Kinnick students, American Red Cross team up to help community

Story and photo by Dan Bowen, CFAY Public Affairs

The American Red Cross Club of Nile C. Kinnick High School (KHS) was established Dec. 15 with the signing of the club charter at the high school by members of the American Red Cross (ARC) and faculty and students of the school.

"Youth have been volunteering throughout the year for the Red Cross," said ARC Senior Station Manager Cecil Goodman. "Now they have an organization where youth have become leaders in the Red Cross and they decide what activities and what projects they are going to support and carry out to fulfill the needs of the community."

Emily Stith spearheaded the effort to get the club started in the school and will serve as the club president. She believes the club is important not just because of the good it will do for the community; but also, because it is the first club of its kind in the Far East.

"My job as president is to keep everything organized and schedule the projects that we do," said Stith. "I think the Red Cross Club is a good thing because it gives all students a chance to volunteer in their community and make it a better place."

Stith has been actively participating in the community for quite some time. This year, she has helped with a school supply drive for children in Afghanistan, a book drive for the book cart at U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka and constructing furniture for the USNH Yokosuka Stork's Nest.

Now that the students are officially part of the ARC, they will be able to learn various valuable life skills. The club will help them learn how to organize, carry out and publicize events and programs. According to the club sponsor and KHS teacher, Samuel Williams, Stith already has a good deal of experience in those areas and deserves a lot of credit for all of the work she put in to make the club a reality.

"[Emily] has done the recruiting herself and she has some of the finest Kinnick students that have joined her in this. We're excited about it and we expect the club to do very well," said Williams. "I would like to congratulate Emily because this is something that she has begun and now she'll be able to leave this as her legacy when she graduates next year."

Nile C. Kinnick High School (KHS) student Emily Stith signs the charter officially recognizing the KHS American Red Cross Club as the club sponsor and KHS teacher Samuel Williams and KHS Principal Lorenzo Brown look on. Stith spearheaded the effort to get the club started and will serve as club president.

Students should apply now for Scholarships for Military Children

By Tammy L. Reed, DeCA Marketing

As service members and families look back on 2010 and begin to prepare for 2011, it's also time for parents to remind students to apply for the 2011 Scholarships for Military Children program.

Scholarship applications are available now in commissaries worldwide and online at http://www.militaryscholar.org.

Since the program was announced in 2000, it has awarded $8.3 million in scholarships to more than 5,400 children of service members.

"The Scholarships for Military Children program was created to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force," said Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Acting Director and CEO Thomas E. Milks. "It also celebrates our role in the military community, as the scholarships are awarded annually through each commissary operated by DeCA."

Only family member, unmarried children of active duty service members, reservists, guardsmen, retirees or survivors of service members who died on active duty or while receiving military retired pay, may apply for a scholarship. Applicants must also be younger than 21, or 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database.

Applicants should ensure they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military ID card. An applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university, full time in the fall of 2011 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants must also submit an essay on the following topic that answers the question: "Our nation has a goal of improving health and wellness. What are your ideas and, more importantly, how do you propose to put these ideas into action in your local community?" Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 22, 2011. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary with qualified applicants.

Scholarship awards will be based on funds available, but the scholarship program anticipates awards of at least $1,500. If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary will be awarded as an additional scholarship at another store.

Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship-management services organization, manages and awards these military scholarships. If you have any questions about the scholarship program application, call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or send an e-mail to one of the e-mail addresses available on the "Contact Us" page on the above mentioned website.

Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public donate money to the program, and every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.

Students are encouraged to apply now to the Scholarship for Military Children Program. Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 22, 2011. Scholarship applications are available now in commissaries worldwide and online at http://www.militaryscholar.org.

Image courtesy of www.militaryscholar.org

Advanced education opportunities available for naval officers

By Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The Naval Education and Training Command announced Dec. 29 that the Navy continues to invest in a broad range of officer advanced education opportunities to meet existing and future mission requirements as well as support the Maritime Strategy by building the future force.

Navy graduate education programs directly support validated fleet requirements through the Navy Subspecialty System (NSS). The NSS ensures that all graduate education programs are aligned to support fleet requirements. Graduates are assigned to specialization tours as soon as practical, typically within the first or second shore assignment following graduation. The Navy aims to place officers in multiple subspecialty assignments throughout their careers to maximize its return on investment.

"We have a robust advanced education program that covers from the beginning of your career to the executive level," said Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Scott, graduate education programs section head for the office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV). "The Navy funded more than 1,300 full-time master's and doctorate degrees over the past two years. In addition, there are numerous fellowships and other development paths available for qualified officers."

The Navy uses more than 70 degree programs at military and civilian institutions, with degrees ranging from electrical engineering to Department of Defense-focused financial management. The majority of the Navy's graduate degrees are obtained through the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, Calif.

"One of the best possible investments we can make is education," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, the chief of naval personnel. "These graduate programs provide officers the professional and technical competency needed in their current duties and enable them to anticipate future requirements and capabilities. Our success as a Navy that's forward-deployed and engaged around the world depends on the right education and training."

Officers interested in graduate education should contact their detailers to determine the best timing and paths to reach their academic goals and identify applicable subspecialties.

"The Navy selects only the highest-caliber officers for graduate education in conjunction with career timing," said Scott. "Detailers work to schedule advanced education and subsequent assignments so that graduates meet career progression milestones while encouraging professional growth."

Graduate education requires that candidates meet their particular degree program's admission requirements. For NPS, this means having a qualifying Academic Profile Code (APC). All advanced education opportunities are competitive and receive numerous applicants, so competition is keen. For a complete listing of NPS opportunities and qualifying APCs, see the course catalog at http://www.nps.edu/Academics/Admissions/Registrar/AcademicCatalog/.