USNH Yokosuka holds Indepenent Duty Corpsman Career Fair

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Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka's U.S Naval Hospital (USNH) hosted an Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC) fair, April 5.

The fair provided hospital corpsman with valuable information about their careers and guidance towards pursuing a career as an IDC.

Lt. j.g. Aaron Johnson, a registered nurse at U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka, speaks to corpsmen about the Navy's independent duty corpsman (IDC) program April 5. IDC's are assigned as independent health care providers to a variety of diverse duty stations, including surface ships, Seabee battalions, special warfare units and Marine joint-service billets.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Declan Barnes

"This fair that we are conducting is geared towards providing awareness to junior Sailors about career opportunities within the IDC community," said by Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Redencio Mangohig, the hospital's senior IDC.

IDC serve at a variety of diverse duty stations, acting as the independent health care providers aboard surface ships, units of the Fleet Marine Force, Seabee battalions, and numerous other isolated duty stations ashore that are independent of a medical officer.

IDC perform patient care, associated shipboard administrative assignments and logistical duties.

The IDC training program is 12 months of intensive training. The first nine months involve lectures with textbook instruction, rather than hands-on training. At the final stage of school, the trainees complete three months of clinical rotations in specialty clinics and various operational platforms.

The Sailors attending the fair had the opportunity to meet active IDC and gain knowledge about the different opportunities at hand.

"This is a great opportunity for Sailors to perform research, as well as talk to current IDC members from different platforms," said L.t.j.g. Aaron Johnson, a registered nurse at USNH. "This is something that we should continue to do for our Sailors."

The IDC program also opens the door to a career in nursing. The American Council on Education periodically assesses the program for lower and upper level college credits, which are transferable to many universities and colleges. The studies completed within the IDC school equal up to 60 credit hours.

"Ever since I joined the Navy, I strived to become an IDC, and I am attending this fair in search of a point of contact," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Lawrence Librando, USNH lab technician. "I believe IDC is beneficial to more than just my Naval career, but my education as well."

The IDC career path has many rewarding aspects for Sailors who are dedicated to patient care.

"The gratification that I get from my patients as I see them recover from an illness is by far the most rewarding feeling within my duties as an IDC," said Mangohig.

Navy is 'Partnering for a Greener Future' for Earth Day worldwide

Memebers of the Yokosuka community plant eel grass in Green Bay Marina onboard Commander Fleet Activies Yokosuka May 16, 2011. The grass was planted as part of the base Earth Day events.

From Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Navy and Marine Corps commands around the globe are participating in Earth Day activities throughout the month of April.

"The Navy carries out numerous programs that protect the Earth year-round as we perform our national defense mission," said John Quinn, acting director of the Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division. "Earth Day celebrations give us the chance to connect with local communities and inform people about those programs."

This year's theme is, "Partnering for a Greener Future," highlighting the Department's many successful partnerships with sister military services, government agencies, local schools, non-governmental organizations, and the public. Some examples include:

• Commander Navy Region Southeast is the federal co-lead for both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic Regional Planning Bodies of the National Ocean Council, which was established under the National Ocean Policy (NOP). At the national level, the NOP provides a high level interagency forum where policy issues can be discussed. At the regional level, the NOP provides the Navy and Marine Corps an avenue for proactively engaging in marine spatial planning with our federal, state, local, and tribal partners.

• As part of its long-term environmental planning efforts, the Navy has been working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to assess and mitigate potential significant environmental impacts of military training and testing activities conducted in operational areas throughout the Atlantic and Pacific.

• The Navy continues to fund millions in research and collaborate with academic institutions to study the ecology of marine mammals and to minimize the potential effects of Navy training and testing activities on the marine ecosystem.

• The Navy is working with government agencies, industry, and local communities to determine how to support renewable energy projects, such as wind projects, while minimizing training impacts.

The official Earth Day date is April 22. Navy and Marine Corps commands will participate in Earth Day activities on that date and throughout April. More than 50 installations will be celebrate by hosting beach cleanups, dumpster dives, information sessions, classroom visits, nature hikes, poster contests and many more activities.

To find a Navy-sponsored Earth Day event closest to you, visit http://www.earthday.org/user/2444.

For more information about the Navy's environmental program, visit www.greenfleet.dodlive.mil and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NavyCurrents.