

National Naval Officer Association

Actively supports the Sea Services in the recruitment, retention, and career development of its members and minority officers.

Professional Development...Recruitment...Partnership...Mentoring

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2009

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Message from the President

NNOA, Leadership is an art consisting of skills that can be studied, practiced and mastered. Effective leaders may be found in the boardroom and in the boiler room. They may be teachers, coaches, bankers, lawyers, service station attendants or food servers. Among the relational skills effective leaders cultivate is that of exhortation. Exhorters are people who spur others on to higher levels of achievement. In doing so, they help turn their constituents into leaders. Effective leaders accomplish extraordinary things by enabling others to act.

This is what the Mighty Quantico Chapter of NNOA is all about; helping to turn those we serve into leaders. Our focus for the year has been on the James Farmer Scholars, adopt-a-school and our scholarship fund drive and banquet. All of which are targeted towards providing an opportunity for the youth of the community. Additionally, our PME focus has been on preparing our officer corps with the

necessary tools they need to best support them for the challenges that are ahead of them.

We are in the midst of our scholarship fund drive. Our scholarships assist graduating high school students in their academic endeavors and enhance the Naval Services' professional image by helping deserving and outstanding students attain their educational goals. Each year, the Quantico Chapter provides educational scholarships to deserving students from Prince William, Stafford, and Spotsylvania counties.

Scholarships make a difference for the students and families in our surrounding communities. Not only do they provide financial assistance, they also encourage students and help them understand that there are people who believe in them and their potential. Last year, the Quantico NNOA Chapter awarded ten \$1000.00 scholarships. This year, our goal is to again award scholarships totaling \$10,000.

There's no getting around it: People are motivated by rewards. Most of us would quickly become bored with our work if there

were no rewards beyond the money. Effective leaders understand the human need for reward, and they make use of recognition and compensation to lift morale and improve performance. A reward can be as simple and effective as regular encouragement or as extensive and long range as a profit sharing program. Without a motivational system, students will likely be inclined to get by with minimum levels of effort and performance. Our choice of reward is to provide area students with monetary support so they may be able to continue their higher education.

Let's continue to spur others to higher levels of achievement. In doing so, we are helping to cultivate the next generation of leaders. We are Exhorters!

With this goal in mind, we will see you at the Mighty Quantico Chapter of NNOA scholarship banquet on May 29th.

Semper Fi!

Col Grover "Lew" Lewis, 199

Arab-American Issues: An Iraqi Mother's Decision to Integrate

by Maj Tamia Gordon

An Iraqi mother chose to come to America with her husband, a U.S. Marine. In making that decision, the education of her two Iraqi-born children would be subject to U.S. schools, cultures and customs. The grade-school-aged child was a dual citizen but the other was an Iraqi citizen, who would have to apply for a U.S. student visa in order to obtain a U.S. higher education.

Grade-School Education: Impact of American Society on Arabic Children

There are many forums that have studied the educational system within the Arabic culture, to include issues of religion, gender and socio-economic effects. However, an emerging issue is the impact that the American educational system has on Arabic children educated within the United States. Additionally, due to on-going military efforts in the Middle East, there is a marked increase of military members who decide to marry middle easterners.

In traditional Arabic culture, it is customary for parents to provide an Islamic-based environment in the home for their young children. Likewise, it is the role of parents to supplement primary education with values that ensure their children become productive members of society. Values such as character, discipline, integrity and acceptable behavior are incorporated not only in the home and school environment, but they make up the rich fabric of Arabic culture.

As the influx of Arabic families into America increases, Arabic children educated in America are exposed to a different type of environment. While Middle Eastern parents seek to continue their cultural values and morals in the home, the educational system in America presents challenges to their traditional ethos. For those Middle Eastern families who come to the U.S. and have access to Department of Defense (DoD) schools, there is a potential advantage. Many DoD schools have created support systems for their foreign-born students, which have helped students adjust more quickly to life in the U.S.

Of late, the goal of Middle Eastern parents has been to search for school systems in America that have a value-centered educational environment. Unfortunately, that search can become frustrating as a result of the societal issues that many schools in America currently face. As an example, many American schools are plagued with violence, drugs, crime, teen-pregnancy and homosexuality. While Middle Eastern parents seek to maintain their system of values in the home, their children face a totally new

environment in the American school system. The conflict between providing proper guidance in the home and the stark contrast realized in American schools is readily apparent.

Additional grade-school concerns center on the fact that the American public-school system strictly enforces the separation of church and state. Thus, spiritual-based or other religious values are not a part of the public school system in America and those values are left to be taught in the home. The primary focus is academia and related secular-based subjects. This is true in the majority of public schools and DoD schools as well. Conversely, the religious beliefs of Arabic culture are so deeply rooted in its society that separating the two is near impossible. In an effort to reconcile these differences, Middle Eastern parents are forced to make hard decisions about how to secure the best education for their children in America.

In order to maintain some of their traditional teachings, many Middle Eastern parents seek out communities rich in Islamic influence, i.e. Middle Eastern schools, mosques, camps and related community venues. Additionally, there is a growing trend for many parents to opt-out of the American school system altogether and home-school their children instead. Home-schooling removes children from the potentially adverse environment of the American school system and affords parents the opportunity to control the curriculum. Additionally, Islamic-based home-schooling may continue during the weekends and other Christian-based holidays and curriculum may be modified to support Ramadan and other Islamic-based holidays.

In summary, Middle Eastern families who relocate to the United States will face challenges as a result of the differences between the two cultures. However, in terms of the impact that the American education system has may be mitigated by a concerted effort to maintain Middle Eastern culture and customs. Since parents play such a vital role in the education of their children, then it is their responsibility to provide the best environment for instilling the cultural values in keeping with their heritage.

Higher Education: Impact of 9/11 on Middle Easterners Seeking to Attend U.S. Institutions

Due to increased security after 9/11, students who come to study from the Middle East face new challenges. The increased U.S. presence in the Middle East coupled with the rising accounts of discrimination against Arabs has resulted in greater animosity towards the U.S.

Arguably, the main causes for decreased applicants of student visas are the new visa regulations. Post 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security (D.H.S.) required any foreign national from several countries in the Middle East to register with the U.S. government in order to screen for potential terrorist connections. As a result, potential students may face stricter regulations on temporary visas based on their respective countries of origin.

As a consequence of stricter screening processes after 9/11, Middle Eastern students generally face a more stringent application process. This results in many Middle Eastern students feeling criminalized and subsequently looking elsewhere to continue their higher education. Countries such as Asia and Europe have realized increased applicants from Middle Eastern students. Another great alternative has been the increase of American institutions with satellite campuses abroad and in the Middle East. This latter option for Middle Eastern students makes attending a U.S. institution possible without ever attending school in the U.S. Such satellite institutions enable Middle Eastern students to obtain an accredited American degree while foregoing visa challenges and possible discrimination state-side.

Generally speaking, U.S. institutions are still the most desirable among popular opinion of Middle Eastern students because these institutions offer a wide variety of programs of study and degrees. The Middle Eastern student can become empowered to gain a U.S. education and utilize it for the greater good in the Middle East or around the world.

The Iraqi mother and her U.S. Marine husband chose to educate their school-

aged child within the DoD school system. Their college-aged student decided to remain in the Middle East and he now attends The American University in Dubai and is majoring in Business Administration.

James Farmer Scholars Program



by Maj Melissa Ayres

The James Farmer Scholars Program was established in 1987 to increase the number of African American youth who would succeed in college. Dr. James Farmer was a distinguished civil rights leader. He founded CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality. For 13 years before retiring in 1998, Dr. Farmer served as a distinguished professor of history and American studies at the University of Mary Washington (UMW).

To become a James Farmer Scholar, a student must be nominated in the sixth and ninth grade. Students are chosen based on academic performance, SOL test scores, teacher and counselor recommendations, and written essays. Each year, 12 students are selected from schools in bordering counties. The students take part in community service projects, school-based projects, and planned academic events at the University of Mary Washington. Those events are the Saturday sessions and the Summer sessions.

The Saturday sessions are monthly meetings where the students learn about African American history, writing and composition, preparing for college and other subjects. Our

own Maj Michael Williams is the chapter sponsor for supporting the program. He along with Majors Stacey Taylor, Melissa Chestnut, Earl Richardson and Melissa Ayres teach Constitutional Basics and Debate and life planning using The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. During the week long summer session students stay overnight at UMW. They take academic classes and engage in social activities that provide a unique introduction to the college experience. They learn to think critically about a variety of subjects as well as gain a new understanding of academic areas of interest. Maj Williams also teaches a course during this session and with other chapter volunteers, lead the students in physical activities and introduce them to the Marine Corps Daily 7.

Maj Melissa Chestnut commented that teaching Constitution Basics and Debate began as a challenge for her and the students. "I found that as long as you keep the expectations high, the students will never disappoint. Students started off being a little shy, but after practicing their debate skills have sharpened."

Maj Stacey Taylor also observed how "...great it is to see the students focus their attention when

you touch on a subject or a situation they have experienced or are experiencing. They go into thought and get an understanding why someone, like a parent, friend, or an associate, may have acted/ reacted the way they did.... Sean Covey's book, Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, provide outstanding scenarios and examples to guide teenagers through the maze of life."

Volunteering as a James Farmer Scholar instructor has been rewarding and fulfilling for us all. I challenge more chapter members to participate this summer and next academic year. It's an awesome opportunity to give back to our community.



‘Major’ Happenings...

see what had happened was....!

On March 2, 2009, our Chapter Membership Director Melissa Chestnut, was promoted to Major by Major Forrest Poole. Maj her sister Ms. Teresa Daniels-Continuing Education, MCB

Chestnut was pinned by Smith at the College of Quantico!



CONGRATULATIONS MAJ CHESTNUT!!!

*****SELECTION CONGRATS ARE DUE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS: MAJORS STACEY TAYLOR AND RODNEY TATUM JR. FOR SELECTION TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND CAPT JACKLYNN BORREGO TO THE RANK OF MAJOR FOR FY10....CONGRATS MARINES!!*****

Chapter PME - Promotion Board Process



Marine Corps Commandant seeks advice on DADT

By Dan Lamothe - MarineCorps Times

Commandant Gen. James Conway is polling his generals on the controversial “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

In a March 13 “P4” — personal-for message — to all 82 of his general officers, Conway asks four questions, including this one: “How strongly should we, as an institution, challenge the ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy?” The other questions covered in the e-mail, which came under the subject line, “2009 UPDATE FOR THE COMMANDANT,” covered priorities at a time of “dwindling budgets,” seabasing and a general question about “any topic that you think is important and should influence the course and speed of the Corps.”

Responses are due by April 10.

A spokesman confirmed the e-mail came from Conway, but said it was “not meant for public consumption.”

“We’re not going to discuss or put into perspective an e-mail that was meant to be personal correspondence between him and his general officers,” said Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson.

But a senior Marine Corps official said the commandant is soliciting input from his general officers on an issue that he knows he will be asked about. The commandant did not intend to appear to be taking a position when he posed the question, the official said.

In January, Conway told reporters that a repeal of don’t ask, don’t tell would be a “big deal,” but credited the Obama administration for researching the issue and avoiding potential pitfalls.

“If it comes, we will take it aboard and again give best military advice in terms of how we think we ought to approach it,” Conway said.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has had “one brief conversation” with the president about don’t ask, don’t tell, said Cynthia O. Smith, a spokeswoman for Gates. Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen and Gates are discussing how to move forward on the issue, she said.

On Sunday, Gates said in a television interview that he expects Obama will eventually repeal the policy, but not in the immediate future.

“The president and I feel like we’ve got a lot on our plates right now and let’s push that one down the road a little bit,” Gates told “FOX News Sunday.”

A spokesman for Mullen, who said the chairman was unfamiliar with Conway’s e-mail, said Mullen had not been ordered to take up the issue.

“He has not been asked by this administration to examine it,” said Navy Capt. John Kirby, Mullen’s spokesman. “Nor has he provided any guidance to the Joint Chiefs or the Joint Staff to go examine the policy.”

But Mullen has addressed the issue, Kirby said. “He’s been very public on this: If the law changes, we’ll change accordingly. If the American people want to see the policy reviewed through their elected leadership, we’ll participate in that debate.”

A defense official who asked not to be quoted said he wasn’t surprised that Conway was seeking feedback on the policy in an effort to be prepared for a potential repeal of the law. The official noted that it’s not unusual for senior leaders to seek out subordinates for feedback on issues.

Senior staff writer Bill McMichael contributed to this report.



Member Spotlight

Mrs. Caren Owens

Mrs. Caren Owens a native of Pensacola, Florida has always had a passion for people and inspiring others to reach their God given potential. Her pursuit of educating and inspiring others started with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross, who are avid educators, and was further fostered by her Grandfather, MSG Hiram H. Cooke, USA (Ret.). A Vietnam Veteran and Buffalo Solider Historian, MSG Cooke motivated her through life stories of his battle with PTSD and the strength of over comers that we have in our black military heritage. These life lessons cultivated respect, compassion and a desire to give back to a family, community and heritage that gave and sacrificed so much.



Following in the footsteps of her family, Mrs. Owens pursued a career that would allow her to serve others. In 2004 she obtained a Bachelors of Arts in English from the University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB) and

a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of West Florida. For three years she taught and mentored on the high school and university level, receiving many awards/accolades and publishing her own book of poetry. Through her years of teaching she enjoyed educating her students, but always had a desire to have a more profound impact in the lives of her learners and in some ways felt limited by the rigors of the classroom experience.

In 2007 Mrs. Owens (then Ms Ross) reconnected with an old family friend and now husband, 1stLt Jake Owens. Lt Owens was deeply influenced by a Christian discipleship and counseling ministry called The Navigators. After spending time watching and gleaning wisdom from Navigator staff, she noticed the deep, life changing effect they were having in others. Seeing this, she realized her calling to be a Christian counselor and disciple-maker with The Navigators.

Presently, Mrs. Owens is working as an Associate Staff member for The Navigators at Quantico MCB and the United States Naval Academy (USNA), conducting a small group Bible study for female, USMC Officers, directing several one to one discipleships as well as co-leading a Bible study with USNA-Triad

Christian Fellowship female midshipmen.

Aside from her zeal to help others grow mentally and spiritually, Mrs. Owens is learning what it means to



be a Marine Corps Spouse, and in this pursuit joined her husband in being involved with the Mighty Quantico Chapter of NNOA. After a few months of participating in general body meetings and volunteering, Mrs. Owens saw the hearts of the dedicated members and fell in love with the vision and mission of this extraordinary organization. She feels that NNOA has been vital to her understanding of military life as she seeks to understand how to better support her husband. Mrs. Owens currently serves on the Executive Board as the Fundraising, Social Events Chair as well as the Scholarship Committee in hopes of impacting the community by the fruition of today's youth.

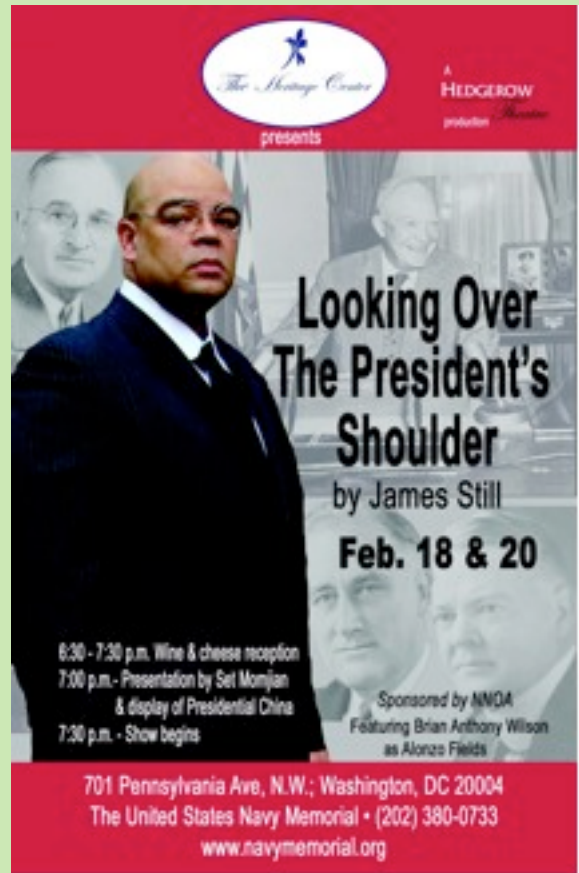
Looking Over the President's Shoulder

In honor of Black History Month, the U.S. Navy Memorial and the Quantico NNOA Chapter co-hosted the play, *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*. This outstanding play featured Brian Anthony Wilson as the butler, Alonzo Fields. Based on real life events, this play takes viewers on a historical journey about the White House butler's account of his 21 years of service, which began in 1931. Fields, the grandson of a freed slave, hailed from an all-black southern Indiana town. Although Fields was an aspiring opera singer, he was forced to postpone his dream during the Depression in the 1930's because he desperately needed a job. Through a series of events, Fields obtained a position as a butler at the White House until 1952.

In *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*, Fields reflects on his life and times as the eventual Head Butler for several first families. During the play, the on-looker enjoys a glimpse back in time at the presidencies of Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower in one man's personal look at the White House. Fields recounts his unique service to his country through butlering for countless notables, royalty and even celebrities of that period. The colorful visits of Winston Churchill, Marian Anderson, Errol Flynn and the king and queen of England are playfully exposed through the butler's eyes. One of the poignant statements made by Fields that captures his tenure, "It was like being in the front row and watching the passing parade of history..."

In Fields' time, virtually the only way an African-American could get inside the Oval Office was as a domestic employee. The election of 44th President Barack Obama proves how much times really have changed for America!

By Major Tamia N. Gordon



Bataan's Female SWOs Reflect on Past, Focus on Future

By MC1 Christina Shaw
USS Bataan Public Affairs

The women aboard the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) serve their country in many different roles, helping to defend a way of life and U.S. interests around the world while executing the maritime strategy.

Lt.j.g. Jamie Waggoner, a native of Mattoon, Ill., and Lt.j.g. Julia Hubertz, a native of Fort Wayne, Ind., serve as surface warfare officers (SWO) aboard Bataan. They are just two examples of how the military has become a diverse force, branching out to create equal opportunity for all.

“For as long as I can remember, I wanted to join the Navy and become a naval officer. I wanted to be part of an organization that had a greater purpose than serving my own ambitions,” said Hubertz. “I wanted to serve my country and give back to a community and country that has given me so many privileges.”

Women first saw combat during World War II, serving as nurses following the Pearl Harbor attacks on Dec. 7, 1941. In 1944, the Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAC) arrived in the Pacific and landed in Normandy on D-Day. During the war, 67 Army nurses and 16 Navy nurses were captured and spent three years as prisoners of war. There were 350,000 American women who served during World War II, and 16 were killed in action.

Despite their patriotic service, women weren't always on equal footing with their male counterparts, and Hubertz'

decision to join was almost overturned because of that.

“When I first wanted to join the Navy, my grandfather did not support the decision. He didn't like the way women were treated when he served during World War II,” said Hubertz.

“Obviously the Navy has changed significantly since World War II, and things have changed vastly for women serving in the military. Now, my grandfather couldn't be more proud of the decisions I've made during my naval career.”

After many years of change, women are now allowed to serve aboard combat ships, fly military aircraft and even command ships at sea. Women who served before them paved the way for SWOs like Waggoner who started out as an enlisted Sailor right out of high school.

“One of the best moments for me in the Navy was finding out I was selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral program,” said Waggoner. “I love standing watch as officer of the deck. I get to coordinate flight operations, amphibious operations and other events, sometimes all at once. I also enjoy being a division officer and a role model for Sailors, helping them to grow and advance in their naval career.”

Waggoner's decision to make the leap from enlisted to SWO came from the same drive most dynamic women in the military are known for. She wanted to take the extra step to mentor and train junior Sailors in a challenging role.

“I started off as an E-1, and now I'm an officer. I remember what life was like as an enlisted member aboard a ship and the long hours,” said Waggoner. “I keep a positive attitude and greet Sailors in passing. I hope that my optimism becomes

contagious, and I hope that they feel they can come to me for any questions they have.”

Nearly every aspect of the Navy's mission relies on the knowledge and expertise of the officers of the SWO community to complete some of the most technically and tactically advanced defense and war fighting capabilities on land, in the air and under the sea, making the job of a SWO one of the most demanding occupations, regardless of gender.

The drive to get to this stage in the SWO career requires a simple philosophy, and Hubertz hopes that more will be able to learn from the pair's experiences.

“Never give up on a dream. Sometimes dreams and plans have to be modified, but persistence and determination is the key to achieving your aspirations,” said Hubertz. “Sometimes goals will not be accomplished on your timeline, but with persistence, particularly in the Navy, the time you invest pursuing your dreams typically pays off.”

PHOTO GALLERY



*James Farmer
Scholars*



Adopt-A-Highway



Certificates of Appreciation being awarded by Chapter Vice President, Maj Gordon, to non-chapter volunteers at mentor breakfast.

*Church Visit-
United Faith Christian
Ministries*



APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 General Body meeting 1700 TCAQ	9	10	11 Adopt-a-highway
12 Easter	13	14	15 Scholarship submission deadline	16	17	18 Reeves wedding (church visit)
19	20	21	22	23	24 Adopt-a-school	25 James Farmer Scholars
26	27	28	29 EB meeting	30		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 NASCAR fundraiser-tentative	2
3 NASCAR fundraiser-tentative	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13 General Body meeting 1700, Chpt elections, banquet ticket sales end	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 Memorial Day	26	27 EB meeting @1700	28	29 Adopt a school, Scholarship Banquet 1800 TCAQ	30

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 General Body meeting 1700 TCAQ	11	12	13
14 Church Visit	15 Awards Package due	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 EB meeting	25	26	27 Adopt-a-Highway
28	29	30				

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About NNOA

National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) actively supports the Sea Services in the recruitment, retention, and career development of minority officers. We are an essential element in maintaining operational readiness. We provide professional development and mentoring and support cultural diversity. We establish and maintain a positive image of the Sea Services in communities and educational institutions. National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) is the "Gateway to Success" in the Sea Services. We are innovative thinkers committed to a shared vision of leadership, professional exchange, and networking. We are dedicated to achieving a diversified workforce. We are the premier professional development organization in the Sea Services. Our members are empowered with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential. We are an invaluable partner of the Sea Services in the achievement of their recruitment, retention and readiness goals. We recognize our responsibility to our community as we promote and foster American ideals.

We are an inclusive organization that seeks diversity in our membership. We value all members and are committed to treating everyone with dignity, respecting individual differences, and affirming organizational and personal strengths. We are "TEAM NNOA" composed of active duty, reserve and retired officers and civilians. We achieve our mission and vision through enthusiastic support and dedicated service at the national and local levels. We are an organization of professionals whose accomplishments are attained through teamwork and accountability. We are dedicated to the professional development of our members. We promote an atmosphere conducive to self improvement and forward thinking. We promote honest, effective, and open communications. We communicate and process information using the best resources and technology available. We recognize achievements and maintain our valued reputation.

General Body meetings are held at 1700 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Officer's Club.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

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