



United States Navy

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command
Office of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications
Contact: Andrea Houck / andrea.houck@navy.mil
Desk: 619.524.3428

September 10, 2010

SPAWAR Leadership Participates in Recruit Capping Ceremony

SAN DIEGO – A small group of leaders from the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) had the opportunity, Sept. 10, to witness recruits at Naval Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill., put on their Navy ball caps for the first time during an event known as the capping ceremony.

The visit was part of a recruit division sponsorship program, which allows Navy commands to mentor new Sailors throughout their basic training.

For Navy recruits, the life-changing capping event is held following a strenuous night of Battle Stations 21 training aboard the USS Trayer (BST 21). This 157,000 square foot "ship" simulator was built in 2007 and spans nearly 200 feet. It is an authentic representation of an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer.

SPAWAR was there for the special ceremony that lasts less than an hour and entails the recruits changing their cover from "RECRUIT" to "NAVY." This is part of the uniform that signifies a Sailor has become a member of the Navy family.

"It means everything to me, and I am honored to join my family's history of serving our nation in the military," said Seaman Recruit Rodney Webb, from Alaska, after receiving his ball cap.

"It was a very touching ceremony and an incredible experience," said Rear Adm. Patrick Brady, Commander, SPAWAR, who congratulated the recruits following the ceremony. "We hope sponsoring a division shows recruits that the Navy really cares about them and observing that ceremony is invigorating and energizing for SPAWAR too."

Brady also served as the Reviewing Officer for the Sept. 10 recruit graduation.

The day prior to the capping ceremony, members of SPAWAR's delegation visited with recruits and witnessed the culmination of boot camp Division 301's eight-week training to become Navy Sailors.

"We're here to welcome you to the family and to say thank you for making that life change to join the Navy," said Command Master Chief Mark Flemon, SPAWAR Claimancy command master chief, during his opening remarks to the division just prior to the SPAWAR delegation's mentoring session.

SPAWAR has sponsored five divisions and brought dozens of senior enlisted and officer leaders to talk with the recruits. For SPAWAR, sponsoring a command is more than just handing off the command flag during the first week. It's about welcoming them to the Navy family and investing in the patriotic men and women

who serve our nation. It's also about sharing with them the Navy's core values: honor, courage and commitment.

For Recruit Training Command (RTC) leadership, the support and mentorship that recruits receive from the fleet is well respected.

"We appreciate SPAWAR sponsoring the recruits," said Capt. Steven Bethke, the commanding officer for RTC. "It motivates our recruits to see beyond their training, and it helps the Sailors understand why they're here."

For more news from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/spawar/>

###

www.spawar.navy.mil
www.facebook.com/spaceandnavalwarfaresystemscommand
<https://www.twitter.com/SPAWARHQ>

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) designs, develops and deploys advanced communications and information capabilities. SPAWAR delivers solutions that give Navy, joint and coalition forces the winning edge, from strategic-level decision makers to tactical-level operators. With more than 12,000 professionals located around the world and close to the fleet, Team SPAWAR is at the forefront of research, engineering, acquisition and support services that provide vital decision superiority to our forces at the right time and for the right cost.