

Jaynes brings flag-level insight to cadets

by Kelly Burdick, Logistics and Industrial Operations Public Affairs

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – Rear Adm. (sel) CJ Jaynes, Naval Air Systems Command’s assistant commander for logistics and industrial operations, spoke to a Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) group at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla. on Dec. 3.

Jaynes was the first admiral to ever address NSCC units in the Jacksonville region.

Approximately 100 cadets, representing four different units from the Jacksonville area, came to the briefing. Jaynes discussed her professional background and the myriad of career opportunities the Navy offers, and provided sound advice for the fledgling seafarers. She encouraged the cadets to be confident and assertive, and to “know their job better than anyone, share your knowledge with others, and be proud of your accomplishments.”

June Tillett, NSCC regional director, said that the cadets and adults involved were all impressed by Jaynes. “We were so honored and pleased that the admiral took time from her busy schedule to meet with us,” said Tillett.

Jaynes believes in actively supporting our youth. “It is important to instill middle and high school students with the confidence to pursue their dreams and realize they can accomplish whatever they desire. They need to know that there are adults who care about them and want to help them succeed. It was a pleasure to spend the morning talking with them and answering all their questions.”

Jaynes’ thoughts really resonated with the group, according to Tillett, who spoke with several excited cadets afterwards. “There was a lot of enthusiasm expressed . . . ‘I learned to make a goal and stay on course, no matter what;’ ‘she helped us understand that it’s important to have a goal and stick to it;’ and ‘she taught me not to ever give up.’ These ideals are so important for children in this age group and it was quite evident she inspired them,” said Tillett.

Jaynes also conducted several promotions and presented awards to cadets and NSCC volunteers.

The NSCC is a federally-chartered non-profit organization that was established in 1958 to “create a favorable image of the Navy on the part of American youth.”