

ANCHOR WATCH

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

NIOC Gives Back During The Season of Giving



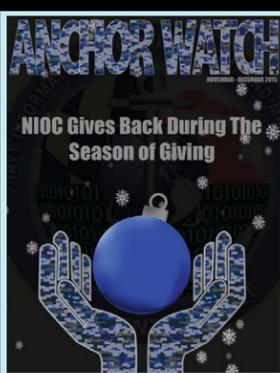


The NIOC MD Public Affairs Staff Wishes You and Yours a Happy and Safe 2016

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ANCHOR WATCH
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NIOC MARYLAND PROVIDES THANKSGIVING MEAL FOR SAILORS

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Taylor DiMartino

On November 26, Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Maryland Sailors and their families gathered to share a Thanksgiving meal in the command's day room on Fort Meade.

The meal was prepared by Sailors and family members.

Chief Culinary Specialist Vijay Singh, who coordinated the event and was active during food preparation, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who put effort into the meal's success.

"The fact that individuals from every department volunteered their time to prepare the meal showed me that people throughout the command really care about our Sailors, especially during a holiday such as Thanksgiving," said Singh. "It was a group effort that saw everyone getting involved."

Singh said the goal of the meal was to provide for Sailors who were spending their holiday away from family.

"As the command's Drug and Alcohol Prevention Advocate (DAPA), Sailors have come to me with a lot of stress on their minds," said Singh, "and stress always seems to build around the holidays. For those that can't be home with family during Thanksgiving, it's very easy to become discouraged. That's why it's so important to come together as a Navy family to provide for these Sailors."

Every dish one could expect from a full Thanksgiving day meal was present in a spread that spanned numerous tables. More than 130 attendees were treated to over 15 Thanksgiving staples including turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, squash, and a generous spread of different pies and other desserts.

Turkey preparation proved to be one of the day's biggest surprises and satisfied many Sailors' appetites.

"We got to smoke the turkey, which made me really happy," said Singh. "It's a unique way of preparing it and Chief Schooley came through in a big way with his huge smoker, which handled more than 200 pounds of turkey. We want to make smoking the turkey a new tradition for the command for as long as possible. Hopefully this past Thanksgiving will be a benchmark for how NIOC Maryland's turkey should be cooked."

Nothing from the meal was wasted. According to Singh, leftovers from NIOC Maryland's meal went to the Naval barracks for the Defense Information School, to the local USO, and surrounding Army barracks.



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS MAKE INCREDIBLE IMPACTS IN 2015

By: Petty Officer Second Class Natasha Coker

The NIOC Maryland Community Service Program is highly recognized for its substantial impact on communities in the greater Baltimore and Washington D.C. area. The program's success is largely attributed to its organization's breakdown into five individual "flagships". Throughout the year, these "flagships" support various programs and events occurring weekly, monthly, and annually that positively affect over 3.5 million community members.

In 2015, three distinct programs, Blue Water Baltimore, Real Food Farm, and Saturday Scholars, have made significant differences that merit exclusive recognition. Due to superlative management displayed by flagship leaders and program managers, as well as time and resources contributed by over 1,200 Sailors and other volunteers, our community has benefitted from 11,000 hours of community service.

"It has been a busy year for Blue Water Baltimore," says Program Manager Petty

Officer First Class Jonathan Koscianski. Blue Water Baltimore hosted over 25 events in 2015 that dedicated time and effort toward stream and park cleanup, tree planting, and overall greenery beautification in the Baltimore area. With the removal of over 5,000 pounds of trash and planting of over 400 trees, Blue Water Baltimore has greatly improved our community's environmental conservation endeavor. Koscianski comments that through this program, "[Sailors] truly show concern for the care and preservation for not only our local environment, but those worldwide."

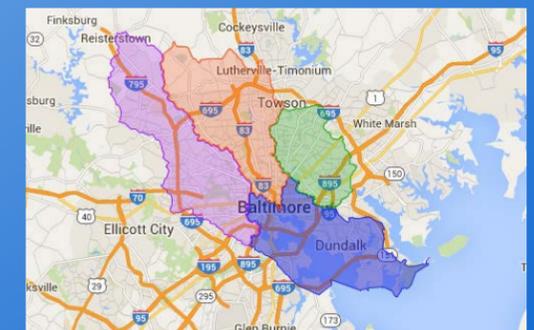
NIOC Maryland Sailors continue to better the environment and community by helping non-profit urban farming project Real Food Farm develop resources to improve access to fresh food in a proclaimed food desert. In the past year, volunteers have been involved with Perlman and Clifton Farms where they are offered opportunities to learn environmentally-responsible agricultural

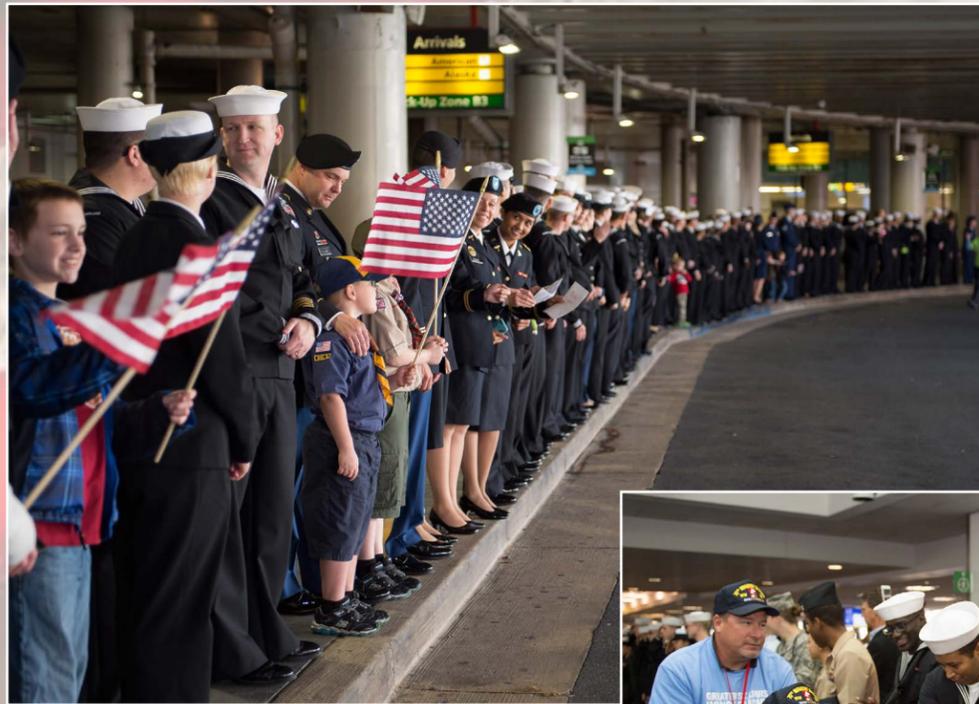
methods from experienced farmers. Sailors have participated in the preparation of plant beds, improvement of compost systems, and harvest over 17,000 pounds of produce that served 1,800 customers. Volunteer Petty Officer First Class Mark Hazzard stated the work required by this program continues year-round, and as they begin to prepare for spring planting, Program Manager Petty Officer First Class Cunningham has set a goal for Sailors to double last year's output.

Shifting into the classroom, NIOC Maryland's biannual tutoring program, Saturday Scholars, gives Sailors the opportunity to become mentors and role models for our community youth. This past year, 30 Sailors devoted over 875 hours to tutoring and engaging with 30 elementary school students that strengthened their reading and mathematics comprehension. The students are highly motivated by their tutors who create connections and leave lasting impressions. "By the second

Saturday, several students were asking tutors if they could partner up with them again in the Spring 2016 session," says Program Manager Petty Officer First Class Krystina Marshall.

NIOC Maryland commends its Sailors for their exceptional hard work and contributions. To make a difference through participation in these or other flagship programs and events, please see the Plan of the Week or visit the Community Service Program webpage: <http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org> for upcoming 2016 volunteer opportunities.





with Honor Flight Network.

“The people we greeted and spent time with were Sailors before I was born,” said DiMartino.

“They came before us and remembering them is an important part of being a Sailor.”

Honor Flight is a program that runs from April to Veterans Day annually to fly Veterans in to spend a day touring the monuments that have been erected in honor of the wars that they fought in. All airfare is paid through the Honor Flight Network.

The common thread between the current and past service members opened avenues for conversation between the two generations. Current and prior service members shared conversations, swapped sea stories and laughed together.

Over 200 people, many active-duty Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines and former military members, gathered in the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI) terminal in early November to welcome Veterans as their day of touring monuments in Washington D.C. began.

Petty Officer First Class Abigail Paul got involved with the Honor Flight Organization after coming to NIOC MD and shortly after became the command liaison. She has been to many honor flights held at BWI.

“They said the same oath that we all say,” said Paul. “But they saw the history that we learned about in boot camp and in school. These men and women are the people we read about in school, and that means a lot to me.”

The veterans were greeted with warm hugs, handshakes and many cheers as they emerged from the plane.

“I joined the Navy late in life and there’s a lot of history of the military in my family,” said Paul. “It has always meant a lot to me to recognize and thank the people that came before us.”

The Honor Flight Network is always looking for volunteers for greeting volunteers as well as escorting the veterans on their tours. To get involved reach out to Petty Officer First Class Abigail Paul, the NIOC MD Honor Flight Liaison or visit: <https://www.honorflight.org>

“The energy in the room was incredible,” said Petty Officer Third Class Taylor M. DiMartino. “It was moving to see so many people in one room to thank the people that ensured that we could live the way we do now.”

The desire to give back to the men and women that served before us is a common reason that current military members began volunteering



HONORING A GENERATION OF HEROES

“We can’t all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they walk by.” – Will Rogers

Veterans use military skills to give back to community



Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Julia A. Gruber

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department runs solely on volunteer firefighters one night a month.

These volunteers give the paid firefighters one well-earned night off per month where the fire fighters are free without fear of being recalled to fight fires or respond to ambulance calls.

Many of these volunteers are veterans or current active-duty members of the military who have used parts of their military training to benefit them while they spend time serving on the fire department volunteer crew.

When an individual decides to join the fire department they receive training paid for by the county to certify them as a fire

fighter or emergency medical technician.

“I’ve used my military training to provide confidence and calm in many situations, I’ve gotten more specialized training to help with my career as a firefighter” said Andy D. Moffett, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Lieutenant and former U.S. Army Combat Medic. “I had been a fire fighter before I joined the military, and since returning to the fire service I have had many hours of training.”

The tie between the Navy and fire fighting is even stronger, making this a perfect opportunity for Sailors on shore duty to sharpen up their damage control skills before returning to sea, said Petty Officer First Class Christopher Jaus, a NIOC Sailor and volunteer at the Greenbelt

Volunteer Fire Department.

“It’s important to me to give back to the community that I live in and being a firefighter will give me that chance,” said Jaus. “It’s a great opportunity to get training in areas like damage control and emergency management that will help my naval career as well as my career after I get out of the military.”

For more information on the training provided or ways to get involved please visit the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Departments website at: <http://engine35.com> or your local volunteer fire department.



Volunteer Opportunities in Anne Arundel County



At Bello Machre the possibilities are endless. Creativity and imagination, mixed with initiative and a caring heart, can make the volunteer experience memorable for everyone. Your caring heart will make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Lend your time and talents and open your heart to the individuals we serve. If you have a day or even a few hours – your support will bring a smile to someone’s face.

See more at: <http://bellomachre.org/you-can-help/volunteer/>

Volunteers are the heart of the Maryland Food Bank. Whether sorting food, harvesting crops, or flash-freezing healthy meals from our Charles T. Bauer Community Kitchen, our volunteers directly impact how quickly and efficiently we are able to distribute food. See more at: <https://mdfoodbank.org/volunteer>



Welcome to Aid Our Veterans. Our Mission is to help homeless and out of work Veterans. We supply Beds, Shelters, Homes and Assistance for those Veterans in America who have fallen on hard times. We attend Stand Downs in association with our VA Hospitals. We supply hot meals, clothes, blankets, tents, and other supplies to those who are on the streets, until they are ready to seek help for themselves. We find work and place Veterans in need in those jobs. We offer training programs and workshops. We are dedicated to showing our support, your support and our country’s support of Veterans’ service to our country.

See more at: <http://www.aidourveterans.org>

AMVETS is one of the nation’s leading veteran’s service organizations by providing legislative initiatives that give individual assistance in attaining earned benefits from VA and protecting veterans’ benefits on the national scale. AMVETS also has programs to assist a array of veterans’ issues including AMVETS Career Centers to veterans seeking employment after the military. Volunteers are needed for a variety of data entry requirements primarily in support of AMVETS’ membership database.

See more at: <http://www.amvets.org>



For More Opportunities near us visit the Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center at: <http://www.aacvc.org>



Congratulations!

“We received word that NIOC MD is among the Fleet-wide recipients of the FY15 retention excellence award. This recognition is awarded to commands who meet several criteria, including passing the annual career information program review with a score of 90 points or better, zero fail to submit CWAY applications, met all reenlistment benchmarks of 40% for Zone A, 50% for Zone B, and 63% for Zone C, and a total of 5% or less aggregate attrition for FY15. This success represents commitment to the growth and development of Sailors and serves as the foundation of Fleet readiness. Just another example of the Professional Excellence we are achieving. Well Done!”

CAPT. Jeffrey S. Scheidt, Commanding Officer, NIOC MD



FCPOA

Childrens' Christmas Party

The NIOC MD First Class Petty Officers Association held a Christmas party for the children of Sailors in the command December 7, 2015.

The night was filled with fun starting with a pizza party, cookie decorating, games and ornament making. The night concluded with a surprise visit from Santa Claus who gave the children a gift and filled the room with holiday cheer.

The event was a great night for the children and the parents alike.



NIOC MD

Command Christmas Party

NIOC MD Sailors gathered at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel December 11, 2015 for a celebration of the holidays.

The night included dinner, dancing and raffle prizes and a visit from NIOC Chiefs dressed as Santa Claus and an elf.

Thank you to all who helped to make this night such a success!



A LOOK INTO 2015

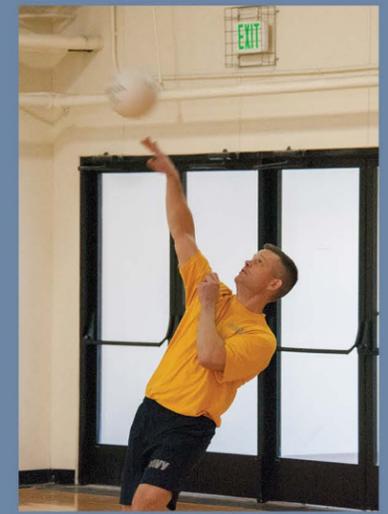
Captain (Ret.) Don E. Elam former, commanding officer of NIOC MD, starts his retirement off September 25, 2015.



As we move into the New Year Anchor Watch pauses to highlight the activities that made 2015 so memorable for NIOC. May NIOC have another year of command successes, high morale, and memories made with Shipmates.



NIOC Sailors participate in the Polar Plunge held January 23, 2015.



NIOC Sailors play volleyball together February 3, 2015.



NIOC Welcomed 33 Chiefs to the mess September 16, 2015.



NIOC Chiefs pose as Santa Claus and an elf at the Holiday Party held December 11, 2015.



NIOC Sailors volunteer at the "Good Grief" camp held Memorial Day weekend.



Chief Selects participate in a field day held as a part of CPO365.

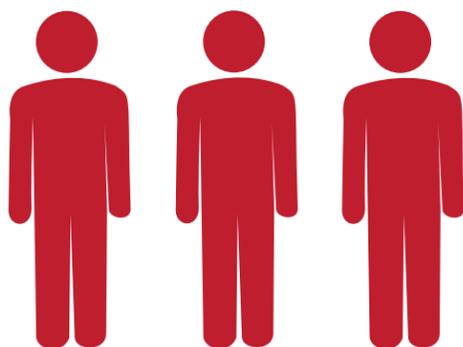




1 Pint



3 Lives



January is National Blood Donors month

For more information about how you could save a life please visit:

<http://www.redcross.org/blood>

or

<http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil>



**American
Red Cross**



When did you join the Navy? Why Navy? Did you have influences?

"I joined at the age of 17 when I, like many headstrong and idealistic teenagers, wanted to make a difference. I believed in the slogan "Join the Navy, see the world" and I never wanted to do the same thing twice."

Where have you served?

"I started right here at NIOC MD after completing "A" School. Afterwards I went to serve on the USS MUSTIN (DDG-89) in 7th fleet and was homeported out of Yokosuka, Japan. A tsunami hit Japan in 2011 and the USS MUSTIN was called to participate in Operation Tomadachi, which provided humanitarian aide and disaster relief to the people of Japan. When it was time to leave the MUSTIN, I volunteered to go to Afghanistan. I served boots on ground for one year under Command Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan (CJSOTF-A). Afterwards, I was selected for the Personnel Exchange Program (PEP) Canada. I went under NATO Orders to work with our military counterparts near the Canadian capital of Ottawa, Ontario. Last year I sailed with the HMCS FREDERICTON (FFH-337) during Operation Dynamic Mongoose; being immersed in the first hand workings of another country's navy is humbling, especially when you consider the heritage behind many of our joint and international exercises. I then returned to NIOC MD."

What was your favorite part of those assignments?

"My favorite part was working in the scope of a different military. It brought both a plethora of experiences and a spectrum full of opportunities to grow professionally."

What has been your favorite part of being a Sailor?

"My favorite part of being a Sailor is the camaraderie with fellow service members. The military is a family, and I do not believe anyone can take care of us better than each other."

What have you learned while in the Navy?

"I have learned in the Navy that nothing should be done alone, collaboration and teamwork are not only the recipe to success, but the recipe to future successes for when my replacement is ready to take over."

What do you do in your free time outside of work?

"I try to keep my personal life balanced between weightlifting, martial arts, chess, and volunteering. I served my country in many areas of the world, but working with the Volunteer Fire Department I get to serve with heroes on the homefront."

What are a few of your short/long term goals?

"I am working hard on earning my EIDWS, and since reporting to N53 I have been blessed with being surrounded by many leaders who have afforded myself and many junior Sailors the opportunity to work on this milestone qualification."





NIOC MARYLAND

COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

Our command is a large team, with diverse skills, and mission that spans the globe. Our success depends on our personal dedication to our mission and each other.

Over time our mission and our command will continue to evolve.

While we adapt to these natural changes, we need to remain focused on the core principles that will best guide our actions.

Together with our command mission statement, these core principles form the philosophy that will keep us aligned for greatest success.

MISSION: Deliver information warfare capabilities to the Fleet. Provide, and deploy, trained Information Warfare Officers and Cryptologic Technicians, and equipment to support signals intelligence, information operations, and cyberspace operations for Naval and Joint Forces.

CORE PRINCIPLES:

1) PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE:

Consistently deliver high-quality with efficiency and zeal. Use self-assessment for continuous skill development and task improvement. Seize the initiative for group success. Be proud of your effort and the mission results.

2) RESILIENCE AND RESPECT:

Deliberately develop your mind, body, and spirit. A healthy lifestyle with work-life balance increases your capacity to deal with the unexpected, and sustain high performance. Mutual respect and compassion are the cornerstones of group resilience. We are better together.

3) COLLABORATE TO INNOVATE:

Effectively overcome obstacles to communication. Leverage diversity of thought and perspective to build innovative solutions. Great communications are the foundation for constructive change and continued mission success.