

Rear Adm. Kilkenny visits NTTC, encourages students

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Commander, Navy Education and Training Rear Adm. Joseph Kilkenny and Force Master Chief (SS) John Snyder conducted a site visit to Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) Meridian, Aug. 3.

The NETC commander met with staff, instructors and students and enjoyed lunch with “C” School students.

“I appreciate the opportunity to visit your schoolhouses and see what’s going on,” Kilkenny said.

Together with Snyder and Capt. Kevin Oakes, director of training, Navy Personnel Development Command, they checked out the students’ barracks and classrooms.

“I am impressed with the improvements of the barracks,” Kilkenny said. “You take exceptionally good care of them -- that’s pride and ownership.”

The instructors had a chance to present and talk about the curriculum currently used at NTTC.

Kilkenny expressed a desire to change some portions of how the curriculum is taught.

“I want to see what kind of training you are getting (right now),” Kilkenny said. “I know you are in a CBT (computer based training) intense rating, but I’m here because I’m doing a reconnais-

sance...there is a unique opportunity to make some changes to the curriculum, more of a blended solution. A little bit of CBT, simulation and labs, and instructor led class.”

Kilkenny also talked about what challenges each rate might face in the future.

During the question and answer portion with the students in the auditorium, Kilkenny encouraged them to interact and share their opinions with him.

“What I ask of you to do is be brutally honest on your critiques -- what you like and didn’t like. And if you didn’t like it, what is your recommendation to help fix it? We do read your critiques. Think about how simulators can be used in your ratings. How can we incorporate these things into what you do?”

He shared a few philosophies that he hoped would encourage the students.

“One, I want you to focus on yourself...meaning working out regularly, eating right and do what you are suppose to do,” Kilkenny said. “There might be challenges when you are on a ship, but you can get a jump rope or stretch bands. We started passing out these stretch bands in boot camp. You can work out despite the limitations. Second, take care of your family. Third, put your heart and soul in your job. And lastly, give back to your community in some way, shape or form. Be a role model.”