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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

News Release #49-14

May 1, 2014

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## **NATTC holds Sexual Assault Awareness 'Amazing Race'**

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) organized and participated in Naval Air Station Pensacola's (NASP) second-annual Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Amazing Race April 25.

In conjunction with the Navy-wide Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAM), the NASP Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) and NATTC organized the race.

According to Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Cristine Civil, one of the event coordinators, the SAPR Amazing Race was designed as an educational event; a proactive effort to teach the participating Sailors about sexual assault victim's campaigns, the role of alcohol in sexual assault, bystander intervention to prevent sexual assault, and how to support a victim of sexual assault.

"We had more than 150 four-person teams participating in the event, with 580 of the participants being NATTC students," said Civil. "The Navy realizes we have a problem with Sexual Harassment. Through our determination for change, there are many opportunities and educational programs like this race to prevent it."

The training was facilitated through four stations along the route of the course. At the first station, the teams ran a four-by-100 meter relay race on the Naval Aviation Schools Command track. Each 100-meter-leg represented a different sexual assault victim educational campaign. The legs included carrying a teal

ribbon for SAAM, a flashlight for Light up the Night, wearing blue jeans for Denim Day, and finishing the race in a pair of woman's heels to represent Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

The second station, focused on bystander intervention. At the third station, the teams were quizzed by representatives from the FFSC on the various ways they could personally prevent sexual assault. Also at the third station, the teams had to practice their communication skills as they passed the contents of a teal cup of water from one cup to another, mounted on top of helmets they wore, without touching each other, or spilling the water.

At the final station, the team members were quizzed on their knowledge of the potency of alcoholic beverages to gain an understanding of the impact various drinks have on judgment and reaction time, and to show the role alcohol often plays in sexual assault.

"I really thought the event had an excellent turnout this year," added Civil. "From the feedback I received from participants they really enjoyed it and learned from it."

Airman Apprentice Margarita Esquivelandrade, a NATTC student and one of the volunteers for the event, thought the race was a great cause.

"All of the runners were so energetic," said Esquivelandrade. "As they finished, they kept telling me about how each of the events taught them about the importance of preventing sexual assault and harassment and the importance of protecting their shipmates from being hurt."

April is the Navy's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with this year's theme being Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault. According to the Lead Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) for NASP, Lillie Johnson, the goal for this year's events are to empower each individual command to take

ownership of this problem by embodying the Navy core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

“The Navy’s SAAM helps reinforce our efforts to prevent and eliminate sexual assault from the Navy by providing Sailors an opportunity to personally be involved in communicating that sexual assault is a crime, destroys trust, divides teams, and degrades operational effectiveness,” said Johnson. “NATTC was one of our most involved participants in SAAM this year through various educational events including Light up the Night, and the SAPR Amazing Race.”

Since its commissioning in 1942, NATTC has been committed to 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 population is made up of enlisted personnel attending “A” schools, where they are learning the skills and knowledge required to perform as apprentice level technicians in the fleet. The center also provides airman apprenticeship training, personal financial management, and shipboard aircraft firefighting training. Advanced schools provide higher level technical knowledge for senior petty officers, and technical training for officers in aviation fuels, carrier air traffic control center operations, amphibious air traffic control center operations, aircraft launch and recovery equipment, and shipboard aircraft fire fighting.

Additionally, NATTC supports the fleet by providing team training to ships personnel during their pre-deployment work-ups, to ensure that shipboard personnel have the proficiency required to take their ship on deployment, after a prolonged period in port.

For more information about Naval Air Technical Training Center, visit the NATTC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cnatt/nattc/Default.aspx>

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