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NATTC Sailors ‘Light up the Night’

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) organized a Light up the Night event April 25.

Supporting the Navy-wide Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAM), more than 2,670 NATTC students attended Light up the Night, which started at 5 a.m. First, a group of NATTC CSADD students stood on the grass between NATTC’s Chevalier Hall and a barracks forming the shape of a large ribbon, and held teal cups containing candles. A teal ribbon is the symbol for Sexual Assault Awareness. Then students attending the event filled in the area around the CSADD students.

Lillie Johnson, the Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP) Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) lead Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) was the guest speaker for the early morning event. Additionally, NATTC CSADD shared three of their own locally-produced sexual assault awareness videos to educate those in attendance.

“Light up the Night” events are conducted to spread awareness, in this case among the NATTC student and staff populations, about prevalence of sexual assault and to attempt to prevent it,” said Johnson. “The candles were in honor of the victims of sexual assault, and balloons were used as a symbolic reminder of

how important it is to release the pain and grief caused by sexual assault in order to find healing, resolution and a new beginning.”

Airman Apprentice Ashlee White, a student at NATTC, said that Johnson’s personal account of her daughter’s tragic death was very moving and grabbed the attention of the group at the event.

“I also felt that the effect of the candles representing the victims was unique,” said White. “I had not seen that before and found it thought provoking.”

One of the organizers of the event, Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Alexanna Williams, thought the event was well worth the time spent by staff and students.

“The turnout for this year’s Light up the Night was amazing,” said Williams. “I feel the message really got across to the students this year. Everyone showed extreme interest and confidence in stopping sexual assault, and the students gained awareness from this event to look out for fellow shipmates and themselves.”

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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Story by Lt. Jonathan Bacon, Naval Air Technical Training Center Public Affairs