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Pensacola NJROTC unit visits training center

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) hosted 34 Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets Jan. 31, showing them how the Navy trains Sailors and Marines to become aircraft mechanics and technicians.

The cadets from Pensacola's Pace High School and their naval science instructor, retired Marine First-Sergeant John Blake, toured the aviation learning center and to see how Sailors and Marines are trained for the fleet through a blended learning solution that includes standard classrooms, hands-on labs, simulations, as well as computer-based and interactive courseware training.

The tour began in the center's John Finn Aviation Ordnance Hangar. NATTC instructors Marine Sgt. Rebecca Whitmeier and Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Brett Szczerba discussed daily student life and aviation munitions with the cadets, and showed them how students are taught to maintain and build aviation ordnance, including bombs and missiles. Afterwards they visited the aircraft engine lab, where Sailors and Marines are taught how to maintain and repair fixed-wing and rotary aircraft engines. Aviation Machinist Mate

1st Class James Hile explained the various jet engines on display to the group and spoke about being an aviation engine mechanic.

A portion of the tour included how Sailors are taught flight deck operations. While on the Air Department Flight Deck, the cadets observed NATTC personnel lift an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter with a crane. They also looked inside an MV-22 Osprey tilt rotor aircraft.

"I especially enjoyed the unique opportunity of watching a helicopter being lifted," said Kayce Bradley, a Pace High School junior. "This tour and the NJROTC program have opened my eyes to post high school possibilities."

The final stop on the cadet's tour was at the center's air traffic control school house, while there the group was shown how air traffic controllers are taught to safely direct incoming and outgoing aircraft at both shore facilities and aboard ships.

"I enjoyed the chance to tour NATTC and see the quality training and skills that enlisted Sailors and Marines are receiving," said Cody Dixon, a junior at Pace High School.

For more than 70 years, NATTC has been delivering training and increasing readiness within the Naval Aviation Enterprise. NATTC graduates approximately 15,000 Navy and Marine students annually. The majority of the student body is comprised of enlisted personnel attending "A" schools, where they are gaining the knowledge and skills required to perform in fleet as technicians at the apprentice level.

Advanced schools provide higher level technical knowledge for senior petty officers and specialty schools offer specific skills not particular to any one rating, such as airman apprentice training, maintenance, personal financial management and shipboard aircraft firefighting. NATTC also conducts technical training for officers in aviation fuels, carrier air traffic control center operations, aircraft launch and recovery equipment, shipboard aircraft fire fighting and amphibious air traffic control center operations.

For more information about Naval Air Technical Training Center, visit their web site at <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cnatt/nattc/Default.aspx>

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Affairs