

Recruiters Say Navy Lifestyle is a (Sea) Breeze

They delivered supplies to Haiti after the earthquake and to Pakistan after the floods. They helped rebuilding efforts in Africa after Hurricane Agatha. They fight pirates and protect global trade throughout the world. Who are they? They're the men and women of the US Navy and the Marine Corps. Their motto is "A Global Force for Good."

Speaking to the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said the two organizations have a lot in common. "We believe in deterrence when possible, building partnerships and behaving ethically and above-board," he said.

"You can surge equipment; you can surge people; you cannot surge trust."

If you're thinking that this is not your father's Navy, well...it's not. In 2008, the Navy announced a new strategy that emphasizes informal partnerships with other countries, and places humanitarian work front and center of its mission. That doesn't mean it's not a frontline fighting force – just ask a Marine, a Navy Seal or their support

forces, what they've been doing lately. Hint: Iraq? Afghanistan?

Right now, U.S. ships are patrolling the maritime border between North and South Korea. You can bet they are on high alert.

The Navy's mission has changed, but it still wants dedicated recruits. They are scientists and engineers, cyber security experts, and codebreakers, as well as high school graduates ready to be trained in a technical field.

"We have a stay in school policy," says Michael Clanton. "Regardless of what you want to do, we want you to graduate and get your diploma."

In fact, Clanton says, the Navy fields experts in everything from construction and engineering to medicine and dentistry – 65 different careers. And just as in the civilian world, the ability to study and learn technical skills is in high demand.

"Each branch of the service is looking for different things," Clanton says. He ought to



These U.S. Navy recruiters say the service has a lot to offer the right men and women. From left: Emil Reyes, Salem, 503-930-3253; Michael Clanton, Portland and SW Washington, 503-775-4527; Hiep. 'Wen' Nguyen, Oregon City, 503-659-4007; Skip Osborne, Navy volunteer; and Rafael Saladin, Grants Pass, 541-479-2383.

allowance."

Reyes saw his parents and grandparents toiling in fields around McMinnville, Ore., harvesting strawberries and blueberries for very little reward.

"I understood how hard it was to make money, "and the kinds of things my dad was doing to make money," he says. "So I joined for stability, to have a career where I could make money and not have to worry about being downsized."

Through the Navy Reyes trained as an electrician. He spent five years in San Diego, but also traveled around the globe.

has a similar joining up story. "I went to the recruiting office on Friday and shipped out Monday, he said.

That doesn't happen any more.

Nowadays, the recruiters often work with young people for up to a year, while they are finishing school and getting that all important diploma. They call it the Future

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know. He's just been named the Navy's Diversity Recruiter of the Year. Clanton is good at recruiting people from diverse backgrounds, and he also excels at placing recruits into careers at every level of the Navy. He even helps recruits join other branches of the military – if that's what they want.

"If someone comes in to see me and they really want to be in the kind of role where they carry a gun and are in a front-line combat role – then I'm going to walk that person over to my colleague in the army.

The Navy is more technical and mental – although we do have those front line roles too – the Marines and our special ops – Navy Seals."

So if you are young, interested in learning new skills, and like the idea of serving your country in the armed forces, Clanton wants to talk to you. Or you can visit any naval recruiting station and talk to recruiters like Emil Reyes, Rafael Saladin and Nguyen Hiep Viet.

All four men say they became Navy recruiters because they love the lifestyle and believe it has a lot to offer.

"I wanted to be a recruiter to help the kids – especially the Hispanic kids," said Reyes. "I want them to know how they can benefit from the stability and the education. The Navy offers financial stability, a guaranteed paycheck dental, medical and housing

Now he's recruiting in Salem, he says, because he wants to offer young people the opportunity to enter an equal opportunity workplace, where they can learn valuable skills and represent America abroad.

Do You Have What it Takes?

Navy recruits have to be willing to do what it takes to succeed in a highly disciplined team environment. You'll be required to be disciplined, and work hard to learn. All recruits take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery or ASVAB, a test which helps decide what job you will be trained for.

<http://www.military.com/ASVAB>

"You don't just come in and then get assigned," Clanton says. "You know exactly what kind of job you're going to do before you sign. And you sign for 4 or 6 years depending on the job – because of you're a nuclear engineer, you might be in school for two years."

Nguyen, an engineer, first encountered the Navy as a refugee from Vietnam. He says he's had a positive reception from people all over the world.

"After I'd been to school for three years my financial aid ran out, I joined to get an education," he says. "My family didn't know I'd joined up till the recruiter showed up to take me."

Clanton who is originally from Michigan,

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