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"Gateway to Success"

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NATIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, INC
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Serving the Sea Services

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Greetings NNOA Members, Family and Friends,

Thank you for supporting the joint National Naval Officers Association, Inc. (NNOA) and Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO) Professional Development and Training Conference. The conference was an overwhelming success with over 700 in attendance. This historic event was highlighted by the participation of General James Conway, Marine Corps Commandant, Admiral Robert Papp, Coast Guard Commandant, and Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, and General William "Kip" Ward, AFRICOM as well as a significant number of generals, flag officers and senior executives.

Bravo Zulu to the joint conference planning team lead by LCDR Herlena Washington, USN (Ret), CAPT Ric Rodriguez, USCG, CDR Lamar Johnson, USCG and LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (Ret). The combined effort of the NNOA and ANSO team demonstrated that we are: Passionate Partners in Achieving the Possible – Now and In the Future!"

Thank to our corporate sponsors for supporting this year's conference. Your generous contributions enabled us to conduct a successful conference to include a highly successful "Youth Day." We look forward to cultivating this relationship in the future to enhance our reach into the local communities.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President for the past four years and I thank each of you for your support during my tenure. My success would not have been possible without the valued support of the Board of Directors and the members of this great organization. I thank you all for hours spent together, for devotion to our mission, and for your generosity in sharing your skills and time. I'm confident that you will likewise support our new President, CAPT Tony Barnes, USN as he assumes leadership of NNOA.

Thank you again for your support to NNOA and diversity in the Sea Services.

Very Respectfully,

Bernard L. Jackson
CAPT, USN (Ret)

VADM Mel Williams Jr. Retirement

By Greg Sawyer

It was a warm and humid day, but the historic significance of August 12, 2010 onboard the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the USS GHW BUSH (CVN-77), shall long be remembered. The change of command and retirement ceremony for VADM Mel Williams, Jr., Commander U.S. Second Fleet. was genuine, intensely emotional and revelatory. Fittingly, Master Chief Mel Williams, Sr., the retiree's father, became the focal point for the event's theme. Admiral John C. Harvey (USNA '73), Commander U.S. Fleet Forces Command, was the guest speaker for this momentous occasion. In his speech, Admiral Harvey openly acknowledged that the Navy had to grow beyond its own shortsightedness as it set out on a course in the '70's of open the doors of opportunity for all, regardless of ethnicity. He noted that despite the limitations placed upon Master Chief Williams, whose field of opportunity was limited to the Steward rating, Mel Williams, Sr. persevered and continued to climb the ranks. He also noted that it was the pressure placed on the Navy by Master Chief Williams and other Chief Petty Officers which eventually led to the elimination of the segregated Steward rating and the creation of the Mess Specialist rating which was open to all. That change also opened the door for African American and other minorities to openly pursue other specialties and opportunities beyond the professional though limited services of a Steward.

The Navy, cautiously at first then more boldly with time, embarked on a path of open opportunity for anyone and everyone who was qualified, regardless of skin color. By the early '70's, this mindset had taken root and carried over to the officer ranks. As a result, qualified African American candidates from around the country were given nominations to the Service Academies in numbers far greater than at any time in their much heralded histories. This was enabled, in part, through a pact forged by then LT Ken Johnson, the USNA Candidate Guidance Officer, and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). The CBC consented to use their unused service academy nominations for any qualified candidates who were presented to them, regardless of the state from which they came. VADM Mel Williams, Jr. was one of those qualified candidates who benefited from this new path toward equality.

I too, am a proud and humble beneficiary of the CBC's magnanimity and CAPT (ret) Ken Johnson's relentless pursuit of excellence. Though a native of the state of Florida, I received my nomination as a proud member of the Class of 1977 from Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm of New York.

VADM Williams, his cousin OSSN B.J. Wright and father MChf Mel Williams Sr.

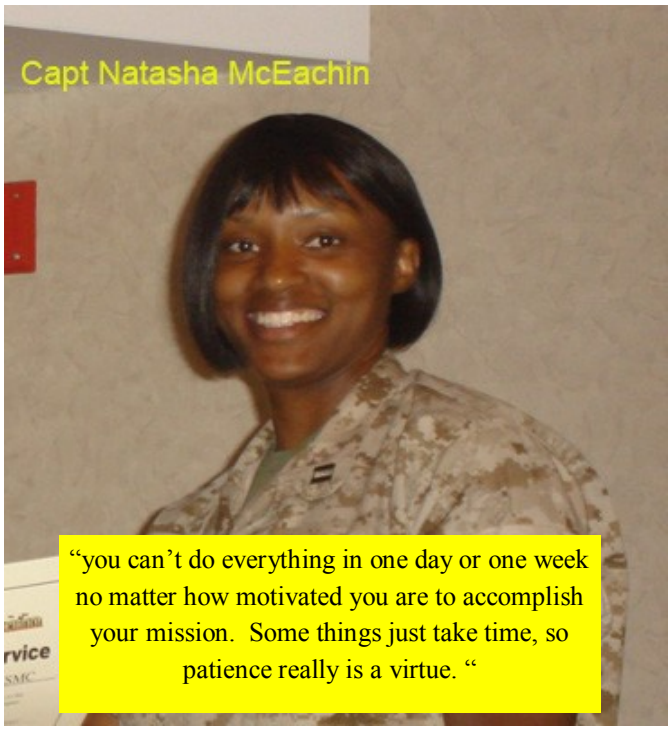
The choice for greater equality was the right path to pursue for both the Navy and the Nation. Now, more than thirty years later, the fruit of open opportunity was on full and visible display. The Side Boys for VADM Williams' retirement were a virtual "Who's Who" of Navy leadership. They constituted a mosaic of minority leaders who continue to carry the torch, to lead and to open doors for others. They were VADM Carol Pottenger, RADM Victor Guillory (USNA '78), RADM Cecil Haney ('78), RADM John Orzalli (USNA '78), RADM Julius Caesar (USNA '77), RADM Bruce Grooms (USNA '80), RDML Kevin Scott, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West. In addition to the multitude of other active and retired Flag and General Officers in attendance, two other minority officers stood out. They were RADM(ret) Tony Watson (USNA '70) and VADM Derwood Curtis (USNA '76). To those whose passions bend toward exploring the depth of sterling character and supreme competence, this event was pure gold.

It was a proud day, not just for VADM Williams and his family, but for us all.

Portraits of NNOA

NNOA supports Operation Enduring Freedom

Operation Enduring Freedom began on 7 October 2001, four weeks after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on America. On 9 November 2001 Mazar-e-sharif became the first Afghan city to be released from the Taliban's grip. In succeeding days, Taloqan, Herat and Shindand were liberated, followed by Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city on 13 November 2001 and Jalalabad on 14 November 2001. Since 2001, United States, Coalition and NATO Forces have conducted operations designed to bolster the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and partner with the Afghan Security Forces. Currently, the I Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEF) is deployed throughout the Helmand Province of Afghanistan with Marines and Sailors from numerous units across the Marine Corps. As Marines have answered the call to arms many times before, there are several NNOA members serving in southern Afghanistan today.



Captain NaTasha McEachin, native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, is currently the G-6 Operations Officer, 1st Marine Logistics Group (MLG) Forward. The MLG is responsible for providing logistical sustainment for all units in the Helmand Province which create numerous and significant challenges. Captain McEachin is responsible for planning and execution of all communication related initiatives within the MLG.

As a member of the Camp Pendleton Chapter and recent National Board member she remains convinced that NNOA has been a critical part of her development. While deployed Captain McEachin was selected as the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) USMC Officer Leadership Award Winner for 2010. She recently commented that "NNOA has given me a much broader perspective on the Marine Corps. Prior to joining NNOA six years ago, I stayed in my box and I only focused on doing my job well. While doing my job well is still always a key focus, as it should be, I am now also able to take what I have learned these last six years and use it to help shape my future vice following a set path that may not be right for me."

When asked to reflect on the her current deployment she responded "that you can't do everything in one day or one week no matter how motivated you are to accomplish your mission. Some things just take time, so patience really is a virtue. Trying to accomplish everything in one day, every day, will just burn you out. In a 7 month deployment, it's critical that you take it one day at a time as well as to take some time each day to do something for yourself."

Major Percy Moore is no stranger to combat deployments. He will be deployed to Afghanistan for a one-year tour as Deputy Current Operations Officer for Regional Command- Southwest (RC-SW). "NNOA is an important organization that aids in the professional and personal growth of military officers through mentorship, fellowship, and education" states Major Moore from Silver Spring, Maryland. In his current billet he drafts, directs and plans combat operations throughout the entire area of operations. These operations span the spectrum from clearing Taliban controlled regions to coordinating humanitarian efforts in support of the Afghan people. Major Moore has been a major contributor to several past NNOA conferences as a featured speaker during joint sessions discussing financial planning. As a member of the Mighty Quantico Chapter, Major Moore has served in various billets in the Fleet Marine Force and Headquarters Marine Corps during his career.

Captain Angel Torres III was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico and is a member of the Camp Pendleton Chapter. Relatively new to NNOA, he has quickly developed an appreciation for the local chapter's ability to make an impact on service readiness, "NNOA is important because I believe that ethnic diversity is key to a successful United States. Our Naval Officer Corps needs to mirror this diversity, especially in the Marine Combat Arms. Through mentorship, education, and awareness, we can continue to ensure that these thoughts continue to become realities."

Captain Torres is an artillery officer currently serving as the Logistics Officer for 1st Battalion, 11th Marines. Selected for Major, he is responsible for planning and sustaining all logistics support for cannon, rocket and target acquisition assets which are distributed across the battlefield. On a daily basis, he monitors, coordinates and controls the movement of over 150 vehicles and accounts for the maintenance of over 68 million dollars worth of combat mission essential equipment. While deployed he motivates and inspires many with his humor and light-hearted quips, "I'm in 1/11 deployed with Major David Everly...`good times'. We both wish for some Captain Morgan's Private Stock".

Captain Khalilah Thomas, selected for Major, is currently serving as the Executive Officer, Headquarters Battalion Forward (Fwd), 1st Marine Division Forward (Fwd). Growing up in a small town in Northern California, Capt Thomas savors the challenges of this deployment, "being an XO means I have been exposed to levels and sections of staff I don't normally deal with. I have learned how important every section is to getting missions completed. Sometimes it is the little section that comes through big."

As a current member of the Camp Pendleton Chapter, Captain Thomas was recently selected to join the faculty of the US Naval Academy as Economics Instructor. She has been involved in NNOA since she was a student at the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. Excited about her opportunity to instruct midshipmen, she states that "NNOA is important to me because the organization's goals match my own professional goals and philosophy. Leadership and mentoring junior officers will ensure that the Naval Services remain relevant and in good hands."

Major David Everly hails from Inglewood, California and is

currently deployed as the Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines. He is the second in command of a 700-men composite artillery battalion which provides continuous fire support to units conducting combat operations throughout the Helmand Province. As an active Life member in the Camp Pendleton Chapter, Major Everly preaches readiness through education and realistic training. "Leaders must have a vision, without *it* no one will ever follow you. Vision requires confidence, competence and compassion." states Everly.

Major Everly is serving as the NNOA Western Region Vice President and member of the Board of Directors. As his combat deployment draws to an end, he will set his sights on leading the planning efforts for the 2011 National Conference scheduled from August 1-5, 2011 at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel and Marina. He recently commented on his involvement with NNOA," the organization has allowed me to engage with leaders of all ranks and experience, which has been one of the most powerful self-development tools. The strength of NNOA lies with its membership, they hold the ability to influence and shape future leaders."

(Continued on Page 11)

2010 National Chapter Award Winners

Outstanding Chapter Web Site

San Diego Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Newsletter

San Diego Chapter

Established Chapter Growth (Small)

Oklahoma City Chapter

Established Chapter Growth (Medium)

Jacksonville Chapter

Established Chapter Growth (Large)

Tidewater Chapter

New Chapter Growth

Tampa Chapter

Outstanding Chapter Program

Tidewater Chapter

Outstanding Small Chapter

Oklahoma Chapter

Outstanding Medium Chapter 1st Place

Memphis Chapter

Outstanding Medium Chapter 2nd Place

Jacksonville Chapter

Outstanding Large Chapter 1st Place

Tidewater Chapter

Outstanding Large Chapter 2nd Place

DC Chapter

2010 National Individual Award Winners

The Dori Miller Award

CDR Andrea Petrovanie, USN (Memphis Chapter)

The CAPT Sallie P. Kafer Mentoring Award

CDR Andrea Petrovanie, USN (Memphis Chapter)

The Outstanding Chapter President Award

LCDR S. Michelle Layne, USN (Tidewater)

The CAPT John G. Witherspoon

Excellence in Leadership and Mentoring Award

CAPT Cedric Pringle, USN (San Diego)

The NNOA Lifetime Achievement Award

The Honorable BJ Penn

(Pictured is the Mrs. Grooms, daughter of the Honorable Mr Penn)

The Golden Pen Award

ENS Sierra Williams, USN (Tidewater Chapter)

A JOB WELL DONE

Maj. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson speaks to guests and colleagues during his retirement ceremony Aug. 20 at U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command, Headquarters building aboard the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Norfolk compound.

FLAG OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced today that the President has nominated Navy Rear Adm. Cecil E. Haney for appointment to the rank of vice admiral and assignment as deputy commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. Haney is currently serving as director, Submarine Warfare Division, N87, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Secretary of Defense has appointed Laura D. Stubbs, CAPT, USN (Ret) to the Senior Executive Service and is assigned as Director, Personnel and Readiness, Integrations and Strategic Management, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, (Personnel and Readiness), Washington, D.C.

Stubbs previously served as process improvement specialist with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia, Pa.

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

In a historical ceremony on the morning of 7 September 2010, our very own NNOA National Judge Advocate General, The Honorable Tamia Nicole Gordon, was sworn in as a Federal Administrative Law Judge. The ceremony was presided over by The Honorable Glynn F. Voisin, Chief Administrative Law Judge, New Orleans Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. Judge Voisin is a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel, who spoke of the rigorous process that selected Judge Gordon from among hundreds of applicants around the country.

In her new position as United States Administrative Law Judge, Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Judge Gordon is charged with presiding over hearings and issuing decisions on behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA), which is one of the largest administrative judicial systems in the world. In fact, SSA issues more than half a million hearing and appeal dispositions each year.

- National Treasurer LtCol Belyeu and PAO Maj Davis make adjustments to Judge Gordon's newly adorned robe.

Judge Gordon is a graduate of American University, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry; of the University of Pennsylvania, where she received a Master's Degree in Inorganic Chemistry; of the University of San Francisco, where she received a Juris Doctorate in Law; and, of the Defense Language Institute, where she received an Associate's Degree in Arabic Language and Cultural Studies.

Judge Gordon has served as a Patent Law Clerk in private law practices; as a Marine Corps Attorney/Judge Advocate; as an Arabic Linguist; as a Department of Defense Legal Research Consultant; and, as DoD Office of General Counsel Deputy Associate General Counsel. Bravo Zulu Judge Gordon!

The Lieutenant General Frank E. Peterson

Leadership Award

LtCol James M. Blair, USMC (Tidewater)

Captain Charles L. Tompkins Award

Dr. Tyrone Taborn

Captain Edward R. Williams Excellence Award

LCDR Zeita Merchant (Washington)

Welcome Back

After a period of time in hiatus The "Big Apple" Chapter was reactivated on 29 July in a brief ceremony held during a General Assembly. National JAG Ms Tamia Gordon administered the oath to chapter representatives, LTjg Eunice, USCG, James, LT Eric Velez, USCG, and Chapter President LT Niya Williams, USCG.

(pictured l-r Herlena Washington Eastern Region VP, LT Eric Velez, LTjg Eunice James, and LT Niya Williams, Pres. Bernard Jackson. Chapter members not pictured LT Commander (CK) Moore and LTjg Eric Marshall)

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Greetings NNOA Membership! My name is Chaplain Ferguson Harris. I've served the United States Navy for 22 years. After serving 14 years enlisted, I received a direct commission, while serving onboard the USS HOWARD (DDG-83).

While active duty, I earned a Bachelor's in Biblical studies and Master's in Divinity from Bethel Seminary West, San Diego. Currently, I' m a Doctoral student at Bethel Seminary and ordained by the Evangelical Church Alliance International. My Christian roots are Baptist.

I've been on multiple deployments and served the Navy and Marine Corps team on both land and sea. My most recent deployment was with Third Marine Air Wing to Al Taqaddum Iraq. Currently, I'm on my third tour as a Navy Chaplain and was recently selected to Lieutenant Commander. I look forward to serving as your National Chaplain.

(Continued from page 7)

The National Naval Officers Association recently concluded its first-ever Joint National Conference with the Association of Naval Services Officers in Portsmouth, Virginia. This monumentally successful event showcases the sea services' commitment to unit and personal readiness. Many NNOA members and supporters were unable to attend this year's conference, but they continue to enhance the Sea Services' professional reputation through sustained performance in austere combat environments.

Submitted by Major David Everly, Western Region VP

Far East Region Vice President's Corner

Greetings:

Calling on NNOA members in the Far East Region in the locale of the Kanto Plains, Guam, Iwakuni, and Okinawa to take on a leadership role to assure a successful 2010-2011 NNOA Program Year. Rally your fellow NNOA members to recruit through membership drives to increase your resources with diverse, energetic and motivated officers. Start early, right now is the time to plan and start executing your initiatives for the upcoming program year. The focus is to provide your members with professional development, posture a positive image of the Sea Services in your surrounding communities through volunteerism and offering mentorship to the youth as well as scholarships to meet their educational needs for higher education. These are a few marching orders to get you moving forward.

Our first historic Joint Conference with ANSO was a great success. The 2011 National Conference is scheduled for August 1-5, 2011 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. I look forward to seeing you there. I pray God's blessings for an outstanding Chapter Program year. What Chapter is going to set the bar for the Far East Region? The challenge is on…Contact me at nnoaparker90@yahoo.com, standing by to support you.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.

Captain Joel L. Parker

Nurse Corps, United States Navy

San Francisco Chapter

Members of the Chapter turned up to support LCDR Jim Haskins, USN, RET for his Ordination Service, September 12th at the Bay Area Christian Connection Church, Oakland, California. Servant Brian K. Woodson, Senior Pastor charged the Deacons "to not run ahead or lag behind but to partner " with him in leading the church congregation. Retired Pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland and world renown author Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, SR made a surprise appearance and performed the laying of hands ceremony. Submitted by Denise McCallaCreary

Pictured from (l to r): LCDR Jim Haskin's youngest daughter Lori Ann Haskins-Williams , Chapter President, Captain Don Flowers, USN, RET; Denise McCallaCreary, Chapter Past President; Servant Brian K. Woodson, Sr. Senior Pastor BAAC; LCDR Jim Haskins, USN, RET and Ethel Haskins.

Annapolis Chapter

On Thursday afternoon, September 9th, 2010 the Annapolis Chapter of NNOA hosted the midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy for an evening of mentorship, fellowship, and most importantly food at the First Annual NNOA Social. CAPT Angela Cyrus graciously hosted over 70 midshipmen and 20 NNOA-Annapolis chapter members and guests in her lovely home on the yard of the Naval Academy. The evening began by introducing the Annapolis Chapter members to all the midshipmen, and providing them with information about NNOA. The Chapter provided hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, chips, candy, and drinks. As a consequence of the event the Annapolis Chapter in partnership with the midshipmen affinity groups of the Naval Academy were able to establish a mentorship program, pairing midshipmen with officers at the Naval Academy to continue to guide, support, and encourage the participating midshipmen. Overall the event was an astounding success, and all organizations involved look forward to continuing the partnership between NNOA and the midshipmen of the Naval Academy.

2010-2011 Board of Directors

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