



@USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

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MILITARY TIMES, Karen Jowers

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or find it online at www.navy.mil/cnp

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Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) Vice Adm. Bill Moran met with more than 800 Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) Sailors during an all-hands call on Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Oct. 21.

During Moran's visit to Little Creek he provided an update on uniform changes, military pay, retirement, bonuses, advancement opportunities, training, and education.

"I wanted to come back to meet with the NECC forces," said Moran. "It's important for our leaders in Washington to know more about the important work you are doing for the Navy around the world."

CNP stated that he had visited with members of the NECC forces in Gulfport, San Diego and other locations, but enjoyed an opportunity to meet with a large group that comprise the expeditionary forces.

Moran also focused on the quality of service members the Navy is attracting and retaining in the all-volunteer force.

"If you have great people and talent on your team, the team will be strong," said Moran who praised the quality of recruits who have recently joined the Navy. "We have service members who are the most talented and high performing recruits in the Navy."

CNP also spoke to the Seabees attending the hour-long discussion where he provided encouraging words on future advancement opportunities on the horizon.

"You should start to see an increase in advancement it will be slow, but steady," said Moran.

Moran also informed NECC forces about some new initiatives to be launched in 2016 to include a new portal called "My Navy Portal" that will provide one-stop location for Sailors to get the information they need, as well as Billet Based Detailing to assist Sailors find the right fit for their next duty assignment. Moran also updated the forces on a new social media app the Navy recently launched to reduce domestic violence.

As the Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Moran is responsible for all recruiting, training and detailing policies. He and his staff ensure Navy has the right number of Sailors with the needed skill sets to carry out operations across the Fleet.

NECC is an enduring war fighting force providing sea-to-shore and inland operating environment capabilities across the full range of military operations that is focused on delivering combat effective expeditionary forces ready for worldwide operations now and into the future.

For more news from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command , visit www.navy.mil/local/necc/.

2.) Mission Family: Longtime Military Family Advocate Honored/ 20 OCT 15 [LINK]

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At your installations and commands, you see the daily work of defense and service officials who seek to improve the lives of troops and their families.

Most military families will never actually meet those people. But rest assured that for some of them, that mission is a passion.

One is Meg Falk, who worked for the Navy, and later, for DoD's family policy office in the Pentagon, before retiring 10 years ago. "We appreciate all you've done and the encouragement you still give us to fight the good fight and do the good work," Joyce Raezer, executive director of the National Military Family Association, told Falk in presenting her with NMFA's "Support of Military Families Award" Sept. 29.

Those who know Falk describe her passion for families, her selflessness, her determination.

"She was all about military family programs before military families were in vogue," said Rene Campos, who worked with Falk for years and is now deputy director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America.

That wasn't easy. Campos said Falk "staunchly pushed the envelope with military and civilian leaders" about the importance of family programs.

"She is the reason these programs are an institution within the military ... and the direct linking of these programs to recruiting, retention, readiness and ultimately, national security," Campos said.

NMFA lists a few of Falk's accomplishments on behalf of military families now and in years to come:

- *She unified the Pentagon's and service's family programs after 9/11, identifying gaps and pulling together resources to prepare for the ensuing war and beyond.

- *She was responsible for setting up the Pentagon Family Assistance Center after 9/11 to care for loved ones of the victims.

- *She wrote policies to institute family support programs, such as family centers, on military installations.

- *She helped develop new casualty and mortuary affairs policies and funeral honors policies.

- *She helped staff at the military treatment facilities at then-Walter Reed and then-Bethesda establish family assistance centers for wounded warriors; and helped write policy and coordinate programs for tracking transportation of the wounded from war zones to MTFs.

- *She was key in establishing Military OneSource, particularly its non-medical counseling services.

True to form, when Falk received her award from NMFA, she was reluctant to take credit, instead turning attention to former co-workers. "I didn't do this by myself," she stressed.

Campos described Falk as "humble, selfless, and giving. ... Her whole being is to make others' lives better."

And service members and their families are the beneficiaries.

3.) USNA Hosts STEM Workshop for Middle School Girls/ 20 OCT 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

U.S. Naval Academy Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (NNS) -- The U.S. Naval Academy's (USNA) Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center for Education and Outreach hosted a girls-only STEM workshop for middle school-age girls, Oct. 17.

More than 230 girls from surrounding counties and neighboring states attended the day-long workshop.

Parents, midshipmen and faculty worked with the girls to provide hands-on activities in subjects such as aerospace engineering, biology, and physics. The goal was to empower students through confidence-building team exercises and present the opportunities and possibilities in STEM careers.

"Research shows that 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls are particularly affected by their environment and peers," said mechanical engineering Professor Angela Moran, director of the STEM Center for Education and Outreach. "In many cases, they are not presented with all the opportunities that are available to them as they get older. We are trying to make sure they know of all those possibilities."

The STEM Center reaches 8,000-9,000 girls each year through a variety of programs. Its faculty said they want to make sure those girls are left with a lasting impression that is continually reinforced.

"It has to be a three-way message. We engage the girls, we speak with the parents, and we interact with about 1,000 teachers a year, trying to ensure the sustainability and encouragement of STEM inside of the classroom," said Moran. "Our events are always a very rewarding experience, we see these young girls go from saying 'I can't do that,' to an hour later saying 'I didn't know I could do that.'"

The workshop consisted of hour-long modules testing various student-built designs. Midshipmen and faculty oversaw and demonstrated hands-on projects that showcased rocket design, meteorology, mathematical computation for music, and more.

"From a young age, I feel like there can be some discouragement for girls to work in a STEM field," said Midshipman 2nd Class David Dedios, a mechanical engineering major and STEM volunteer. "It's really important for them to get these experiences because these fields should be as diversified as possible."

The introduction or reinforcement of STEM fields as future career paths can help young girls decide in which direction to focus their high-school and college studies.

"When I was young, I was very interested in math and science. When I went to college, I met freshmen who were engineering majors, and I had never even heard of engineering as a major. I wondered how they even knew what an engineer was at the age of 17. We want to prevent that," said chemistry Professor Sarah Durkin. "I think it's great to inspire girls at this age, and if you don't know something exists, you can't work towards that as a goal."

USNA STEM events are sponsored by the Secretary of Defense, Office of Naval Research, the Naval Academy Foundation, the Northrop Grumman Foundation, and the Bauer Foundations.

For more information about STEM at USNA, visit <http://www.usna.edu/STEM/>.

For more news from U.S. Naval Academy, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/usna/>.

4.) Navy COOL Launches New Website/ 19 OCT 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

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PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-line (COOL), a program providing Sailors a way to take the skills they have learned on the job and translate them into civilian credentials, introduced a new website Oct. 16.

"We've made things easier to read, easier to find, and easier to use, whether you're at your desk or on your phone," said Keith Boring, Navy COOL program manager. "We know today's Sailors look for information in different ways, and we want to make sure that information about this very important program is accessible to them, wherever they are and however they are connected online."

Navy COOL helps Sailors find information on certifications and licenses related to their jobs and can even provide funding to pay for credential exams and maintenance fees.

The website upgrades include a responsive design that adapts to the device a Sailor chooses to use to explore the site, whether on a desktop, tablet or phone. Interactive credential tables also give Sailors more tools when looking at credentials related to their rate, designator or collateral duty. Applying filters and sorting and searching by key words help create customized, printable lists.

"We reorganized the content, too," said Boring. "All of the supporting information on COOL, from the credentialing steps along the top of each page to the pages you access from the top navigation bar, has been redesigned and rewritten to make it easier to understand credentialing and what it means to you. Most importantly, it makes it easier for you to understand what you need to do to get a credential."

A new site-wide search box also provides results in three tabs, showing all results, military occupations on summary pages and COOL credential snapshots pages.

Along with the Navy COOL website, the Department of Navy COOL portal site has also been updated.

The Navy COOL office is located at the Center for Information Dominance (CID) based at Corry Station, part of Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. CID is the Navy's learning center that leads, manages and delivers Navy and joint forces training in information operations, information warfare, information technology, cryptology and intelligence.

With nearly 1,300 military, civilian and contracted staff members, CID provides training for approximately 22,000 members of the U.S. armed services and allied forces each year. CID oversees the development and administration of more than 200 courses at four commands, two detachments and 12 learning sites throughout the United States and Japan.

For more information on the Navy COOL program, visit www.cool.navy.mil/usn.

For more news from Center for Information Dominance, visit www.navy.mil/local/cid/.

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