



MERIDIAN

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MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
"GATEWAY TO SUCCESS"

Vice Admiral Michelle J. Howard

Deputy Commander United States Fleet Forces Command

Commander Task Force Two Zero

Director Combined Joint Operations From the Sea Centre of Excellence



The first African American Female 3 Star in U.S. Military history, Vice Adm. Michelle Janine Howard, has her shoulder boards replaced by her husband, Wayne Cowles and her sister, Lisa Teitleman, during a promotion ceremony at Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads. (U.S. Navy photo by MCS1 Rafael Martie)

SUMMER - FALL 2012

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National President



Greetings National Naval Officers Association, friends and supporters,

I am humbled and honored to address you as President of the National Naval Officers Association. As I stated previously, I serve at your pleasure and look forward to

pressing forward with the same visionary focus of our illustrious founders. I want to first thank Tony Barnes, Captain USN (ret.) for his steadfast leadership, the Board of Directors for their honest, faithful and dedicated service and Kudos to the Bayou Chapter and Lamar Johnson USCG (ret.) for the flawless execution of the 40th Celebration of the National Naval Officers Association. BRAVO ZULU!!! That said, there are fifty one other weeks in the year that require our collective and focused efforts to ensure that we are pressing forward toward attainment of our strategic vision and goals.

I am committed toward answering the questions of "Is NNOA still relevant?" and "What can NNOA do for me?" My challenge to you is also critical. I challenge every member to assist in DOUBLING, yes DOUBLING, paid membership before the next Annual Conference. Accordingly, that would catapult our membership to approximately 1600 for the 2013 Professional Development Conference. My challenge to you is directly in keeping with our recruitment goals. Additionally, as each of the Services Chiefs echoed, NNOA is one of the best resources available to facilitate recruitment efforts, officer retention and most importantly mentorship, with an end state of increased diversity at the senior officer and flag grades.

It should not come as a surprise to anyone that the DoD fiscal environment has changed dramatically thus requiring an adjustment of fires to accomplish our assigned missions. That said, the Board of Directors requires and values your input as we seek to improve our operating processes and maximize efficiencies. We are aggressively moving toward the objective and expect to have the organization's revised Strategic Plan published before December 2012.

I respectfully request that you update your personal and respective chapter information contained on the members only section of the National website. We want to maximize all available means to keep the lines of communication open in both directions so we can resolve issues in an expeditious manner and engage the next target.

Again, I thank you for this awesome opportunity to serve the National Officers Association. Let's sure up our flanks, kick in the after-burners and get to work!!
Very respectfully,

Colonel R. C. Clements, USMC
President
National Naval Officers Association

Mt Hebron Christian Ministries Community Outreach

The founding members of NNOA Mobile Chapter shared an enlightening experience with Mount Hebron Church Ministries. The Church holds a Community Outreach event once a month. The event serves as an opportunity to provide outreach to the homeless and at-risk communities by providing resources and food with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness of available alternatives.



CAPT Ken Ivery, LT Lenell Carson, LT Kelvin Davis, LT Lewis Johnson, LT Joseph Johnson, CWO Kenneth Walker

A Case for Second-Mile Leadership

By LCDR Maurice A. Buford

NNOA Chaplain

You have heard that it was said, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two... (Matt 5:38-41)

It goes without saying that the 40th Session of the National Naval Officer Association conference was a tremendous success. We heard from the top leadership of our beloved sea services that diversity is indeed a force multiplier particularly in the context of war fighting. We heard from our detailers and community managers about the necessity of being a good steward over our records. We watched in awe as senior leaders slowly walked through the crowd and made the time to mentor, coach, and yes even gave some tough love when warranted. But now that we have returned to our various organizations, the question becomes, “How can we best incorporate change and transform rhetoric into reality?” Before we explore this inquiry, we must first admit to the fact that change is not easy. In fact, the change management literature suggests that the endeavors of a change agent often fail in the first few months. This reality is due largely to the fact that they underestimated the level of resistance from organizational members. In a sense, Jesus was saying the same thing in Matt 5:38 – 41. He tells us to essentially expect “push back” as we endeavor to be about the truth. Jesus also tells us how to respond when such resistance emerges, “Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two...” This notion of being a second mile leader is not for the faint of heart nor is this style of leading for the weak. On the contrary, in order to be a second mile leader one must be willing to muster up the courage and ascribe to the following principles.

Standing on principles. We have all been blessed with talents, gifts and a unique voice. But if we focus solely upon our talents without also developing our core principles, we are setting ourselves up for failure. It may be true that our talents may bring us to the top but it is also true that our ethics will keep us there. To this end, we must fight daily to follow our moral compass and to decide early that we cannot be bought. For it is a true saying that it takes a life time to build a reputation but only a few moments to destroy it. Choose to take a stand!

Team . One of the things that I find intriguing about the Olympics is the coaches. Though they are often in the background, I love to watch how they are able to help their people compete for the gold. Seemingly, the best coaches have the natural ability to (a) connect, (b) challenge and (c) correct in love. I believe the same thing is true for our military and personal lives. We need people in our lives that know how to connect, challenge and correct us in love. Though this process may be uncomfortable, it is needful to go to the next level in life. For Proverbs 11:14 reminds us, “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” To this end, allow me to challenge you to build a team of rivals that will push you and keep you safe.

Emotional Intelligence. Daniel Goldman’s research has proven that emotional intelligence (EI) is a greater predictor to success in an organization than IQ. In other words, research suggests that a very intelligent person with a bad attitude will not go further up the corporate ladder than a person who is balanced. Balanced people tend to know their limitations and strengths, have an active personal development plan for self improvement, know how to connect with others and can motivate people around them to go beyond limitations. So in addition to becoming book smart, don’t forget to also raise your emotional intelligence. Trust me your family, your workplace, community and our beloved country will be better off because you put in the time.

Mastery of Skills. It has been said that God’s gift to humanity is potential but our gift to God is what we do with that potential. If this is true, the question becomes what are you doing with your opportunities? Are you satisfied with being average? Do you believe that there is no more room for growth? The reality is that we are either green and growing or ripe and getting spoiled. Those who remain hungry are the ones who are not afraid of hard work, are lifelong learners and who effortlessly transform the atmosphere. But those who feel that they have arrived become complacent and consequently undermine the mission. Because your people need the best of you and not your leftovers, I want to challenge you to embrace the sentiments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said, “If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music, sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well. If you can't be a pine at the top of the hill, be a shrub in the valley.

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But be the best little shrub on the side of the hill. Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are."

Servant Heart. The final element affiliated with second mile leadership is the ability to engage with a servant's heart. Servants put their people above themselves. Servants don't come to the table asking "what's in it for me" but rather they are more concerned about "what's best for the rest." Servants aren't afraid to "wash the feet" of their people with resources and to stand up for them when no one else will. Servants don't care who gets the credit as long as the team receives the glory. How is your heart? Does it long to be seen by others or does your heart allow you to see the needs of the people?

Like never before, people are crying out for second mile leaders to walk into their respective organizations and to make a positive difference. Even in the face of pushback, we can make our mark by standing on our principles, building a solid team, becoming more emotional intelligent, mastering our skills and leading with a servant's heart. We can demonstrate to the world that all things are indeed possible to those who dare to believe and we can help take the fleet to the next level by being willing to go the second mile. I will admit that being a second mile leader will not always be easy and you may never be recognized for your efforts. But I will promise you that heaven will take note and your labor will not be in vain!

Let's Pray: Gracious God your word tells us to always be willing to go that second mile in the face of wrong. For we understand that there are only two times when we should embrace this principle – when we feel like it and when we don't. During both moments we ask that you would anoint us to lead, give us the courage to love the unlovable and most of all help us to always keep you first in all that we say and do. For it's in your Matchless Name that we pray. Amen.

Navy Promotes First African-American Female Three-Star Officer

Cover Story—NORFOLK, VA – Michelle Janine Howard has been a trail blazer throughout her entire career. She was the first African-American woman to command a U.S. Navy warship, the first female graduate of the Naval Academy to achieve the rank of rear admiral, and the first African-American woman to command an Expeditionary Strike Group at sea.

On Friday, Aug. 24, Howard reached another milestone when she became the first African-American woman promoted to

three-star rank in the U.S. armed forces with the assumption of her new job as deputy commander, U.S. Fleet Forces headquartered here.

With a career highlighted by firsts, the path to Howard's current assignment as a Navy Vice Admiral initially began with an obstacle. It is an obstacle that taught her to embrace change, find strength in the challenges she faced, and to not be afraid to lean on others.

Howard says her Navy career began as a chance encounter while watching television. It was a documentary about one of the military service academies that opened Howard's eyes to a possible future career as an officer in the military. But as Howard learned, not all opportunities were available to women at that time.

The 12-year-old Howard went to her older brother to get his opinion on her becoming an officer. He informed her that U.S. military academies were not open to women.

Undeterred, she spoke to her mother who told her that if she really wanted to join the military as an officer, she would have to wait until she was old enough. Hopefully by that time, society would change, and if it does; then she should go after it. And go for it Howard did.

Four years after that discussion, the federal law concerning the acceptance of women into the nation's service academies changed. At 17, Howard applied and was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

In 1978, Howard entered the Naval Academy as a freshman. She was in only the third class to accept women. At that time women made up only five percent of the Navy. With over 200 years of naval history and traditions, there was some resistance to change.

With a self-deprecating laugh Howard said that the Academy wasn't easy. In retrospect, she's realized that expecting a smooth sail wouldn't have been very realistic.

"When you look at where society was at the time, this was before there was even a woman on the Supreme Court, before Sally Ride was an astronaut and it was also only five or six years after we became an all-volunteer force in the military, so our society was still going through a lot of changes."

She says the one person who was incredibly helpful in putting her experiences in context was Wesley Brown. Brown was the first black Naval Academy graduate, Class of 1949. They met when Howard was a Lt. Cmdr.

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“He talked about how great this country is and how much it has changed; that as the country changed, people changed. And even though he was the only African-American to attend Annapolis in the 1940s, when he attended reunions he was a member of that class,” said Howard. “What I really learned from him was that he was a man who could forgive and go on with his life. There is a lot of strength in that.”

Change is inevitable, and Howard rode a wave of it as she moved through her career.

“In the 1980s when the Navy opened the logistics ships to women, that was huge, because it allowed a lot of opportunities for women to serve at sea. Then it was just a few years later that we were engaged in Operation Desert Storm. So even though women weren’t serving on warships, women were still serving in a combat arena, and that started a national conversation. ‘What is a woman’s role in the military?’ So coming out of that time frame the combat exclusion law was repealed and that meant that women were going to serve on combat ships and fly combat aircraft,” said Howard.

After serving sea tours aboard several ships, Howard fulfilled her dream in 1999 of commanding a Navy warship at sea. She took command of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47), becoming the first African-American woman in such a role.

“The crew was wonderful. To this day that’s what I think about. When you are going into command you think it’s going to be challenging, you believe it’s going to be fun, and it definitely was fun, but there are always challenges you don’t expect. At the same time you go in with the expectation that Sailors can do anything, and that was the ship that proved it. We are so lucky that we have the people who not only have the talent, but who care and want to get it right.”

Howard was selected for the rank of rear admiral lower half in 2006, making her the first admiral selected from the United States Naval Academy class of 1982 and the first woman graduate of the United States Naval Academy selected for flag rank.

In 2009, Howard put on her second star and assumed command of Expeditionary Strike Group Two and deployed in the Gulf of Aden to conduct anti-piracy operations. Within one week of checking aboard her flag ship, amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), she was immersed in the rescue of Capt. Richard Phillips, commanding officer of the MV Maersk Alabama.

“That’s an eye-opening way to start a new job. Very quickly we had several ships, Special Forces, aircraft and it seemed like everyone in the world was focused on one American and

trying to make sure he didn’t end up on shore in Somalia. Synchronizing that kind of might and capability was pretty amazing.”

Not including the 3,000 Sailors and Marines in her task force, Howard said they also had support from reconnaissance aircraft out of Djibouti, intelligence support from the United States, and she was in constant communication with the staff at U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.

“When you think about it that’s a lot of people, and I’m going to say that’s the right call. The Department of Defense is there to protect America’s interest, America’s property and America’s citizens. And in the end there is a deterrence factor. You want the average pirate to look at an American ship and say, “we’ll just let that one go by...”

For the women who are following in her footsteps, Howard has this advice.

“You have to keep your sense of humor. You have to develop stamina and you need to be adaptable. Finally, you need to stay connected to women. It’s important to be able to share experiences and to be able to tap into those shared experiences.”

Over her career, Howard has seen dramatic changes in the Navy and the nation, but there is one more change she’d like to witness.

“I would like to see our nation appreciate the importance of the Navy. We are blessed to live in a time where the average citizen really appreciates their Sailors; when we walk anywhere in a uniform we get thanked. If I could change anything I’d like to have Americans understand who they are thanking and why. How do you convince a nation this big that they are a maritime nation? Our founding fathers got it; they understood the importance of international commerce and that is why they said maintain a Navy in the Constitution. And ironically enough, we are even more dependent on maintaining safe water ways now than they were then.”

Howard may get her wish. As the newest vice admiral in the Navy and Deputy Commander of U.S. Fleet Forces she will have the opportunity to reach a much larger audience than ever before.

As she has proven time and again, there is a first for everything.

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Phil Beaufort, U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs

Some Reasons for Personal Developmental

The building blocks of any business are its people. Organizational success is predicated on the development of personnel and their ability to achieve the organization's mission and business objectives, and a lot of planning is needed to make sure the knowledge and personal expertise is correct at every level and position.

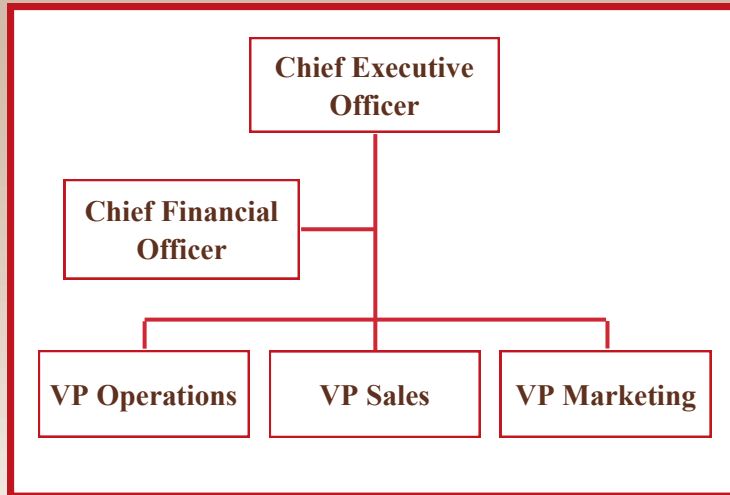
To be an effective business, the workforce planners must establish the core competency baseline – ensure the right mix of engineers, technicians, laborers, support and administrative staff, and logistics personnel – make sure to have a method of sustaining excellence – all while making sure the workforce keeps pace with technological advances.

Like the building blocks that support the great pyramids – each carved to fit together precisely – organizations must also shape its staff ensuring that every division or department work in unison.

Proper departmental alignment [at every level] is essential to maintaining a healthy and productive corporate structure. Each employee must perfect their knowledge, skill sets, and background experience to effectively contribute to company triumph. The level of their individual expertise is vital to organizational synergy; and, divisions operating succinctly contribute to high levels of efficiency.

With most companies the bottom line is to make a profit, increasing the company's value and sharing company profits with stockholders. A portion of these profits should always be reinvested in company resources and assets – while managing liability and overhead. Much of this is done through recruiting and the hiring of new personnel, but many companies sustain integrity through internal training programs offered to high performing employees.

While the military does not focus on profits and stockholders, it is concerned with effectively managing resources, e.g., people, money, ships, planes, buildings, radios, networks and computer systems, and so on. As with every business, the military must have highly educated personnel to run the organization and facilitate organizational business objectives –



whether that be a naval ship operating in the Mediterranean, a Coast Guard aircraft patrolling the Gulf, a base unit providing logistics support to the operational units, or Headquarters unit addressing Congress for organizational resources.

At every level, the unit strategist – planning and/or training officers – must ensure staff personnel meet the

standards of performance identified in the job description – military and civilian alike. Some jobs require an apprentice while others need more experienced personnel, or an incumbent with an advanced education – military service or industrial trade schools, academies, colleges and universities, or continued education.

In every organization attrition can diminish its ability to sustain core competency resulting in diminished capability to meet the mission. It is imperative that the workforce planners and training officers monitor the units' readiness to evaluate and identify shortages to avoid unexpected drawbacks as a result of diminished capability.

So how does all of this apply to you? Well ... like commercial industry, the military must also maintain a highly trained crew to facilitate operational expertise. To do this, a complicated matrix of workforce management to sustain organizational business expertise [knowledge, educational, and experience levels] is needed.

Even though the Headquarters workforce staff monitors the organizational knowledge baseline, you can help by making sure you stay abreast of technological advancement in your field. It is your responsibility to do a self-evaluation and identify critical areas where you can improve your knowledge and expertise.

This personal improvement will allow you to continually contribute to mission success and ensure the service continues to serve the public at the highest level. The Service will benefit from your pursuit of professional excellence, and continued personal growth and development raises the opportunity for promotion –

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2012 Professional Development and Training Conference New Orleans, LA



Founders and Past Presidents

CAPT Julia Barnes, USN(Ret), CAPT Emmanuel Jenkins, USN(Ret), LCDR Richard West, USN(Ret)
CAPT J. Leon Gilchrist, USN(Ret), Mrs. Dorothy Benford, Spouse of CAPT Eddie Benford, USN(Ret), CAPT Richard Williams, USN(Ret), CAPT Percy Norwood, USN(Ret), CAPT Charles B. Williams, Sr. USCG, Ret, Col John Boggs, USMC (Ret), VADM Manson Brown, USCG CAPT Bernard Jackson, USN(Ret) CAPT Anthony Barnes, USN(Ret)



CHAPTER AWARDS



Outstanding Chapter Website—Camp Pendleton-Miramar ** Outstanding Chapter Newsletter—Tidewater
Outstanding Chapter Program—Jacksonville ** Outstanding Chapter, 1st place (Large)—Tidewater
Outstanding Chapter, 2nd place (Large)—Washington DC ** Outstanding Chapter, 1st place (Medium)—Jacksonville ** Outstanding Chapter, 2nd place (Medium)—Quantico ** Outstanding Chapter, 1st place (Small)—Camp Pendleton-Miramar ** Outstanding Chapter, 2nd place (Small)—San Francisco Bay Area ** Chapter Established Growth, 1st place (Large)—San Diego ** Chapter Established Growth, 2nd place (Large)—Tidewater ** Chapter Established Growth, 1st place (Medium)—Jacksonville ** Chapter Established Growth, 2nd place (Medium)—Okinawa ** Chapter Established Growth, 1st place (Small)—Camp Pendleton-Miramar ** Chapter Established Growth, 2nd place (Small)—Pensacola



Golden Pen Award
CDR Pierce on behalf of
LT Howard A. Milligan



CAPT Sallee P. Kafer
Mentoring Award
LCDR Tracy Isaac



Outstanding Chapter
President
CDR Daryl Pierce



Individual Membership
Recruiting Award
LtCol David R. Everly



CAPT John C. Witherspoon Award
for Excellence in Leadership and
Mentoring
LCDR Bill Shelton, USCG (Ret)



Special Board of Directors Service
Award
LCDR Bill Shelton, USCG (Ret)



LtGen Frank Petersen
Service Award
LtCol Everly on behalf of
Col Grover C. Lewis III



NNOA Lifetime
Achievement Award
Maj Gen Ronald L. Bailey



40th Anniversary

2012 Distinguished Service Awards

Camp Lejeune - Cherry Point

LtCol Jonathan Loney--Maj Jonathan Boyd--Capt Ayanna Moreno--Capt Wyndee Young

Camp Pendleton-Miramar

CAPT Ollis Mozon, Jr.--LCDR Bridget Wise--San Antonio--Capt NaTasha Everly--Capt Jake Owens--Capt Josh Watson--LT Earl Wilson--1stLt Zerbin Singleton--CWO3 (Ret) Gerald Hampton Mrs. Caren Owens

Houston

CDR Will E. Watson--LCDR (Ret) Elaine Pearson--Ensign Michelle Washington

Jacksonville

CDR Andrea Petrovanie--LCDR Jessica D. Beard--LT Brian Martin--LCDR (Ret) Anita L. Pierce--LCDR (Ret) Herlena Washington--LTJG Andrea N. Baker--CWO3 Lionel Jeffcoat

Memphis

LT Chris Saffold--LT Terrise Williams

Miami

LCDR (Ret) Andrea Champagnie

Monterey

LT Darryl Diptee--Capt Andrew Holmes--Mrs. Deborah Baity

Okinawa

LT Temitope Ayeni--LT Darius Luna--LT Adewetan Oluwafadekemi--CWO2 Derrick Oliver

Pensacola

LCDR Eugene Tillery--LT Rolanda Findlay--LT LaTanya Rose

Quantic

LtCol Kisha Flagg--Maj Jerome Stovall--Maj Ronella Taylor--Maj Mike Williams--Capt Talisha Johnson

San Diego

CAPT Terrence Hammond--CAPT Sandra Mason--CAPT Cedric Pringle--CDR Katrina Pringle--LCDR Patricia B. Johnson--LCDR Janelle Terrell--LCDR (Ret) Stella B. Nealy--LCDR (Ret) Richard West--LCDR Jacqueline Williams--LT Chakosha Coleman--LT Jennifer Moore

San Francisco Bay Area

LCDR Mark Harris

Tidewater

CDR Terrel Fisher--CDR Thurraya Kent--LtCol (Ret) J.W. Washington--Maj Lawrence Arnold--LCDR Keith Dobbins--LCDR Terri L. Gabriel--LCDR Michelle Joachim--LT Julius Fears

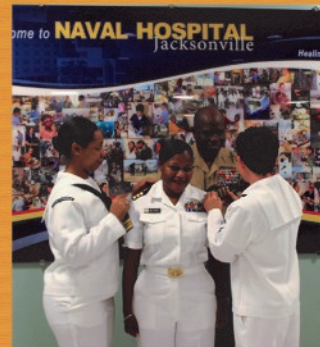
BRAVO ZULU



20 May 12: Congratulations to Life Member Rear Admiral Dwight D. Shepherd, USN, on your promotion. RDML Shepherd is assisted with his new shoulder boards by the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus and Mr. and Mrs. Frez Shepherd. RDML Shepherd is currently assigned the Joint Staff as Director J1



6 July 12: Life Member Colonel Brian "Phantom" Cavanaugh stands with the Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford after a ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps where Col Cavanaugh was promoted to his present rank. Col Cavanaugh most recently served as the Director, Marine Corps Safety Division and is the senior African American Aviator on active duty in the Corps.



7 July 12: HM2 Ashley Bostic and HA Elissa Henderson replace the LCDR shoulder boards of now Commander Jessica Beard. LtGen Walt Gaskin, Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee, looks on as the officiating officer for the ceremony. CDR Beard is a life member and serves as Treasurer for the Jacksonville Chapter. She is currently assigned as Certified Nurse and Midwife in the OBGyn Clinic of Naval Hospital Jacksonville.



31 Aug 12: Col. Grover C. Lewis III, Executive Officer of Marine Corps Installations East, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, and NNOA Life Member; retired after 30 honorable and faithful years of service. Col Lewis is pictured admiring a gift given to him to commemorate his 3 decades of service to God, country and Corps. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Adrian J. Weekly

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much like a division supervisor in the commercial market receives a promotion to management after demonstrating the aptitude for managing a company project.

On a personal level – my military career started as a Radioman seaman apprentice aboard a Navy submarine and evolved into a 34-year military career. To achieve this success, I earned a bachelor degree while enlisted, attended managerial trade schools to perfect leadership and management skills, and earned a postgraduate degree while serving at several very demanding Coast Guard assignments.

While it was very tough, both the Service and I benefitted from my pursuit of excellence. The knowledge I gained helped me to establish many Coast Guard radio and information systems business requirements. The self-improvement allowed me to successfully compete at the commander level, and find sufficient employment after retiring from the service – not to mention the role-model impression it provided for my children and the children in the communities where we lived. As a role model, dozens of youth in the community have sought enlistment and/or applied to the nation’s service academies at my suggestion. Although I retired in 2008, I still maintain contact with the western regional recruiting officer at the Coast Guard Academy.

I cannot guarantee your career will evolve as mine or that you will influence the youth in your neighborhood. However, I do believe you will benefit somehow – even if only through self-gratification. I am very satisfied with my personal and professional achievements, and sincerely believe the Coast Guard appreciated my career contributions.

I truly feel blessed to have had the above opportunities, and am somewhat sure that at the conclusion of your military career, you too, will look back and applaud your own military achievements. I challenge you to seek professional improvement. You won’t regret it!

[story by... CDR Adolph Keyes, USCG]

BEYOND THE CALL

(As featured in The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint- September 2012)

Beyond the Call is a diversity campaign featuring African Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, Latinos and other ethnic groups who have exemplified exceptional performance in the Navy as well as their communities. “We operate in a global economy in a global workforce. The Navy realizes the strength in diversity; not just in color but in thought. The general

public’s perception of the Navy is very limited, so it is critical to share all of the opportunities available in the Navy. It’s just as diverse as any other civilian company. You can work in theatre with wounded warriors. We only think of war fighters and we don’t think of architects and the civil engineer corps. So



*CDR Pringle attends to an infant at Naval Medical Center
San Diego*

often when you talk about the African American community, we can be limited in where we live. I didn’t see a lot of people who looked like me in an everyday setting [growing up]. It is important that people realize that we are the face of the Navy. The Navy is the vehicle to expand perspective,” said Commander Pringle.

Congratulations to LtCol Rodney Tatum who assumed command of Marine Air Control Squadron-1 on 05 June 2012. LtCol Tatum is a NNOA Life Member and the new Yuma Chapter President.



NNOA Houston teams with the Organization of Black Airline Professionals to reach over 9,000 youth throughout the area!

From 20-24 February 2012, NNOA Houston participated in a major youth outreach event in the City of Houston. Led by Xavier Samuels (pictured above left) several members signed on to speak at numerous elementary schools throughout the area over the course of several days.

The program's objective was to expose students to professionals in the aviation field as well as other key disciplines to motivate them toward excellence. All told, over 9,000 students were reached during this outstanding event!

NNOA played an integral role providing several of its members as guest speakers, and of course, having one of our key leaders, Xavier, in a lead coordinating role. NNOA was specifically recognized by the Mayor of Houston for its community service efforts.



Mr. Xavier Samuels (left), a member of NNOA and OBAP receives recognition from the City of Houston for coordinating numerous community service events in the area. CDR John Pruitt, CO, CGC DAUNTLESS, attended the ceremony representing NNOA Houston

NNOA Houston helps the Galveston County Foodbank open its doors on weekends!

NNOA Houston launched a major initiative to support the Galveston County Foodbank throughout 2012. With a simple vision to provide support, our lead project officer, LTJG Michelle Washington (also Chapter Secretary) developed a plan that yielded a consistent workforce with a targeted mission to feed those less fortunate.

Although a stalwart in the local community, the Foodbank was unable to support weekend operations with its current workforce. Determined to make things right, Executive Director, Mark Davis set about seeking support from various organizations to meet the need. As it happened, Mark was acquainted with NNOA Houston Chapter President, CDR Will Watson, through a mutual friend, and off we went from there!

LTJG Washington stepped up to lead the way coordinating training for the team and assisting with educating all volunteers on operating the Foodbank's facility on targeted days throughout the year. Because of NNOA's support, the Galveston County Foodbank was able to open its doors on Saturdays, a long held desire of the center's Director. Furthermore, because of our efforts, NNOA was recognized during the center's opening Saturday ceremony, which was attended by members of the surrounding community and several public officials.



Elaine Pearson (3rd from left), ENS Eric Hudson (center), and LTJG Michelle Washington (right) work closely with foodbank staff

NNOA Awards Scholarships to Hampton Roads Students

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Karen Blankenship Navy Public Affairs Support Element-East

NORFOLK (NNS) -- The National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) Tidewater Chapter awarded \$25,500 in scholarships to seven graduating high school students in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, May 5.

Three students received the Vice Admiral Gravely Scholarship, named after the first black naval officer to rise to the rank of vice admiral. The NNOA also awarded scholarships to four students who plan to pursue undergraduate degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

"Tonight is about education and, throughout my life, I've always passionately believed education is the cornerstone to success," said keynote speaker Vice Adm. Carol M. Pottenger, deputy chief of staff for Capability Development NATO Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.

The NNOA, which began in 1970, awarded its first Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship in 1980. Eventually, the scholarships were named in honor of Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., and were also awarded to students outside of Navy ROTC. This year, the first STEM scholarships were awarded thanks to a grant by the Office of Naval Research.

"I hope everyone of you decides to put on the uniform," said Pottenger. "But, no matter where you study, what you study, and no matter how you decide to use this education, you will be serving your country."



2012 scholarship recipients (l to r): Blair E. Cutting, Twymun K. Safford, Alston T. Cobb, Derrian W. Flemings, Jourdan K. Simpson, Keaun Q. Barrett, and Cameron K. Bell.

The theme for this year's banquet was a quote from Nelson Mandela in which he said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Pottenger reiterated that sentiment by telling the scholarship recipients, "We expect you to give back."

"It's a real prestigious honor," said Twymun K. Safford, recipient of the \$10,000 STEM scholarship. "It's like I'm finally being rewarded for all the hard work I've done and it allows me continue on to the next level."

Safford, a student at Denbigh High School, plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and major in aerospace engineering.

Alston T. Cobb, a student at Western Branch High School, received a \$5,000 STEM Scholarship. Blair E. Cutting, a student at First Colonial High School, and Derrian W. Flemings, a student at Bethel High School, both received \$2,500 STEM Scholarships.

Keaun Q. Barrett, a student at Churchland High School, received a \$2,500 Vice Admiral Gravely Scholarship. Cameron K. Bell, a student at Woodside High School, and Jourdan K. Simpson, a student at Lakeland High School, both received \$1,500 Vice Admiral Gravely Scholarships.

Pottenger issued a challenge to the recipients by saying, "If you're not being challenged by the course your life is taking you, then change that course. You must give it your all."

Gravely, who passed away in 2004, said, "Success in life is the result of several factors. My formula is simply education plus motivation plus perseverance. Education is paramount. Motivation: one must decide what he wants to do in life, how best to get there and to proceed relentlessly towards that goal. Perseverance: the ability to steadfastly proceed to your goal. It is the ability to overcome."

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GLOBALNOVATIONS

The 41st Annual
NNOA
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Development and Training
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