

# NMIE TC NEWS

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## MCPON Discusses Priorities With Navy Medicine Training Support Center During San Antonio Visit

By L.A. Shively

*JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs*

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens shared sea stories and his vision of leadership in the Navy with NMTSC Sailors and then with NMTSC chief petty officers during two meetings Oct. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA)-Fort Sam Houston.

During his meeting with Sailors, Stevens said he was excited to spend time with them and encouraged them to ask questions and express their ideas on issues.

“These interactions I have with all of you are so important,” Stevens said, adding that speaking with Sailors on the deckplates is the source of his guidance for Navy leadership.

“If I don’t know what’s on your minds – what you are thinking – then how am I going to sit down with the (Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert) and other senior leaders and provide them with advice and recommendations that have a direct impact on you and your families?” he asked.

Stevens discussed his “Zeroing in on Excellence,” an initiative he released last year, explaining its three focus areas: developing leaders, good order and discipline, and controlling what we own.

“If we work on these three things together – I call it pulling on the rope – if all 400,000 of us pull on this rope together, then we are going to make a difference in our goals for excellence.”

He said developing leaders is imperative for the Navy and urged Sailors to take advantage of every training and mentorship opportunity offered in order to seek self-improvement and growth as professionals.

“No organization will ever rise above



*SAN ANTONIO - Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens speaks with Sailors during a tour of Navy Medicine Training Support Center (NMTSC) Oct. 30 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. NMTSC, the Navy component command providing administrative and operational control over Navy staff and students assigned to the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) in the San Antonio area, hosted the MCPON for a day-long visit.*

the capabilities of its leadership. When leaders fail to meet their maximum potential, they prevent those people serving with them to meet their maximum potentials,” Stevens said.

Stevens described good order and discipline as a concept – setting a personal example for others, especially those in leadership positions – that goes beyond just correcting Sailors.

Controlling what we own focuses on personal goals as well, he explained, such as ensuring on-time arrival for duty; that uniforms are clean and worn properly; and that Sailors give their best every day.

He strongly encouraged everyone to engage in sexual assault prevention.

“Make no mistake about it. Sexual assault is wrong. It’s extremely corrosive to the individual, to our entire or-

ganization, and it prevents us from being able to accomplish the mission,” Stevens said. “All of us in this room need to be active in eliminating sexual assault. It is no good for our Navy.”

Stevens was also adamant that Sailors complete an on-line sexual assault prevention survey so leadership can assess the current climate to determine the proper course of action for future prevention efforts.

Questions ranged from funding levels for schools to social media usage and commissioning opportunities.

The MCPON’s session with the chief petty officers included a detailed discussion of senior enlisted training.

See *MCPON*,  
continued on page 3

## From the Commander...Budget and Furlough, Communications and the Holiday Period

### Captain Gail L. Hathaway, MSC

Commander  
Navy Medicine Education and Training Command

Hello again NMETC, and welcome to the latest issue of NMETC News. I want to write to you about three topics – budget and furlough, communications and the holidays.

#### **Budget and Furlough**

A lot has happened since the last newsletter in the early summer, not least of which involves the budget and mandatory furloughs. I think I can safely say that each of you and your family have been impacted directly or indirectly by the budget- and furlough-related events of the past several months.

NMETC continues to navigate through the uncharted waters brought on by ever changing fiscal issues. Fiscal issues brought on mandatory furloughs for civilian employees, a government shutdown that forced furlough time on many contract employees, uncertainty about Sailor pay and benefits, and questions and scrutiny about every penny spent. As we forge ahead, there are two things I want you to remember: whether you are active duty, reserve, or civilian or contract employees, you are valued, and

your service and dedication are recognized and appreciated. NMETC cannot function without your hard work and selfless devotion, and I know that.

During the recent government shutdown, the president wrote in an open letter to civilian employees, “Thank you for the work you do every day – work that is vitally important to our national security and to American families' economic security. You defend our country overseas and ensure that our troops receive the benefits they deserve when they come home. Public service is noble. Public service is important. And by choosing public service, you carry on a proud tradition at the heart of some of this country's greatest and most lasting achievements.”

While the president's letter was directed to civilian employees, I think his message applies to every NMETC staff member – military or civilian.

#### **Communications**

The NMETC May 2013 command assessment survey indicated there were some who were concerned about communications within NMETC headquarters. As a result, commander suggestion boxes were added at all three headquarters locations. Suggestions are anonymous and come directly to me. Also, the NMETC Command Assessment Chair, CAPT Denise Smith, and my Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Larry Coffey, worked with CDR Jeff Stancil from the NMETC Simulation Program Management Office and developed an NMETC Communication Survey.

An online survey about communications was conducted in September and had a completion rate of 77%, which is very high. Of the respondents, 50% of you were either satisfied or very satisfied with communication within NMETC, while 22% were neutral and 28% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Sixty-nine percent felt that communication across the NMETC en-



terprise was adequate or better while 28% felt that information was limited, and only 3% felt uninformed. Results suggest communication has improved since NMETC's establishment with 67% indicating increased knowledge of NMETC's mission, vision and accomplishments compared to a year ago. There are lots of other numbers and data available from Mr. Coffey or CAPT Smith.

So, what does all this mean? Your responses tell me that most of you are satisfied or neutral about current communication strategies, that you believe communication has improved, and that the word is getting to you via multiple communication methods, i.e. supervisor, newsletter, emails, etc. You also told me you prefer more direct communication via your supervisor regarding issues that directly impact NMETC current and future operations.

In simple terms, we're not doing a bad job, but there's room for improvement. Borrowing a shipboard expression, we'll “add a round turn” on communication from your supervisor, we'll continue with the newsletter, and we'll remain open to your suggestions via your supervisor or commander's suggestion boxes.

See **COMMANDER**,  
continued on page 3

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# NAMI Enlisted, Officer Courses Earn ACE Recommendation for Accreditation

MC1 (SW) Bruce Cummins  
*Navy Medicine Operational Training Center  
 Public Affairs*

**NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA, Fla.** -- The Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) announced Oct. 21 that it was awarded accreditation by the American Council on Education (ACE), the nation's most visible and influential higher education association.

NAMI, the Navy's premier organization for training Navy and Marine Corps aeromedical officers, underwent an ACE curriculum review, something NAMI Deputy Director of Training Lt. Cmdr. T. E. Sather, MSC, said validates the top-notch training and ensures only the best and brightest support Naval Aviation.

"Having ACE evaluate our aeromedical courses against civilian criteria [like those used by Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Johns Hopkins University for example] provides us the benefit of knowing we're providing a level of instruction commensurate with universities throughout the country," he said. "This

See NAMI,  
 continued on page 7



U.S. Navy Photo

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** -- Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) flight surgeon Lt. Cmdr. Charles Johnson, center, provides student flight surgeons Lt. Jennifer Hunt, left, and Lt. John Jackson feedback during an Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support block of instruction at NAMI in Pensacola, Fla. NAMI was awarded American Council of Education accreditation for its enlisted and commissioned officer courses Oct. 16.

MCPON, continued from page 1

What had previously been referred to as chief induction – the uniquely Navy practice of giving chief petty officer selectees a six-week transition period accompanying promotion – has evolved into a two-phase process known as CPO 365 Training.

All first class petty officers participate in phase-one training. Phase-two training kicks in when a first class petty officer is selected for chief and includes time-honored traditions such as CPO charge books and a capstone event focused on teamwork and resilience.

During his session with the chiefs, Stevens announced his intention to make attendance at the senior enlisted academy mandatory for a senior chief petty officer to be promoted.

Stevens also said he was proposing that a ship be named after Delbert Black, the first MCPON who served from Jan.

13, 1967, to April 1, 1971.

After speaking with the chiefs, Stevens said these meetings have both professional and personal benefits for him.

"When I visit with Sailors in the fleet, I get to plug in. And when I plug into those Sailors, they re-energize me and

help me realize what a privilege it is to still have the opportunity to serve."

Between speaking with Sailors, the MCPON toured facilities at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBASA-Lackland.

COMMANDER, continued from page 3

### Holiday Period

Can you believe we're already approaching the annual holiday season? And it's been almost a year-and-a-half since we stood up NMETS. As we wind down 2013 and prepare for 2014, I thank each of you for all did to serve. Navy Medicine, the Navy and your nation are better because of you. I encourage you to take some time during the holidays to focus on yourself and your family by relaxing

and recharging. If your time with family or friends includes travel, please be safe.

Again, thank you to each of you for your continued efforts in meeting our mission. I recognize all you do for the Navy, Navy Medicine, and Navy Medicine Education and Training Command. You are truly an inspiration to me every day.



U.S. Navy Photo

**SAN ANTONIO** - Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC) Commander Capt. Gail Hathaway presents former U.S. Navy Pacific Command Commander and 2013 San Antonio Navy Ball Guest Speaker Texas native retired Adm. Pat Walsh a plaque from the 2013 San Antonio Navy Ball Committee during the 2013 San Antonio Navy Birthday Ball Oct. 5 at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio. More than 700 Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines attended the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC)-led Navy Birthday Ball in San Antonio, which served as a showcase of Navy heritage and tradition to the historically Army and Air Force military communities in San Antonio.

## Army, USAF, Navy Flags join HM, MA students make San Antonio Navy Ball a Joint Event

*Navy Medicine Education and Training Command Public Affairs*

SAN ANTONIO -- Approximately 750 Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Navy civilians, retirees and a local state official participated in an Oct. 5 event in San Antonio designed to celebrate the rich heritage and tradition of the United States Navy.

The 238th San Antonio area Navy Birthday Ball was held near the city's landmark Riverwalk and showcased Navy tradition for several Army and Air Force general and commanding officers and their senior enlisted leaders in attendance.

Several hundred junior enlisted entry-

level "A" school Hospital Corps and Master-at-Arms school students and the more senior enlisted advanced, or "C" school, students also attended, according to Rear Adm. Bill Roberts, commandant of the tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus based at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Fort Sam Houston.

"I think it's especially gratifying in a city like San Antonio, which opens itself up to all military, to see so many Sailors so far from a coastline, and for us to be able to get together to celebrate and recognize our traditions and share these with our new Sailors just starting their careers in uniform," Roberts said.

The 2013 San Antonio Navy Birthday

Ball, a herculean effort led by Capt. Denise Smith, Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC) deputy commander, included the traditional toasts to the Commander-in-Chief and the five military services. All San Antonio-based Navy commands participated in the planning and execution of this highly successful event. Voluntary fund raising efforts and ticket sales resulted in no requirement for expenditure of appropriated dollars.

See **NAVY BALL**,  
continued on page 6



*(Left) SAN ANTONIO - Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) Commandant Rear Adm. Bill Roberts, MC, addresses the crowd during the 2013 San Antonio Navy Birthday Ball Oct. 5 at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio. More than 700 Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines attended the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC)-led Navy Birthday Ball in San Antonio, which served as a showcase of Navy heritage and tradition to the historically Army and Air Force military communities in San Antonio.*

*(Right) SAN ANTONIO - Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC) Command Master Chief (SW/FMF) Rusty Perry (right) greets Retired Master Chief Hospital Corpsman and Navy Cross recipient Don Mason on the stage during the 2013 San Antonio Navy Birthday Ball Oct. 5 at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio. More than 700 Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines attended the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC)-led Navy Birthday Ball in San Antonio, which served as a showcase of Navy heritage and tradition to the historically Army and Air Force military communities in San Antonio.*



*(Left) SAN ANTONIO - A Sailor places a flower on the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) table during the 2013 San Antonio Navy Birthday Ball Oct. 5 at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio.*

*(Right) SAN ANTONIO - Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) Commandant Rear Adm. Bill Roberts, MC, cuts the Navy Birthday cake with the youngest Sailor present during the 2013 San Antonio Navy Birthday Ball Oct. 5 at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio.*





NAVY BALL, continued from page 4

Featured as guest speaker was former Vice Chief of Naval Operations and former Pacific Fleet Commander, retired Adm. Pat Walsh. Walsh presented a video highlighting the Navy's aid to survivors of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated areas of Japan in March 2011. As then Pacific Fleet Commander, Walsh led the U.S. military response in support of Operation Tomodachi, a multi-service and multinational effort designed to provide relief to the hundreds of thousands of Japanese citizens affected by the natural disaster.

The gripping video, he said, expounded on the principles men and women in uniform embrace, a testament toward what is shared by those nearing the end of their time in uniform and those just beginning their military careers.

"Our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Guardsmen are the pride of a generation that has given more than they've received and positively affected the lives of more people than they will

ever know," Walsh said.

San Antonio is home to "A" schools for the U.S. Navy's two largest ratings - hospital corpsmen and master-at-arms. Despite a historically significant Army and Air Force presence, San Antonio, the seventh most populous city in the continental United States, now plays home to an increasing number of Sailors. This is evidenced by the daily average of more than 7,000 active and Reserve Navy personnel and students assigned to 12 Navy commands and detachments.

Roberts said the efforts of the San Antonio Navy retiree community, junior Sailors and "A" school students in this year's Navy birthday celebration could not be understated.

"So many people worked so hard to ensure our young corpsmen and master-at-arms had an opportunity to be here and witness these traditions and be able to speak with some of the older Sailors and learn from our experiences," he said. "And we, in turn, get motivated by this

generation, which has raised their right hand, donning the cloth of the nation."

NMETC Commander Capt. Gail Hathaway echoed Roberts' sentiments, emphasizing the importance of the San Antonio Navy Birthday Ball.

"It's vital to us to have these young Sailors experience a Navy Ball that helps them understand they made the right decision to join the Navy," she said. "Our rich heritage and traditions are something that we value and that we want to make sure is passed on."

NMETC manages Navy Medicine's formal education and training programs and is part of the Navy Medicine team, a global health care network of Navy medical professionals around the world who provide high-quality health care to eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ships, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield. NMETC is one of 10 Navy commands or units which call San Antonio home.

# Bethesda Multicultural Committee Recognizes Disability Employment Awareness Month

By Cynthia Hilsinger  
Navy Medicine Professional Development  
Center Public Affairs

**BETHESDA, Md.** -- The Bethesda Multicultural Committee, whose members are from Navy Medicine Professional Development Center and other commands on Naval Support Activity Bethesda, recognized National Disability Employment Awareness Month with a cake cutting at the Wounded Warrior Cafe Oct. 25.

Held each October, the campaign is designed to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The theme for 2013 is "Because We are Equal to the Task."

"The theme reflects the reality that people with disabilities have the education, training, experience, and desires to be successful in the workplace," said Lt. Irina Roman, the Bethesda Multicultural Committee chair. "Some people are born with a disability, others acquire theirs as a result of an illness or injury, and some

a result of an illness or injury, and some people develop theirs as they age. Around the world, 650 million people live with a disability. Today, one-in-five people in the United States have a disability."

The National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) dates back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." Upon its establishment in 2001, the Office of Disability Employment Policy assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

The Multicultural Committee is working this year to expand the reach and scope of the NDEAM program by circulating information, supporting events

and providing Facebook posts.

Navy Medicine Professional Development Center is part of the Navy Medicine team, a global health care network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high-quality health care to eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.



*NAMI, continued from page 3*

makes it possible for our students to transfer those credits to civilian universities. It also provides us a report card on where we can make process improvements in our curriculum and testing methodologies, ensuring we are evaluating our students against an appropriate level and thereby meeting the needs of the fleet as efficiently as possible."

ACE represents the presidents of U.S. accredited, degree-granting institutions, including two- and four-year colleges, private and public universities, and non-profit and for-profit entities. The council is comprised of more than 1,800 member institutions, and collaborates with Department of Defense to review military training and experiences, and recommend appropriate college credit for members of the armed forces.

Sather said NAMI's evaluation and subsequent accreditation marked the first time NAMI's catalog of courses was completely evaluated; previous accreditations included only the Flight Surgeon

and Aerospace Medical Technician (HM-8406) courses.

"This inclusion ensures all students are given an opportunity to receive college-level credit for our courses of study to apply toward associate and bachelor's degrees for our enlisted students, master's or doctoral degrees for our aerospace physiologists and psychologists, and master's degrees in public health for the officer corps as a whole," he said. "This provides value by saving the Navy both time and money."

NAMI provides technical and professional support, aeromedical consultative services, develops and administers medical standards for Naval Aviation and trains medical personnel for aeromedical operational requirements. NAMI is the sole Navy source for aeromedical training at all levels, training more than 240 aeromedical providers - including aerospace medicine technicians - and all categories of aeromedical officers, including those from foreign allies like

Germany, France, Israel, Canada, Norway and the Netherlands.

"NAMI is truly an internationally recognized Center of Excellence, and having ACE accreditation gives us a level of checks and balances to ensure we are continually providing the appropriate level of instruction to meet the needs of the fleet," he said. "The 'what' we teach is provided by the needs of the fleet, and the 'how' we teach and 'to what level' are vetted by having the ACE accreditation. This means we are meeting the needs of the Navy in not only a professional way but also at a collegiate/university level."

Sather pointed out that the accreditation highlights how NAMI supports the Navy Surgeon General's priorities.

"According to our estimation, BUMED and Big Navy have the potential to annually save \$1.35 million in tuition costs," he said. "The Navy's readiness is increased by providing the best, most highly trained, aeromedical personnel within DoD."

## Navy Medicine Education and Training Command Volunteers Help 1,100 Jacksonville Children Get Ready for School

*Navy Medicine Education and Training Command Jacksonville Public Affairs*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — Seven Sailors and civilian employees from Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC) in Jacksonville, Fla., helped the Salvation Army prepare to distribute school supplies to more than 1,100 local children as part of the Salvation Army's Stuff the Bus program.

The Salvation Army administers the Stuff the Bus program each year by placing barrels in local malls and stores.

The barrels are marked, identifying the type of supplies needed, and donors across Jacksonville fill them with items ranging from pens and pencils to notebooks and scientific calculators. The supplies are then delivered to a central warehouse in downtown Jacksonville, sorted and prepared for distribution just in time for the start of school.

Volunteers from Naval Air Station Jacksonville-based NMETC helped sort, count and distribute new school supplies for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders from these low-income Jacksonville-area households.

"We are very grateful for the hard work of the Sailors and civilians who have helped us today," said Carissa Cazares, Social Services coordinator for the Jacksonville Salvation Army. "Much of the support for our Stuff the Bus program comes from partnerships with First Coast News, Publix Super Markets and Community First Credit Union, but we could never accomplish the sorting and distribution without local volunteers. I was even more impressed to find out that the NMETC volunteers were taking their own vacation time from work to help us out."

Teri Booth from NMETC, who coordinated the event, said, "It is very rewarding to have the chance to help out in the local community. Knowing that our time and work is appreciated and will help local children have the supplies they need to start the school year off on the right foot is very gratifying. We are also really excited about participating in future volunteer events to help the community."



U.S. Navy Photo by Larry Coffey

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC) Sailors and civilian employees participated in the Salvation Army-sponsored "Stuff the Bus" program, an effort designed to provide underprivileged children necessities—such as notebooks, pens and pencils—for the upcoming school year. NMETC volunteers sorted donated school supplies during the day-long volunteer effort.

NMETC manages Navy Medicine's formal education and training and is part of the Navy Medicine team, a global health care network of Navy medical professionals around the world who provide high-quality health care to more than 1 million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ships, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC) civilian employee Ella Horn participates in the Salvation Army-sponsored "Stuff the Bus" program.



# NMTSC CPOs, Selectees Beautify Downtown San Antonio

By Larry Coffey  
*Navy Medicine Education and Training  
 Command Public Affairs*

**SAN ANTONIO** -- The Navy Medicine Training Support Center (NMTSC) Chief Petty Officers Mess and FY-2014 CPO selectees provided the muscle for a local community outreach project Sept. 10 designed to beautify downtown San Antonio.

Twenty-eight CPOs and seven CPO selectees coordinated with Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson and the San Antonio Main Plaza Conservation Society to perform a fall beautification project on the city's one-acre main plaza in the heart of San Antonio.

"The project provided the Navy Medicine Training Support Center Chief Petty Officers Mess and the selectees an opportunity to engage with the local community as well as showcase the pride associated with being a Sailor stationed in Military City USA," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Donald J. Allbright, the NMTSC N-3 Student Services Program leading chief.

The San Antonio Main Plaza Conservation Society provided top soil, mulch and more than 250 flowers for planting. The Navy volunteers weeded the beds, planted the flowers in the new topsoil, and spread the mulch.

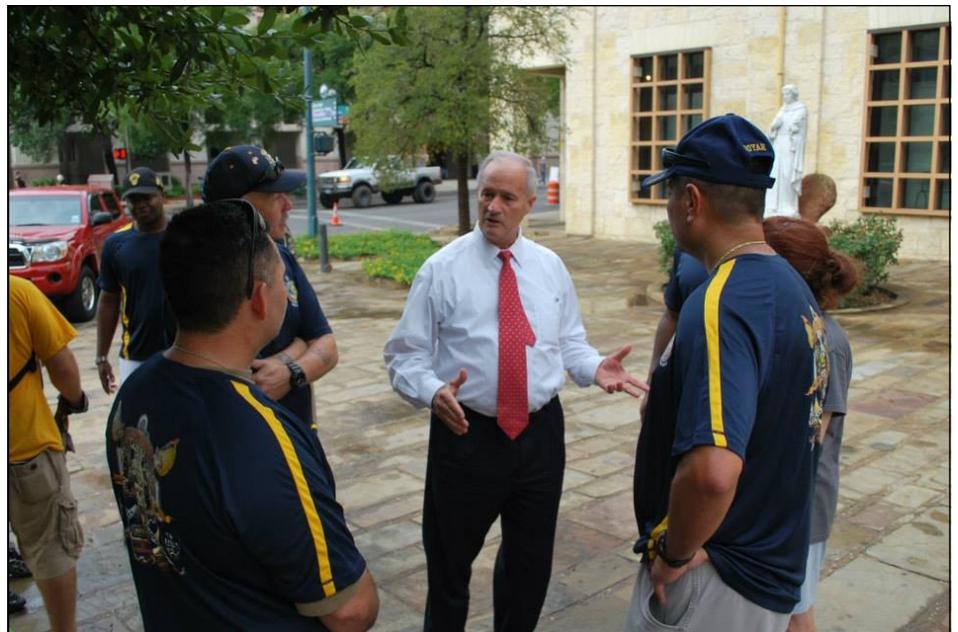
"Once we finished the Main Plaza area, we moved over to the Bexar County Purple Heart Memorial where we pulled out every weed that had been growing and picked out every piece of trash," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Santiago Martinez, an NMTSC N-3 Student Services supply chief. "Then we planted purple flowers donated by the county to help give the Bexar County Purple Heart recipients the respect they deserve."

For Chief Electrician's Mate (select) (SW/AW) Catherine Morales, the day was about spending time with the chiefs and lending a hand in the community.

"I had an awesome time!" said Morales, an NMTSC Navy military training instructor. "I got to spend more time with the chiefs and learn more about them. I enjoyed helping the community and making the naval presence known. I really enjoyed seeing the chiefs having fun and seeing that they are not



*SAN ANTONIO — (left to right) Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Rodney Ruth, Chief Hospital Corpsman (sel) John Ross (gold shirt) and HMCM Tonya Carlson plant flowers during a CPO/CPO selectee volunteer project to help beautify downtown San Antonio.*



*SAN ANTONIO — Precinct 4 County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson thanks NMTSC CPOs and CPO selectees for their work during a CPO/CPO selectee volunteer project to help beautify downtown San Antonio.*

different from us chief selects."

When the work was completed, Adkisson brought Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Shanon Best, NMTSC Command Master Chief, and the CPO selectees into a session of the Bexar

County Commissioner's Court, where county budgetary, personnel, and tax and revenue decisions are made. Best

See *CPO*,  
 continued on page 9

*CPO, continued from page 9*

"Today's events were a lot of fun," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (select) (FMF/SW/AW) John M. Ross from NMTSC's Training Support/Education and Training department. "It was an opportunity for us, as selectees, to get to know the men and woman we will soon be working with very closely. It was also a team-building event to showcase how everyone works together to get a job completed."

NMTSC is Navy's component command, providing administrative/operational control over Navy Medicine staff and students assigned to the tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) and San Antonio-area medical education programs. NMTSC is an echelon-4 command, reporting to the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command in San Antonio.



*SAN ANTONIO — Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Donnie Allbright prunes rose bushes during a CPO/CPO selectee volunteer project to help beautify downtown San Antonio.*

## Navy Trauma Training Center Students Provide Medical Care to Bus Accident Victims in Los Angeles

*Navy Trauma Training Center Public Affairs*

**LOS ANGELES** -- Five hospital corpsmen and two independent duty hospital corpsmen attending courses at the Navy Trauma Training Center (NTTC) at the Los Angeles County + University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Medical Center in Los Angeles provided aid to more than 50 people injured in a bus accident Aug. 22.

The Sailors, all members of NTTC Class 13100, were undergoing routine training at the medical center when five critically injured passengers from the bus were flown by helicopter to the Level 1 Trauma Center, where the seven Navy Medicine personnel proceeded to treat these patients.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Leonardo Rodriguez, NTTC emergency physician and LAC-USC Resus Bay attending physician at the time of the accident, the hospital corpsmen were instrumental in treating injured passengers from the bus accident.

"Their actions allowed the medical center to avoid calling in extra resources

and they were able to manage all casualties in a very similar manner to what they can expect downrange in Afghanistan," he said.

In a unique partnership with the LAC+USC, NTTC trains Navy medical personnel who will deploy in the near future to a combat environment. The three-week course is an immersion in trauma that includes extensive use of simulation, didactic, practical and skills course work. The medical personnel are embedded and care for patients alongside LAC + USC staff in the emergency and anesthesia departments, the operating rooms and the surgical and burn intensive care units.

The Navy team that cared for these patients graduated Aug. 26, and deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

Navy teams have been involved in other high profile events since the program's inception in 2002. More recent events include the 2008 Chatsworth Metrolink commuter train incident, which injured 135 people, with 46 criti-

cally injured and 25 deaths, and the 2011 beating of a 44-year-old paramedic following opening day of the L.A. Dodgers baseball season.

The Navy Trauma Training Center is a subordinate command of the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute (NEMTI), the premier U.S. Navy training facility for expeditionary medicine. NEMTI reports to the Navy Medicine Operational Training Center (NMOTC) in Pensacola, Fla., and Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC), headquartered in San Antonio.

NTTC, NEMTI, NMOTC and NMETC are part of the Navy Medicine team, a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

# Navy Medicine Jacksonville Dets Reflect on Suicide Prevention

*Navy Medicine Education and Training Command Jacksonville Public Affairs*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** – Military and civilian personnel from the Navy Medicine Detachments in Jacksonville held a lunch and learn session Sept. 20 to reflect on suicide prevention.

“Members of Navy Medicine Education and Training Command (NMETC) and the BUMED Detachment Jacksonville came together to reflect on suicide, the causes, and ways that we can individually make a difference with the devastating losses we have seen in our Navy Family,” said LSC Kirsi Urena, NMETC suicide prevention coordinator.

The event was framed by video messages from Rear Admirals Sean Buck, director of the Twenty-First Century Sailor Office, and Rear Admiral Mark L. Tidd, Chief of Navy Chaplains, speaking about the 2013 Navy Suicide Prevention Month and the theme “He Didn’t Say Goodbye.”

“Each emphasized the need to be pro-

active and referred to us as a military family, charging us to support each other, ‘to build unit cohesion and a culture where seeking help is a sign of strength,’” Urena said.

Mr. Denver Singletary, a BUMED DET Jacksonville administrative specialist gave a key note address about the devastation of suicide by relating a personal experience.

“We may have individuals among our own who need our support,” Singletary said. He reviewed a few of the signs and causes of suicide and challenged the staff to be part of the solution. He went on to say that if any member of the staff were to need help, they should reach out for help.

And further, “if anyone is worried about a shipmate, we should reach out and offer support by asking about the member’s welfare and if needed, walk with them over to medical to get the help they may need.”

To wrap up the event, the staff shared

in a pot-luck lunch and warm camaraderie.

During lunch, Urena discussed events that happened when she was in the operational setting and said personnel in the operational environment often have unusual stressors and may be removed from their usual support.

“That is where we need to be the support,” Urena said.

Navy Medicine Detachments in Jacksonville include elements of NMETC, headquartered in San Antonio, and elements of BUMED Codes. This was a cross command function bringing together those who work side by side and would be best positioned to identify a shipmate in trouble.

The lunch and learn session is part of a year-long effort to encourage service members to reach out. September is the Navy Suicide Prevention Month. The Navy is promoting efforts to build resilience and unit cohesion.

## Communication

### *Improving Communication at NMETC*

One of the major challenges resulting from the geographic separation of NMETC is internal communication.

This was highlighted in the recent command assessment and is one of the areas of focus for the Commander’s Plan Of Action & Milestones (POA&M) currently being implemented. One of the solutions suggested in the POA&M is to ensure a venue exists for anonymous suggestions and recommendations. This has been achieved by each of the site leads (CAPT Smith for San Antonio location, CDR Enriquez for Bethesda and Pat Craddock for Jacksonville) who have placed suggestion boxes in common spaces.

Command members are free to submit any ideas, comments or suggestions that will be collected by the site managers and forwarded to the Commander for consideration. The

suggestion boxes will be checked at least twice per month. Each suggestion will be transcribed by the site lead onto the “Ask the Commander” intranet site. The commander will use this site to address suggestions.

In addition to the suggestion boxes, the NMETC Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Larry Coffey, and the Command Assessment Team chair, CAPT Smith, executed a survey for command members to identify other desired forms of communication.

All of these efforts are designed to ensure the free and open flow of communication within the command and overcome the inherent difficulties of conducting daily operations while separated by thousands of miles. The impact of these measures will be measured during the next command assessment.

## NMETC Bethesda JCOY, SCOY



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