

NETPDC Recognizes Importance of Command Diversity

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From Ed Barker

The importance and contributions of workplace diversity were recognized by the staff of the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center (NETPDC) as they held a Diversity Day celebration at Saufley Field Oct 26.

The event offered multicultural training with presentations, speakers, displays of artifacts, and samples of food from around the world.

Capt. Kertreck Brooks, NETPDC commanding officer, said that he was impressed by the learning opportunities and strong turnout in support of Diversity.

"One key benefit of the diversity represented by our staff is that it enables us to approach problems from a broad spectrum of viewpoints," said Brooks. "NETPDC's diversity fuels innovation and supports the ability to adapt to change. Embracing diversity is key to both our present and future as a military organization and as a nation."

Myeisha Murray, NETPDC Equal Opportunity Committee chairman coordinated the event. Murray, a Navy veteran, was a Boatswain's Mate aboard the USS Carter Hall (LSD 50). She enjoyed experiencing deployments around the world, visiting various cultures.

"I enjoy meeting new people from different backgrounds and learning their culture and traditions," said Murray. "My love for this began when I was in the military and I am glad that I still get to experience that working as a civilian in the Navy workforce. Here at NETPDC, we observe a single Diversity Day instead of individual special emphasis days because of the broader audience it attracts and greater learning opportunities. NETPDC consists of staff from many nationalities, and each has their own story, talents and background to share."

For Lt. j.g. Manuel Jean-Paul Perez, this was his first exposure to a Diversity Day event.

"I was particularly impressed by the Persons with Disabilities booth and how so many high-ranking government officials did not let their challenges hold them back from success," said Perez. "Diversity Day illustrated to me how different points of view allow you to see things and contribute in a different manner, with each person doing their part."

NETPDC's mission is to provide products and services that enable and enhance education, training, career development and personnel advancement throughout the Navy. Primary elements of the command include the Navy Advancement Center (NAC), Voluntary Education (VOLED) Department, and the Resources Management Department.

Additional information on the Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center can be found by visiting: www.netc.navy.mil/netc/netpdc/Default.htm.

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