

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

News Release #55-14

May 14, 2014

Contact: Ed Barker

850.452.4858

(DSN) 922.4858

(FAX) 850.452.4900

## **Training Support Center San Diego Sailor recognized for outstanding volunteerism**

SAN DIEGO - Every Sailor in the U.S. Navy is a volunteer by definition, and many Sailors give even more of their time and energy to charitable efforts with the goal of improving their communities.

Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW) Nestorio Delgado, a fleet liaison petty officer at Training Support Center San Diego (TSCSD) and a native of Tacloban, Philippines, responded to the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan that struck the Philippines Nov. 8 by organizing his own small-scale relief effort to bring a measure of comfort to his relatives and neighbors thousands of miles away.

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) awarded Delgado the 2014 Military Meritorious Service Award for his volunteerism, an effort that included using his own leave time and money to travel to Tacloban in the aftermath of the Typhoon. Delgado was one of nine recipients this year from all branches of the military; officially recognized for their contributions at an awards ceremony in Charlotte, N.C. May 7.

According to FAPAC president Kin Wong, the criteria for nomination require that service members foster an innovative and harmonic environment between the military and Asian-Pacific American civilian community. Delgado was nominated by the TSCSD chain of command.

"Delgado was selected for the FAPAC Military Meritorious Award based on his work in improving the higher education of Sailors and putting others first," said Wong. "He was also tireless in playing a leading role in promoting community relations projects throughout Asia on behalf of the U. S. Navy."

When the magnitude of Typhoon Haiyan became clear, Delgado and his wife Lexie, who is also a native of Tacloban, made the decision to not only gather relief supplies – clothing, food and emergency lamps – but also to make the journey

home in order to deliver the supplies and offer assistance to relatives and neighbors.

"We knew lots of non-governmental organizations had their own relief efforts going on, but we also wanted to avoid the local politics associated with those donations," Delgado said. "My wife and I knew we could be very effective on a small scale by gathering supplies and bringing them home ourselves."

The Delgados filled 10 large boxes with a variety of relief supplies and contacted a shipping company outside of Los Angeles that agreed to deliver the shipment to the Philippines free of cost. The Delgados sent the supplies ahead via ship, then timed their flight to the Philippines to coincide with the arrival of the supplies in Cebu, which they transported via boat to Ormoc City, then several more hours overland to Tacloban. Their trip lasted from Feb. 10 through March 5.

"We spent a couple days scouting both during the day and night to determine where was hardest hit," Delgado said. "Going out at night let us determine who could use the emergency lamps we brought."

In addition to bringing necessary supplies, Delgado also brought some toys for children and organized repair efforts of relatives' homes while they had temporarily evacuated to the United States.

"In the Navy, we get to go help other countries and do community relations," Delgado added. "This time it was my turn to go to my home country and help."

Delgado hasn't finished with his relief efforts, though. He is due to PCS to Japan in June, and is collecting more supplies to take to Tacloban en route to his new station.

Training Support Center San Diego provides centralized student management and support to 17 Naval Education and Training Command Learning Sites in the Southwest region.

For more information on the Naval Education and Training Command, visit the NETC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cnet/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnet/).

-USN-

---

Story by Ensign Michael Patronik, Training Support Center, San Diego