

PRESS RELEASE

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NAVAIR Lakehurst Hosts Diversity Day for Employees

June 1, 2011, Lakehurst, NJ – With a theme of “Education Across Cultural Views,” the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Lakehurst Total Force Strategy and Management Department (TFS&MD) hosted the first annual Diversity Day featuring workshops and a luncheon for employees at Lakehurst on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. Organized by Michael Nguyen and Robin Williams of the TFS&MD, the event consisted of simultaneous workshops throughout the base for employees to attend and a mid-day luncheon of various ethnic dishes.

The workshops were led by Linda Stamato, Sanford Jaffe, and Patrick McKay from Rutgers University, David Thaler from the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, and Linda Plummer from Plummer & Associates. Topics included: Conflict As Opportunity, Communication Across Generations in the Workplace, Problem Solving Negotiations and Diversity Recruitment and Retention.

The luncheon, prepared by Chef Ian Smith and served by the students at the Ocean County Vocational and Technical School’s Culinary Program, located on Lakehurst, featured a diverse menu of General Tso’s Chicken, Vegetables Lo Mein, Garlic Roasted Pork, Rice & Beans, Seared Catfish, Greens and Yams.

“The focus of Diversity Day is to celebrate our differences and to broaden our understanding of each other’s diverse cultures,” said Mr. Nguyen. He added, “It is also our intention to consolidate all specific Special Emphasis Program (SEP) observances throughout the year into one day, one special event filled with activities.”

The SEPs at Lakehurst serve to emphasize the enhancement of employment and advancement opportunities for all employees, to include minorities, women and individuals with disabilities on a non-discriminatory basis.

According to Ms. Williams, “these programs are geared toward ensuring everyone is afforded an equal opportunity in every personnel management policy and practice.”

With the success of the first Diversity Day at Lakehurst, Mr. Nguyen and Ms. Williams look forward to continuing and expanding the program in the years to come.

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