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DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



NEWS RELEASE

Navy Command Climate Specialists gather in the DEOMI lobby for the “Navy Military Equal Opportunity Professional Development Training Summit,” hosted here July 26-29 by the Navy’s 21st Century Sailor Office. (DEOMI Photo by Paul Michael Marks)



Lead Change, Be Better, Join Forces ...Together!

21st Century Sailor Office hosts EO Training Summit at DEOMI

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By Christopher C. Calkins

DEOMI Public Affairs

PATRICK AFB, Fla. -- The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute served as the site for the “Navy Military Equal Opportunity Professional Development Training Summit,” hosted here July 26-29 by the Navy’s 21st Century Sailor Office, and their Director, Rear Admiral Ann M. Burkhardt.

Following opening remarks delivered by Dr. Jose Bolton, Sr., DEOMI Dean of Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity, Admiral Burkhardt took the stage and opened by mentioning how her time here still shapes her command philosophy today.

“Having a tour at DEOMI (she served as the Vice Commandant and Chief of Staff from 2008-2011) and as the Director of the Navy’s Diversity and Inclusion office, I have an appreciation for the important role you play in helping commanders create a climate of inclusion,” she said.

“You are a significant prevention component in the Navy’s effort to eradicate destructive behaviors,” she said. “You must foster a culture of prevention, response, and accountability where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

“Communicate clearly about what’s right and what’s wrong in everything you do – not just by your words, but also by your actions. Aim to make a difference in your units and throughout your span of influence,” she said.



The Navy’s 21st Century Sailor office is responsible for the integration of the Navy’s objectives for equal opportunity, Sailor personal and family readiness, physical readiness, alcohol and substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, sexual harassment prevention, sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR), hazing prevention, and transition assistance.

According to the Department of the Navy, the intended audience for this training was limited to Command Climate Specialists (formerly known as equal opportunity advisors), Echelon II Equal Opportunity Program Managers, and Naval Education and Training Command CMEO Instructors.

Master Chief Petty Officer Veronica Lawrence, Command Climate Specialist, Naval Inspector General Office, said the training, the camaraderie, and the location, were “spot-on perfect.”

“Just having this breadth of knowledge gathered in one place has been tremendous for all of us, especially with the face-to-face nature of this summit, which I think is imperative for future CCS get-togethers,” she said.

“We were all able to take time to discuss “real world” issues we’ve experienced in our respective commands and share tips and techniques that helped us solve and/or resolve them,” she added.

“And having this training here at DEOMI, the birthplace of DOD equal opportunity, was nothing short of fantastic. Everyone I talked with here this week thinks DEOMI is more relevant today than it’s ever been, in its 45-year history,” she said with conviction.

(Photo below) Master Chief Petty Officer Veronica Lawrence, left, Command Climate Specialist, Naval Inspector General Office, said the training, the camaraderie, and the location for the summit, were



“spot-on-perfect.” She is joined by George Bradshaw, center, Director, Navy Sexual Harassment Prevention & EO, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Darwin White, Command Climate Specialist, Navy Sexual Harassment Prevention & EO (OPNAV 173). (DEOMI Photo by Christopher Calkins)

Admiral Burkhardt also said one key to prevention is to understand that sexual assaults often occur in environments where crude and offensive behavior, unwanted sexual attention, coercion, and sexual harassment are tolerated, ignored, or condoned. These behaviors, she said, detract from our mission and put our people at risk, and you have to be a part of the solution.

“None of this is easy, but you won’t be alone,” she said. “I challenge you to “join forces” while you’re here this week. Each of you will be a leader in this effort. And I want you to know I’m standing with you and expecting that of you.”

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