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Navy Training Headquarters Honors “Stellar” Staffers

PENSACOLA, FLA. – Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) honored staffers for community service, exemplary military performance, and for 160 years of combined civil service during an awards ceremony Feb. 6.

The event was held at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute’s auditorium with NETC’s Learning and Development (N7) Department tuning in via video teleconference from their location on board Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

"The work you do every day develops our Sailors into the most formidable maritime force in the world," said Rear Adm. Don Quinn, NETC commander. "Fleet readiness starts in the training commands and the stellar work you do to support our mission is critical to the combat readiness of our Navy." With the most time in service, Roland Perez, a program analyst in NETC’s Development Planning Analysis Department (N5), earned his Length of Service (LOS) Award for 40 years of service.

Perez stated that throughout his career, he has witnessed NETC preserve its relevance by continuing to evolve.

"What I continue to see is an institution that reflects the ever dynamic state of our time," he said.

"The staff's focus is about quality of service. It is about application of the principle of being a team aiming for the same big goal. Whether you have four years or 40 years, we all contribute in our own unique ways," he said.

Those recognized with LOS Awards included several others from the Development and Planning Analysis Department. Dean Taylor, a planning coordinator, received a certificate for 35 years. Richard Nein, an education management analyst, was honored for 30 years while Program Analyst Kelly Looney was cited for 25 years of service. Receiving a certificate for 30 years of service was Melinda Hicks, an administrator for an automated task tracking system in the NETC Administration Department.

Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Jason Szot, NETC enlisted education program manager, received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his performance in analyzing and facilitating a program of enlisted educational opportunities. As a result of his efforts, non-college degree (NCD) certificates and diplomas are once again available to Sailors with the aid of tuition assistance and GI Bill benefits.

Szot insisted that his work with these educational opportunities was a group undertaking, crediting two colleagues in particular—Rick Nein and Tom Smith, an education program analyst—for their instrumental roles.

"I'm just the knucklehead shaking the admiral's hand," said Szot. "This was a team effort, and I am merely one small piece of the puzzle."

Several staff members received recognition for their work with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Capt. William Marvel, Development and Planning

Analysis Department director, Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SW) Kelly Strickland, NETC force career counselor, and Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Jennifer Zeravsky, NETC flag writer, received Letters of Appreciation from Rear Adm. Quinn for their volunteer efforts during the fund drive. Marvel was the Chairperson for the local Federal Coordinating Committee, while Strickland and Zeravsky coordinated donation support at the training headquarters.

Marvel, Szot, Strickland and Zeravsky also received certificates of appreciation from the United Way as part of the team volunteering during the Annual Day of Caring Oct. 12 at the Global Learning Academy. Joining them on the team were, Capt. Karen Vigneron, director of NETC's Total Force Manpower Department, NETC Force Master Chief April Beldo, Lt. April Demontalvo, assistant to the NETC Force Judge Advocate, and Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Cindy Rehak, flag administrative assistant.

For more information about NETC visit <http://www.netc.navy.mil/>.

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