



NEWS RELEASE

Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training
230 Chevalier Field Avenue
Pensacola, Florida 32508-5168
(850) 452-9700, ext. 3122; DSN 922

February 25, 2009

For information, contact Ms. Jena Stephenson, CNATT Administrative Officer

Story by ACCS Leon Thompson, NATTC Public Affairs Officer

Navy's Accelerate to Excellence honors first graduate

The Navy marked a milestone Feb. 20 at the graduation of the first Sailor from the Accelerate to Excellence (A2E) Program at Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC), Pensacola, Fla.



Aviation Machinist's Mate
(AD) 3rd Class Brian Scott
Mleczko graduated both the
NATTC AD School's initial training
program ("A" School) and received
his two-year Associate of Science
degree in Industrial Management
Technologies from Florida
Community College at

Jacksonville (FCCJ). Less than two years ago, Mleczko was a Kennedale, Texas, high school graduate with a desire to serve his country, and obtain a college education. A Navy recruiter introduced him to the A2E Program, which has given Mleczko a start on his goal of becoming an officer.

The A2E Program gives participants the opportunity to earn an associate degree and obtain a journeyman-level trade education in designated occupational fields in the Navy, all completely paid for by a single enlistment.

“I was already interested in joining the Navy, but this program has allowed me to achieve that goal, and also put me in a position to complete my baccalaureate degree and become a Naval Flight Officer,” Mleczko said,. He graduated FCCJ with a 3.9 scholastic average, and was also the class leader. The Accelerate to Excellence program gives participants a monthly financial stipend while attending their first year of college.

Using a Partner Degree Plan to complete courses required for their specific educational track, A2E candidates attend community colleges in their hometown for the first year before heading off to basic training or boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill. During the second year they attend Navy rate (job) training classes in conjunction with FCCJ classes to complete their associate degree.

“I think my favorite thing about FCCJ would have to be the friendly professors that help whenever you need assistance,” said Mleczko, “Whether it’s a little more one-on-one time or help in a specific subject, they consistently make themselves available.” The intent of the A2E program is multifold; to deliver advanced paygrade Sailors to the Fleet with Navy relevant critical skill training and an associate degree, and to actively recruit in the high school and community college markets to attract students pursuing technical degree educations. Mleczko will report to Patrol Squadron Thirty (VP-30) in Jacksonville, Fla.

Mleczko’s parents, James and Carol Kent, who travelled from Kennedale to attend the graduation, said they were extremely proud of their son’s education and military accomplishments and that he is already looking forward to a career in the Navy.

--USN--

Photo caption 090220-N-5529T-001:
Cmdr. Allen Branton, NATTC Mechanical Training Department officer in charge, left, presents AD3 Brian Mleczko with his Certificate of Completion for Aviation Machinist’s Mate School. (Photos by Leon Thompson)