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Next Generation of Seabees Celebrate Navy Birthday

WICHITA FALLS, Texas – The Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering Detachment Sheppard Air Force Base (CSFE Det. SAFB) staff and students celebrated the 239th Birthday of the U.S. Navy Oct. 11, honoring this year's theme of "Thanking those who support us" with a ceremony and afternoon picnic.

Lt. Majellan Changcoco, CSFE Det. SAFB officer in charge, noted the picnic was a unique way to observe the Navy birthday and share the event with shipmates and families.

"It is a blessing every day to have our family on our side, navigating through the Navy journey," he said. "I am thankful for my Navy family who has continued to take care of me and my own family. It is very fitting to celebrate the Navy birthday with a family theme."

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeffery White, 366 Training Squadron commander, and Gary Silverman, were the guests of honor for the celebration. They shared some of their personal experiences while serving their country and expressed respect and appreciation for members of the Seabee detachment.

Silverman reflected upon his time as a Navy submariner. "The Navy is a family that has welcomes your family into it," he said. "When I was on my ship somewhere under the Atlantic Ocean, I could not be there for my wife,

but my extended family, those dependents and crew who remained ashore, wrapped their arms around my family in times of need. While bureaucracy will sometimes fail you, those who stand beside you today will be there to lift you up and their relations on shore will be there to lift up your loved ones. Cherish this and cherish being a part of it."

Throughout the ceremony, a tradition celebrated since 1972 at the school, the students gave presentations on the great battles, sacrifices, and milestones that the Navy has accomplished over the past 239 years.

At the closing of the ceremony, the youngest Sailor, Constructionman Trevor Wood, and eldest sailor, Lt. Changcoco, performed the traditional cutting of the cake with the guests of honor using swords.

Constructionman Austin Stroh, a Construction Electrician "A" school student, said that the day's events really made a strong impression on himself and his peers. "The celebration and presentations really brought our Navy's story to light, giving the students and staff a chance to enjoy the camaraderie," he said. "This showed us how much they support us through being available and willing to go the extra mile to help us feel important as part of the Navy family."

At the conclusion of the birthday observance ceremony, the staff and families served the students a feast to celebrate, share fellowship and the experiences the service has provided. The staff and students spent afternoon playing basketball and volleyball.

For more information on the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering Learning Site Detachment Sheppard Air Force Base, visit the website:

<https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/csfe/sheppard/>.

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