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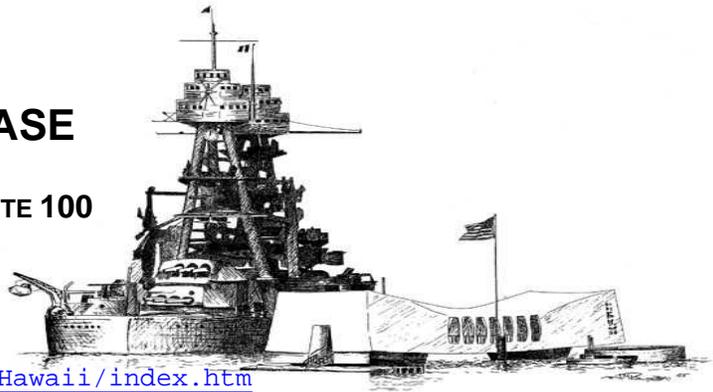
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Navy Medicine Bureau Holds Tour of MDSU-1 for S2M2

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lantron, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

(Hickam Air Force Base, HI) -- The Bureau of Navy Medicine (BUMED) held an outreach/recruiting event at the Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit ONE (MDSU-1) compound on Hickam Air Force Base (AFB) March 24 as part of the Science, Service, Medicine, & Mentoring (S2M2) program taking place on Oahu from March 21-26.

The purpose of the program, which started in 2004, is for members of BUMED to promote awareness for Navy medicine communities to untapped populations of underrepresented college and high school students on Hawaii and the mainland.

“We find out that many student populations think that we don’t have Navy medicine communities so this is our way to generate awareness for that,” said Cmdr. Victoria Wooden, BUMED’s chief diversity officer. “We want the ones who don’t know about our medical community to learn about it and make it part of their tool kit when they decide their future.”

During their visit of MDSU-1, 28 students received Dive & Humanitarian Medicine Briefs, a tour of the hyperbaric chamber and clinic along with a Vital Signs Workshop.

“I love the opportunity to experience all these different things,” said Ana-Melissa Kea, a senior at Kamehameha High School in Honolulu. “The most impressive thing I saw was the hyperbaric chamber and how it helps with the medical problems that come from being underwater for a long time.”

MDSU-1’s medical staff was proud to show their spaces to some of the top future doctors and nurses in the country.

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“I think that the chance to show these students what we do presents a different side of Navy medicine and gives them a sense of excitement for what our job can entail,” said Lt. Jennifer Hall, MDSU-1’s Diving/Undersea Medical Officer. “There’s a lot out there as it pertains to medicine in the military and I think we opened their eyes to something they’ve never seen before.”

Those same future doctors were proud to have the opportunity to tour military medical spaces throughout the week and hope that the program will expand further to allow more students to have the same experience.

“This program should be broadened out to get more people involved about the program,” said Marianette Jose, a senior at Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu. “To hear about all the benefits and explore the island as a civilian is fantastic. When I signed up for this, I didn’t expect it to be this great.”

Throughout the week, events were also held at Chaminade University, Kamehameha Schools, Tripler Army Medical Center and Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The mission of S2M2 is to encourage, nurture, and enhance the commitment to science and medicine in a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment for groups of diverse high school students. The program also develops leadership, teaching, and mentoring skills among USU medical students and prospective students to provide long term mentoring and learning opportunities to students interested in pursuing a career in science and service in the context of military medicine.

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