," said NC1

Joseph Boorom. "We have done many events with them – everything from picking trash off the streets to teaching kids the importance of keeping the city clean."

MM1 Joshua Keown participated in an exercise that showed how energy is made all the way from rays of sunlight to how it becomes energy to light up a house.

"I actually got to stand there with the kids and act like a beam of light from the sun," said Keown. "It was fun to watch the kids learn while laughing and having a good time."

AM2 Jared Spencer said this was his second year to participate in this event. "I think it is important to show that the Navy takes initiative in keeping and teaching how to keep the city clean. The Navy has taken pride in keeping the planet clean not just in cities, but while we are out to sea also."



This group of Sailors and future Sailors from NRD Ohio volunteered with the Brightside organization in Louisville, Ky., to teach kids the importance of energy conservation and keeping the environment clean.

The youth really seemed to enjoy themselves during the day and even learned how to go through and separate trash. Brightside employee Mary Byrne said, "It was really important to have the Navy out here to help, not only here but to all our events. We really rely on them throughout the year to help with several projects, and they are always

willing. Altogether it was a successful day. The kids really enjoyed it and the Sailors told me they had fun working with the kids. Like always, we look forward to working with our Sailors down here in the Louisville area and hope to continue for years to come."



# Recruiters Clean Cleveland Beaches

By ET1 Brian Wyckoff, NRS Elyria

**ELYRIA, Ohio** - Navy recruiters from the Cleveland area participated in Earth Day by cleaning up the shores of Lake Erie as part of a community relations project.

Sailors started their project at the East 55th Street Marina, which is part of Cleveland Lakefront State Park and includes a 1,200 foot-fishing platform that is used by thousands of people each year.

The idea originated with DC1 Paul Conway of NRS Lakewood. "I thought it would be great to be able to give back to the lake and the community that supports us on a daily basis," said Paul, who frequently uses the boat ramp near the marina to launch his jet skis.

Conway contacted park officials for permission to clean up the beach. "They were very happy to hear we wanted to help the area," said

Conway. "They made sure that cleaning supplies and anything else we needed would be available for us to use."

"I like the fact that the community sees us in a different light other than seeing us in the office or in schools working," said NC2 Victor Waken. "It feels great to get out and help the community, because they do so much for the service members in this area."

After collecting 27 bags of trash, a park ranger making rounds through the marina expressed his gratitude and said, "Cleveland should be very proud of the Navy and

the good things you are doing for the community to make it better."

Others also noticed that the Navy was helping clean the area. "It felt really good that several fishermen stopped by to thank the group for donating their time to make the lakefront a better place," said Conway.

When asked about coming out to volunteer, DC2 Christopher Fury said it "felt good to know that you made someone happy. I'm sure that all the old men that go to that beach area to fish are a little bit happier without 27 bags of garbage lying around them."

Fury, who was born and raised in the area, said it was special for him to help in this particular location.

"Navy personnel have a commitment to the

environment, just like everyone else does. There are some areas along Lake Erie that have the potential to be great places for family, recreation, and natural scenery. I can remember when I was a kid not being able to swim in the lake because it was so polluted."

"It's little things like what [we] did and things that average people have been doing for the last 20 years cleaning up the shoreline that leads to Lake Erie being a beautiful place that people can enjoy for years to come. I'm just glad that I can say that my shipmates and I had a part in cleaning it up a little," said Fury.



NRD Ohio recruiters picked up 27 bags of litter along the shores of Lake Erie at Cleveland Lakefront State Park that is used by thousands each year. (Courtesy photo)



# **SPOKANE** **Navy Week** **a Gigantic Success**

**Story and photos by YN1 Tara Miller, NRD Seattle Public Affairs**

**SPOKANE, Wash.** – Sailors are reaching out in cities across America during Navy Weeks by giving back to the community, providing insight into today's Navy, and joining together to celebrate in local festivals. This was definitely the case during Navy Week in Spokane during Lilac Festival 2010.

In 1908 the Spokane Trophy was donated to the Navy by the Spokane Navy League and is still awarded today to the surface ship of the Pacific Fleet deemed most proficient in combat systems readiness and warfare operations.



Lt. Stacey Valentin, NRD Seattle's Spokane officer recruiter, left, and Cmdr. Scott W. Murdock, commanding officer, NRD Seattle, pose with the 2010 Lilac Festival Royal Court at Shriners Hospital for Children in Spokane during a Caps for Kids event.

More than 160,000 people from the Spokane region attended the 72nd Spokane Lilac Festival. In a true team effort, members of NRD Seattle, Navy Office of Community Outreach, Northwest Navy Band, USS *Constitution* and Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Spokane joined forces to showcase the Navy throughout the weeklong celebration.

Having been selected for an unprecedented three Navy Weeks in a row, Spokane has become a true Navy town, even with the presence of Fairchild Air Force Base.

Rich in naval history, Spokane was home to Ensign John Robert Monaghan, the first Naval Academy graduate from the state of Washington. Monaghan died in heroic action during a skirmish on the island of Samoa in 1899 and his service is honored by a large statue in downtown Spokane.

Spokane continues to have a rich tradition of service that can be felt throughout the area. "It's a privilege and honor to have the Navy with us this week," said Spokane Mayor Mary Verner. "The city wants to honor and thank the Navy and all our military."

This year the stakes were raised during Spokane Navy Week as three flag officers participated in events.

Rear Adm. James A. Symonds, commander, Navy Region Northwest, participated in events throughout the community, including speaking engagements at the Spokane Kiwanis and Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce, as well as visits to Gonzaga University and Whitworth College.

Rear Adm. Doug Asbjornsen, special assistant for Integrated Undersea Warfare Naval Mine and Anti-

Submarine Warfare Command, participated in a number of events including speaking at the Military Appreciation Luncheon. A member of the Navy Reserve, Asbjornsen is also the superintendent of the Reardon School District just outside Spokane.

Vice Adm. Bruce W. Clingan, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy, flew in from overseas for the event. He visited the Spokane campus of Washington State University's College of Nursing, gave interviews with KHQ television station and on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" newsmagazine program, spoke at the Lilac Festival President's Dinner, and reenlisted two of NRD Seattle's Sailors, NCC Jeremy Gillespie and AM1 Mathew Haney, at Riverfront Park during the Lilac Festival Car Show that he helped judge. Additionally, Clingan made appearances at the Spokane Sea Services Museum, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 51 and NOSC Spokane throughout the week. One highlight was the opportunity for members of Navy for Moms to meet with him at the VFW where he provided them a perspective few moms are able to experience.

Sailors from NRD Seattle, *Constitution*, and NOSC Spokane all participated in various community events throughout the week.

Sailors were elbow deep at the Second Harvest Food Bank sorting an enormous donation of potatoes, where over 13,000 pounds were sorted and boxed to be given throughout the week to hungry families of Spokane.

Sailors assisted at a community dinner at All Saints Church to provide a hot meal to lower income families in the area.

Habitat for Humanity was the largest community project of the week. NRD Seattle's First Class Petty Officers Association (FCPOA) volunteers spent a day at a site

painting, installing conduit and assisting with plumbing installation for a nine-unit home building project.

HM1 Devin McConnell, FCPOA president, asks members to volunteer for projects like this. "It's very rewarding to see the outcome and how we've helped to get people into homes," said McConnell.

"We are excited to be a part of Navy Week, and we love it when the Navy volunteers," said Michone Preston, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Spokane, which builds 10-20 homes a year for disadvantaged families. "They [Sailors] are people with skills, people with work ethic, people with a positive attitude, strength and community focus," Preston said. "They are the cream of the crop of our volunteers!"

Navy Band Northwest's rock band "Passage" put the words "rock" and "Navy" in the same sentence with its numerous performances at Navy Week events and performed at local high schools, VFW Post 51, Riverfront Park, and Coeur D'Alene Park, Idaho.

The team from *Constitution* brought a unique and historic focus to Navy Week, giving history lessons to local middle schools. Their knowledge and professionalism, along with their 1813-style uniforms, provided a new and

fantastic element to this year's Navy Week. They also participated in Caps for Kids events at the local Shriners Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital, bringing smiles and wonderful memories to a large number of kids.

The Lilac Festival Torchlight Parade concluded Spokane Navy Week. Clingan served as an honorary grand marshal of the Lilac Festival Parade.

No one who attended Navy Week Spokane could deny that it was a fulfilling and inspiring experience, and NRD Seattle is looking forward to the next one.



Vice Adm. Bruce W. Clingan, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy, conducts a personnel inspection of U.S. Naval Sea Cadets from Fort Spokane Battalion during the 72nd Annual Spokane Lilac Festival.



# NRD New York Recruiters

## Walk for a Cause

**Story by MCC Eric Durie, NRD New York Public Affairs**

**GARDEN CITY, N.Y.** – Six NRD New York recruiters took to the track to walk and run...for 24 hours straight. The run, however, was not part of an intense physical training regimen. Rather, it was taken on by these Sailors as part of their participation in an American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Pelham, N.Y.

During these relays, conducted every year in more than 5,000 communities nationwide, teams of people take turns walking or running around a track for 24 hours. According to the event's Web site, Relay for Life is designed to "give everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease."

The first such event took place in 1985 when a single man, Dr. Gordy Klatt, ran and walked around a track in Tacoma, Wash., for 24 hours in an effort to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Twenty-five years later, Relay for Life includes much more than a single participant. Each year, more than 3.5 million people across the globe take to the track to battle cancer.

This year, six of those 3.5 million were Bronx-area recruiters. The recruiters' motivation for participating varied, but one common theme was a desire to do what they could to assist their local community.

According to the team captain QM1 Adam Congello, the event "showed the community that the Navy isn't just around

to help out people overseas, but here in the United States as well. Anything we can do to show the community that we are here for them is monumental in establishing and maintaining a strong bond."

AD2 Omar Sanchez echoed Congello's sentiment. "I felt like I was doing something important," said Sanchez. "Not only did I help the Navy get out in the community, but I also supported a great cause."

The support of the NRD New York team helped the event raise more than \$86,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Although some members of the team weren't sure what they were getting into, they all left with a glowing opinion of the Relay for Life. "I went there not knowing what to expect," said ET2 Amauri Maria. "I thought it would be a sad day, but everyone there was upbeat. It was great to be a part of something so special."

These Sailors all hope that their participation will show the community that the Navy cares, and judging from the reaction of other participants, that is exactly what it did.

The experience was a humbling one for the recruiters who walked in the relay.

"People kept saying that we [the Navy] were brave," said AS1 William Cepeda. "No. They [cancer survivors] are the brave ones."

The team's effort in the Relay for Life continues NRD New York's focus on volunteering in the local community.



NRD New York recruiters show their Navy pride following participation in an American Cancer Society Relay for Life. (Back) AS1 William Cepeda, left, MA2 Wendy Estrella, AD2 Omar Sanchez, and QM1 Adam Congello. (Front) LS2 Edwin Caceres, left, and ET2 Amauri Maria. (Courtesy photo)



# Sailors Volunteer at PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH CAMP

**Story and photo by NCC Aaron Jardina, Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown**

**YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio** – Recently NRD Ohio Sailors volunteered to help Camp Judson get ready for a busy summer camping season.

Founded over 50 years ago along the shores of Lake Erie near North Springfield, Pa., Camp Judson serves the local tri-state counties of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York by mentoring and educating junior and senior high school students.

Camp Judson provides a variety of programs such as horsemanship, archeology, sailing, hiking, swimming, and archery. The primary focus of the camp is to provide entertaining activities while continuing to reinforce positive moral and Christian beliefs to the youth it serves. As a non-profit organization, the camp depends on volunteers for monetary donations as well as maintaining and refurbishing the campus.

NRD Ohio volunteers were given three main objectives to complete: Run a 220 electrical line through a pavilion; build a footbridge for a trail in the woods; and cut up downed trees that were blocking some of the trails.

CE2 Eric Gable was put in charge of the electrical cable. Through his Navy training, Gable became a certified electrician in the state of Pennsylvania. FC1 Nathan Worsley and ET2 David Price added their expertise and helped run the cable through the pavilion rafters.

Another group was headed up by BU2 Brian Havran to construct the footbridge. Assisting him were NC1 James Hart, FT1 David Schneck, FC1 Matthew Gay, and DC2 Mike Andrulis.

This project was not without challenges. “The most difficult part of the assignment was mainly logistical,” said Havran. “We had the tools and the resources. We just had to figure out how to get it all to the right spot.” With typical military precision, they were able to drop a

couple trees, reuse some old railroad ties, and get a solid base constructed for the footbridge.

The third group was headed up by NCC Aaron Jardina. Being raised on a farm, Jardina learned to use a chain saw and a split mall at an early age. Joining the woodcutting crew were AO2 Terry Deloof and AM2 Jerrod Ketelsen.

Besides the Sailors, there were countless others

who sacrificed their Saturday to ensure the camp was ready for a heavy flow of summer campers.

If you’re ever in the vicinity of Camp Judson, drop in. Take a walk over a well constructed bridge, sit by a campfire, or enjoy a well-lit game of basketball in the pavilion. Whatever your hobby, you can enjoy it at Camp Judson, thanks to the countless volunteers and donors in the local community.



These Sailors from NRD Ohio Zone 4 teamed up to do some manual labor at Camp Judson to get it ready for the summer season. They spent a Saturday running an electrical line, building a footbridge, and cutting up downed trees.



# Los Angeles Recruiter Crowned Pageant Winner

**Story by MCC Anthony Briggs, Jr., NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs**

**LOS ANGELES** – A recruiter assigned to NRD Los Angeles has been crowned Ms. Santa Clarita Valley in a ceremony in Valencia, Calif.

NC1 Latonya Robinson, recruiter in charge of NRS Santa Clarita, was selected the winner over 41 contestants.

"When I heard my name, an unspeakable joy came over me," said the Pineville, La., native. "The whole thing felt surreal."

Robinson caught the pageant bug while living in Houston, Texas. At age 13, she competed in the Miss America Coed Pageant and was third runner-up for the Miss Sweetheart Pageant at 17.

"I hadn't competed in 20 years," said the 37 year-old mother of two boys, 14 and 12. "Competing was a lot of fun then and the adrenaline rush was still there. I was really worried about the swimsuit portion and my speech, but once the pageant started, I felt really comfortable and it all went well."

While on stage, Robinson was alone, but unseen to the audience was a very large support staff. The NRD Los Angeles First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) rallied behind one of their own and put up the



NC1 Latonya Robinson, assigned to NRD Los Angeles, poses with her crown and sash after being named Ms. Santa Clarita Valley. Robinson is the recruiter in charge of the Santa Clarita NRS and a 17-year Navy veteran. (Courtesy photo)

registration money, allowing Robinson to compete.

"We're a family, and we're always looking out for each other," said NC1 Archie Folks, NRD Los Angeles FCPOA president. "We're very proud of NC1 for entering, and the fact that she won was icing on the cake."

Robinson applies the same drive and determination daily as a Navy recruiter.

She converted from the operations specialist rating to be a Navy Full Time Support (FTS) member of the Career Recruiting Force in 2005. FTS Sailors are members of the Navy Reserve who perform full-time active duty, receiving the same pay, allowances, and benefits as active duty members.

The numerous awards throughout her 17-year career speak of her dedication to bringing highly qualified men and women into the United States Navy.

"She's proven herself to be one of our superstars," said NCC Karl Marc Andrada, West Valley Zone Supervisor. "Her results at work are a direct reflection of countless hours she spends informing potential applicants of the many opportunities the Navy has to offer."

To those who see pageants as degrading to women, Robinson has a simple answer. "A pageant can be an empowering event – it can show women that no matter what they look like, they are powerful and special," said Robinson.

And in that role of being empowered, Robinson has adopted domestic violence as her platform to bring awareness to the public. "Too many suffer in silence," said Robinson. "We must bring domestic violence to

an end. I will use this title as a platform to help end this problem in our society."

As a pageant winner, Robinson sees herself as a role model and it's a role that she accepts wholeheartedly. "I want young women to believe that nothing is impossible. You can do anything or be anyone if you put your mind to it," said Robinson.



# **Mother's Three Children Set Sail for the Navy**

**Story by Lt. Jennifer Alvarez, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy**

**Photo by ABF1 Scott Whitaker, NRS Patchogue**

**PATCHOGUE, N.Y.** – When Astrid Bonomico immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1970, she never imagined all three of her children would eventually serve in the United States Navy.

Her son Nicholas, age 21, is currently in boot camp and will enter the advanced electronics field upon graduation. Daughter Heather, age 18, leaves for boot camp in March 2011, and will attend Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C., where she hopes to become a Navy nuclear engineer. Justin, age 17, is still in high school but plans to take the Navy's entrance exam in the near future and dreams of becoming a Navy SEAL.

Bonomico notes that although she encouraged her children to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Navy, there were other positive influences that helped them make an informed decision.

Ironically, the primary driving force was their extensive involvement in the Army National Corps of Cadets, where they interacted with military personnel and grew accustomed to a structured military lifestyle and what it had to offer.

Heather credits much of her inspiration to one of her teachers at Sayville High School, a former Army major general.

Although there were many who helped the Bonomico children make their choice, these future Sailors were certainly not lacking in personal passion and motivation to fulfill their dreams and aspirations through various Navy programs.

Bonomico describes her son Nicholas as "an amazing young man who sees his future as something filled with endless possibilities. In his heart he always knew that he would one day join the Navy." She said, "Nick was mentally ready to leave for boot camp. He was counting the days until he began his new life."

Heather has aspired to be an Army medic since the age of 10, but recalls changing her course after receiving a phone call from local Navy recruiter AM2 Torlap Pookphant. "We had a meeting every second Thursday and I just thought it was really cool," said Heather. "The Navy was the most vocal about what they had to offer and it just seemed to be the best choice for me."

Justin, exposed to the Navy by his older siblings, loves the idea of traveling and getting a college degree.

Heather expressed the same sentiment but added that she has the greatest admiration for those who serve and aspires to be a great leader.

Active in their school and community, the Bonomico children have participated in varsity soccer, track and field, lacrosse, wrestling, and Students Against Drunk Driving among other noteworthy activities and organizations.

There is no doubt that Nicholas, Heather, and Justin have already displayed the qualities and characteristics that will enable them to excel as Sailors.

When asked whether or not they thought about making the Navy a career, both Heather and Justin were undecided, but thrilled to begin their Navy journey.

Nicholas, however, does plan on making the Navy a career. "He wants to travel to places that people only read about," said Bonomico. "He plans on visiting all the continents at least once and tracking his travels on maps for others to see."

Bonomico is extremely proud of all her children and is confident the Navy will provide them with a good education, job security, leadership skills, and unforgettable life experiences.



NRD New York Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Susanne McNinch, left, visits with Astrid Bonimico, center, and her children who are beginning their Navy careers. Heather Bonimico is in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP). Justin Bonimico, far right, will join DEP soon, and Nicholas Bonimico recently shipped to Recruit Training Command.

# NAVY DAYS

## *Conducted in Bakersfield*

**Story and photos by MCC Anthony Briggs, Jr., NRD Los Angeles Public Affairs**

**BAKERSFIELD, Calif.** – NRD Los Angeles wrapped up Bakersfield Navy Days on July 9.

Based on the Navy Week program, the two-day event allowed community members to interact with Navy personnel and raise awareness of the U.S. Navy.

NRD Los Angeles recruiters were joined by Bakersfield future Sailors and students from West High Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) unit for a Caps for Kids event at Memorial Hospital's pediatric ward.

Founded in 1993, Caps for Kids is an international non-profit organization that provides caps and scarves to children diagnosed and undergoing treatment for cancer or receiving chemotherapy to treat other life-threatening illnesses. The caps and scarves help them establish a special bond with the person who gave it to them.

"It was really touching to see the smiles on the kids' faces," said NC1 Frank Flores.

The Caps for Kids team later toured the Ronald McDonald House located on the hospital grounds and

left gifts for family members who stay at the four-room facility. One of the newest and smallest residences in the organization, the house offers families a home away from home for their children while receiving treatment at the hospital.

"We really appreciate the Navy for spending time here and getting to see our facilities," said Scarlett Sabin, house manager. "We're always looking for ways to make this house a home away from home and volunteers like you help us do just that."

The next stop was an afternoon at the Niles Street Boys and Girls Club. Recruiters and NJROTC cadets played volleyball and basketball with teens in the club's summer program. After several hard-fought games, the club's "ream team" went undefeated.

"It was nice having the Navy guys here," said 14-year-old Jordin Hernandez. "They really gave us some good competition, and it was a lot of fun beating them at volleyball."

Ricardo Ybarra, West High NJROTC's commanding officer, said the chance to reach out to the community is a foundation of the unit's success. "We are always looking for chances to give back to our community, and when we heard about what the recruiters were doing here, we wanted to be a part of it," said Ybarra.

The Bakersfield area recruiters also spoke to the teens about peer pressure and making good choices.

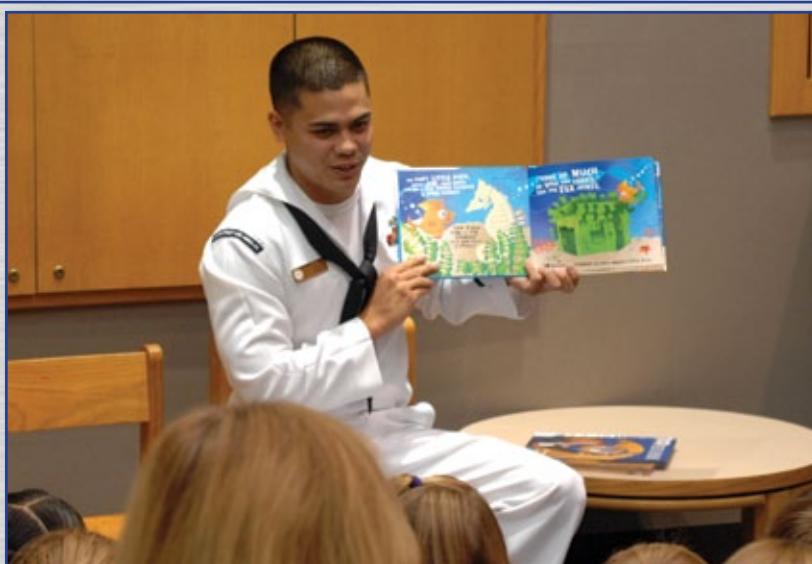
"The kids were really excited about this [visit]. They loved that the recruiters came here to play and

hang out with them today," said Chris Molina, the club's programs director.

More than 40 children attended story time at the library where AD1 Joseph Valdez and FT2 Raymond Cowell read books and performed the Hokey Pokey, entertaining both children and their parents.

Cathy Hansen, Bakersfield Navy League president, brought together local and state representatives to honor Bakersfield recruiters at a restaurant on July 9.

Cmdr. Chris Collins, NRD Los Angeles' commanding officer, gave the group an update on the status of the Navy and what the Bakersfield area means to Navy recruiting.



FC2 Raymond Cowell, NRD Los Angeles recruiter, reads to children at the Beale Memorial Library in Bakersfield. Cowell, assigned to NRS West Bakersfield, read to more than 40 children during the library's weekly story-time hour.



NRD Los Angeles future Sailors Benny Elguera, left, and Kraig Chandler recite the oath of enlistment during pre-game ceremonies at a Bakersfield Blaze baseball game. Elguera and Chandler were two of 46 future Sailors who took the oath in front of family and friends at the conclusion of Bakersfield Navy Days.

"We're so proud of the job our recruiters are doing here. I wish we could have Bakersfield Navy Days every day," said Hansen.

Bakersfield Navy Days was capped off by Navy Night with the Bakersfield Blaze baseball team, the single "A" affiliate of the Texas Rangers. In pre-games ceremonies, 46 future Sailors were administered the oath of enlistment on the field in front of their families and friends. The Naval Station Lemoore color guard was on hand, and NC1 Tina Simmons sang the National Anthem.

"We couldn't be more honored to serve as the swearing-in host for so many brave men and women making the commitment to serve our country," said Justin Kozubal, Blaze general manager.



# Minor Leaguer Hits Homerun for the Navy

**Story and photo by MCC Jeremy J. Siegrist, NRD Pittsburgh Public Affairs**

**PITTSBURGH** – Sailors come in all shapes, sizes and backgrounds, but one future Sailor from New York state has made a niche for himself in the minor league baseball system.

Future Sailor, Nick Sottung, a 23-year-old from Pulaski, N.Y., is one of the closing pitchers for the Evansville Otters in Evansville, Ind., and a future avionics-focused Sailor.

When asked why, in light of his success as a minor league baseball player, he was joining the United States Navy, Sottung said, "I really want to serve my country as well as develop a career that I can build on for the future. Hopefully I can get the opportunity to play baseball for the All-Navy Team."

Voted the Otter's player of the month for June, Sottung is no stranger to success. He had a stellar career playing at Ithaca College in New York. Additionally, he spent one season with a minor league team in Texarkana, Texas, prior to joining the Otters.

Sottung travels from place to place with the Otters, but when NRD Pittsburgh was made aware that he would be facing off against the Washington, Pa., Wild Things, the command wanted to recognize Sottung and make him feel welcome.

Lt. David Culp, who works at the NRD Pittsburgh headquarters, made the trip July 2 to Consol Energy

Park in Washington Township to present Sottung a traditional Navy "Challenge Coin."

"The Challenge Coin is something that is presented to someone on a special occasion and we thought it would

be nice to show up down there to support future Sailor Sottung." said Culp.

Culp, who was an aviation warfare systems operator, talked to Sottung about different aviation careers in the Navy and the possibility of eventually applying for Officer Candidate School.

Sottung's recruiter, EMC Scott Parkhurst located at NRS Oswego and also a

native of New York state, was ecstatic when he found out district representatives were to make an appearance at Sottung's game.

"Nick exemplifies the kind of person we see constantly in recruiting for the U.S. Navy. People like to think of the military based on what they see on TV, but it's people like Nick, and thousands of others who join up to serve their country, that makes our Navy the best in the world," Parkhurst said.

Soon Sottung will apply his abilities to a different discipline when he learns his job for the Navy. As a Sailor working in the avionics field, he will be working hands-on with the complex wiring systems on multi-million dollar aircraft.



Lt. David Culp from NRD Pittsburgh talks with future Sailor Nick Sottung who currently plays for the Evansville, Ind., Otters baseball team. The two met prior to a game at Consol Energy Park in Washington, Pa., when Sottung's team played the Washington Wild Things.



# The Districts' Best Stations

June 2010

<b>NRD Atlanta</b> NRS Montgomery	<b>NRD Minneapolis</b> NRS Chanassen	<b>NRD Raleigh</b> NRS Shelby	<b>NRD Dallas</b> NRS Cedar Hill	<b>NRD Nashville</b> NRS Cookeville	
<b>NRD Chicago</b> NRS Green Bay	<b>NRD New England</b> NRS Albany	<b>NRD Richmond</b> NRS Chesterfield	<b>NRD Denver</b> NRS Montrose	<b>NRD New England</b> NRS Waltham	<b>NRD Richmond</b> NRS Chesapeake
<b>NRD Dallas</b> NRS S. Arlington	<b>NRD New Orleans</b> NRS Fort Walton Beach	<b>NRD San Antonio</b> NRS San Marcos	<b>NRD Houston</b> NRS Baytown	<b>NRD New York</b> NRS White Plains	<b>NRD San Antonio</b> NRS San Antonio College
<b>NRD Denver</b> NRS Montrose		<b>NRD San Diego</b> NRS Upland	<b>NRD Jacksonville</b> NRS Kissimmee	<b>NRD Ohio</b> NRS London	<b>NRD San Diego</b> NRS Temecula
<b>NRD Houston</b> NRS Katy	<b>NRD New York</b> NRS Coram	<b>NRD San Francisco</b> NRS Livermore	<b>NRD Los Angeles</b> NRS Thousand Oaks	<b>NRD Philadelphia</b> NRS Center City	<b>NRD San Francisco</b> NRS Fresno
<b>NRD Jacksonville</b> NRS Tallahassee	<b>NRD Ohio</b> NRS Sommerset	<b>NRD Seattle</b> NRS Olympia	<b>NRD Miami</b> NRS Brandon	<b>NRD Phoenix</b> NRS El Paso Central	<b>NRD Seattle</b> NRS Olympia
<b>NRD Los Angeles</b> NRS Culver City	<b>NRD Pittsburgh</b> NRS Morgantown	<b>July 2010</b> <b>NRD Atlanta</b> NRS Montgomery	<b>NRD Michigan</b> NRS West Branch	<b>NRD Portland</b> NRS Hillsboro	<b>NRD St. Louis</b> NRS Marion
<b>NRD Miami</b> NRS Brandon	<b>NRD Portland</b> NRS Gresham	<b>NRD Chicago</b> NRS Racine	<b>NRD Minneapolis</b> NRS Coon Rapids	<b>NRD Raleigh</b> NRS Shelby	

# Admiral's Five-Star Recruiters

June 2010

<b>NRD Atlanta</b> ABE2 Anchel Klien	<b>NRD New Orleans</b> BM1 Kelly Hawkins	<b>NRD Seattle</b> OS2 Chad Combs	
<b>NRD Chicago</b> AD2 Michael Young AE2 Steven DeBauch CS1 Stephen Smith MN2 Joyce Christensen	<b>NRD New York</b> ABE2 Emmanuel Cira	<b>July 2010</b> <b>NRD Atlanta</b> NRS Montgomery	
	<b>NRD Ohio</b> OS2 Aaron Plaskon	SK1 Lamar Morales	<b>NRD Minneapolis</b> ABF1 Duyhai Le
<b>NRD Dallas</b> SH3 Anastasia Allen	<b>NRD Phoenix</b> BM2 Dallas Rodriguez	<b>NRD Chicago</b> MM1 Bryon Smith	<b>NRD Raleigh</b> ET2 William Farmer
<b>NRD Denver</b> BU1 Jeffery Hood	<b>NRD Pittsburgh</b> OS1 Joshua Britt	<b>NRD Dallas</b> FC2 Charity Woodard	<b>NRD Richmond</b> ET1 Oscar Faustino
<b>NRD Houston</b> STG2 Kelden Smith	<b>NRD Portland</b> FC2 Craig Bowen	<b>NRD Denver</b> SW1 Robb Eyestone	<b>NRD San Antonio</b> AM1 Rafael Morales
<b>NRD Jacksonville</b> LS2 Quinton Pratt	<b>NRD Raleigh</b> IT1 Jeremy Green	<b>NRD Houston</b> AM2 Jonathon Ramirez	<b>NRD San Diego</b> FC2 Jonathan Bartlett
<b>NRD Los Angeles</b> NC1 Casey Spaulding LS1 Zeferin Cortez	<b>NRD Richmond</b> ABH1 Joshua Pasik	<b>NRD Jacksonville</b> YN2 Akido Newton	<b>NRD San Francisco</b> MM2 Michael Balitaan
<b>NRD Miami</b> GSE2 Francisco Zapata	<b>NRD San Antonio</b> GM2 Samuel Reyna	<b>NRD Los Angeles</b> CE2 German LiraCarrillo	<b>NRD Seattle</b> OS2 Chad Combs
<b>NRD Minneapolis</b> ABH2 David Brown	<b>NRD San Diego</b> EN2 Michael Valiente	<b>NRD Miami</b> UT2 Lamar Moore	<b>NRD St. Louis</b> AW2 Matthew Nikkel
<b>NRD New England</b> BM2 Wilfredo Maldonado	<b>NRD San Francisco</b> MM2 Michael Balitaan	<b>NRD Michigan</b> CS3 Steve Dejong	



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