

AROUND THE ISLAND

MAY 4, 2012

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 17



BOMB SQUAD

See Photos of MKI's Bomb Assembly Team in Action (Page 6)

SAAM 5K RUN

Team Raider Supports Worthy Cause (Page 3)

SPIRIT OF GIVING

MKI Sailors Raise More Than \$50,000 for NMCRS (Page 4)

MCPON: SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION FOCUS MUST CONTINUE YEAR-ROUND

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Terrina Weatherspoon, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy's focus on sexual assault and the measures in place to prevent it can not stop in April according to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

"On average two of our shipmates are sexually assaulted daily," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick West. "Two too many."

One of the goals during SAAM is to make sure the light doesn't dim during the rest of the year. So in addition to safety stand downs and general military training, some commands are taking further steps to ensure a continued focus on this initiative.

"This should not just be something we are focused on one month a year," said West. "The problem is ongoing, so the talks, training, preventive measures and solutions should be ongoing as well."

"One of the biggest things we are working on right now is our Bystander Intervention program," said Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Diann Kunze, Navy Information Operations Command, Georgia. "Right now the program is in its

infancy, but we have briefed the commanding officer, and so far he has liked our ideas."

One of those ideas is expanding the SafeRide program, said Kunze. Her team is working toward using SafeRide not only for just getting home after too many drinks, but also for getting out of a situation that doesn't feel right or safe. Kunze stresses that this will only be used for serious threats and dangers, and that the expectation is for people to

"On average two of our shipmates are sexually assaulted daily. Two too many."

- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick West

contact 911 if possible. "Our command is also trying to establish a 'Teal Dot' program," said Kunze. "Ninety-five percent of the command works in an area where badges are required. The idea is to encourage people to take a 'bystander intervention pledge' and then wear a teal dot in plain view on their badge. This will serve as a way to recognize those who have taken the pledge and to keep the cause fresh in everyone's mind."

Some commands have encouraged their Sailors to look into downloading the free application "Circle of 6."

This application, co-created by anti-violence advocate and filmmaker Nancy Schwartzman

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)

AROUND THE ISLAND

COMMANDING OFFICER:

CAPT CEDRIC E. PRINGLE

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

CAPT ALVIN HOLSEY

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF:

CMDCM(SW/AW) STEVEN ALT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER:

MCCS(SW/AW) DONNIE RYAN

DEPUTY PAO/LCPO:

MCC(SW/AW) JOHN LILL

LEAD EDITOR:

MC1(AW) ANDREW WISKOW

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

MC2(SW) ALAN GRAGG

STAFF:

MC1(SW/AW) DOUGLAS BEDFORD

MC1(SW) DAVID MCKEE

MC1(AW) ANDREW WISKOW

MC2(SW) STEPHEN D. DOYLE II

MC2(SW) ALAN GRAGG

MCSN KORY ALSBERRY

MCSA ETHAN TRACEY

MCSA DANIEL J. WALLS

ON THE COVER:

Aviation ordnancemen prepare to move a newly assembled GBU-12 500-pound laser-guided bomb aboard USS Makin Island (LHD 8). [Photo by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg]



Sailors and Marines take off from the starting line for the Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) 5-kilometer run on the ship's flight deck. The ship's Sexual Assault Prevention Response (SAPR) team organized the April 28 event to raise awareness and help prevent sexual assault. (Photo by MC1(AW) Andrew Wiskow)

Makin Island Sailors, Marines Take Part in SAAM 5K Run

By MC2(SW) Stephen D. Doyle II, Around the Island Staff

More than 200 Sailors and Marines participated in a special Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) 5-kilometer run on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), April 28.

The month of April is designated as SAAM, and commands throughout the Navy have been providing general military training and hosting special events to raise awareness on this important topic.

The 5K run was organized by Makin Island's Sexual Assault Prevention Response (SAPR) team as an opportunity for Sailors and

Marines to take time out of their operational schedule to observe the importance of sexual assault prevention.

"The importance of this run is to remember the victims who have been sexually assaulted and for us to be the voice of those victims," said Yeoman 1st Class Kristina Godinez, a SAPR volunteer who helped organize the run. "It means a lot to me and the SAPR team that so many people took time out of their day to remember the victims."

Godinez said that sexual assault is an issue that devastates victims, dissolves unit cohesiveness,

threatens teamwork and weakens fleet readiness. Making Sailors and Marines aware of the problem is a fundamental part in the Navy's prevention and response program.

Sailors who took part in the 5K run said they enjoyed the workout as well as the opportunity to bring attention to SAAM.

"It's important for the Navy to take time out of its operational schedule, because its good to exercise, for one, and we want to make sure everybody understands that this is something we take

MKI Sailors Raise More Than \$50,000 for NMCRS

By MCSN Kory Alsberry,
Around the Island Staff

Sailors deployed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) raised more than \$50,000 during the 2012 Navy and Marine Core Relief Society (NMCRS) fund drive, which ended April 30.

Two-months of creative fundraising that took place while the ship was deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) resulted in a final total of \$50,742 in contributions.

According to Chief Logistics Specialist Yuly Mejia, Makin Island's NMCRS fundraising committee chairperson, the ship set a goal of raising \$30,000 which would exceed the \$29,054 raised during the 2011 campaign.

"It felt good to set a goal and accomplish it," said Mejia. "I feel like not only did NMCRS accomplish a lot, but the whole ship accomplished something."

Mejia said she was surprised at the total of contributions made by the crew and the fact the fundraising team exceeded their goal by more than \$20,000.

"It just shows what type of crew we have," said Mejia. "Sailors are giving money out of their checks every month and donating money to our fundraisers to help their fellow Sailors throughout the fleet. It's nice to see so many people care."

Mejia said the donations came from two sources, allotments from a Sailor's monthly pay and fundraisers held by Makin Island



Chief Logistics Specialist Yuly Mejia and Chief Electrician's Mate Gavin Kumar, who led Makin Island's 2012 Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) fundraising efforts, cut the cake during a celebration for volunteers who helped raise more than \$50,000 for the NMCRS. [Photo by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg]

volunteers.

According to Mejia, the fundraising team had three specific goals during this year's campaign: to make 100% contact with the crew, to educate Makin Island Sailors on the many services NMCRS provides, and to have fun while raising the funds to support the NMCRS.

Mejia also said that the key to her team's success was the fact that every department on the ship provided at least two volunteers to assist with fundraising efforts. This allowed the team to get the message out to all of the Sailors on the ship.

Sailors who volunteered to help with fundraising efforts said they enjoyed the opportunity to help raise money for the NMCRS.

"I volunteered, because it's a good program," said Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Jonathan Ulanday, a NMCRS fundraising team member. "It's Sailors helping other Sailors out when they need help. We are counting on each other; it's truly one team one fight."

According to their official website, NMCRS helped more than 96,000 Sailors, Marines and families in need by providing more than \$48 million in financial assistance during 2011.

Makin Island CWO, LDO Communities Kick Off 2012 Recruiting Campaign

By MC1(SW) David McKee, Around the Island Staff

Makin Island chief warrant officer (CWO) and limited duty officer (LDO) community kicked off their fiscal year 2014 recruitment campaign with briefings held April 30 and May 4 in the ship's classroom.

Dozens of potential candidates, including chief petty officers and first class petty officers, attended the brief where Makin Island LDOs and CWOs provided program information and answered questions.

"Our goal is to get the word out and expand our audience to those younger Sailors who may not be eligible today, but have the desire to earn a commission," said Lt. Cmdr. Paul Dise, Makin Island's CWO/LDO recruiting program coordinator. "It is never too early to plan for the future."

Disesaidthecriteria for applying to the LDO/CWO program is based primarily on performance.

"We are looking for highly motivated, chief's board eligible first class petty officers and chiefs, senior and master chief petty officers with documented sustained superior performance," said Dise.

Dise said the program briefs were open to all personnel, whether

they are applying for the program this year or if they just want to learn more about the program from CWOs and LDOs on the ship.

Damage Controlman 1st Class Charles Stigall attended one of the briefs and said he is always on the

applying for the LDO program this year as a surface engineering and repair officer.

"I am always looking for those opportunities and the LDO program is a direct line to enhance my leadership abilities, provide technical knowledge to the fleet, and be a part of an organization that is well respected for what they do," said Stigall.

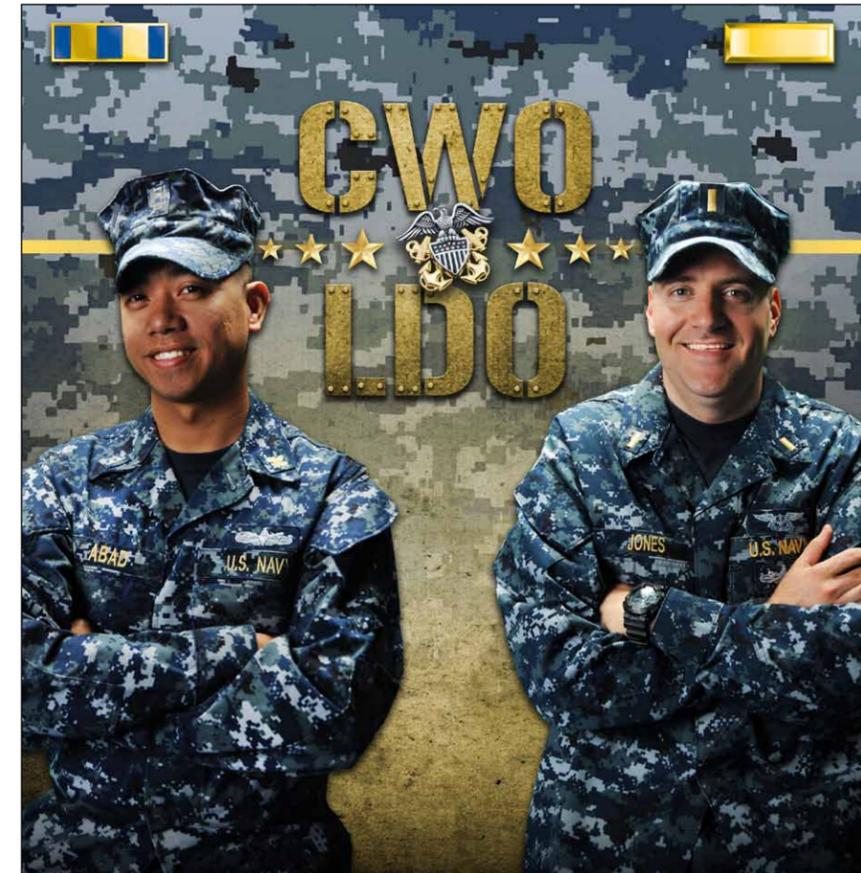
Stigall said this is the first ship he has served on where the leadership affords the crew the opportunity to sit down with LDOs and CWOs to discuss the program.

"The process that Makin Island has given all Sailors is phenomenal," said Stigall. "I have submitted packages in the past and had to almost fend for myself with the entire process."

The briefs also provided valuable information to

Sailors who have previously applied to the program, but were not selected.

Ensign Christopher Jones, an LDO aboard Makin Island who



Chief Warrant Officer Rolando Abad and Ensign Christopher Jones were commissioned through the Navy's CWO and LDO programs. [Design by MC1(SW/AW) Douglas Bedford]

lookout for ways to advance his career as a Sailor.

"The Navy has always afforded Sailors with the opportunity to progress and display their knowledge for the improvement of our Navy," said Stigall, who is

BOMB SQUAD

Photos by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg

A team of aviation ordnancemen aboard USS Makin Island (LHD 8) worked together to assemble a GBU-12 laser-guided bomb April 29. The 500-pound bomb took about an hour to build, but the team followed instructions to the letter, for another signature creation by Makin Island's G-3 Bomb Assembly team.



LDO/CWO PROGRAM (cont.) from Page 5

spoke during the briefs, explained how he did not get picked up the first time that he applied to the program.

Jones said the experience of not being selected the first year he applied was humbling, but did not discourage him. He said he then sought recommendations from other LDOs at his command about how he could improve his submission package.

"Once I began asking the questions, I realized that the community was always willing to assist," said Jones. "The end result was a stronger package."

During his presentation, Jones offered a lot of advice of to Sailors.

"You have to have an open mind and accept constructive criticism in order to reach the goal of being selected," said Jones, who was selected the second year he applied.

Jones said becoming an LDO has been an honor and has increased his career opportunities.

"In the LDO and CWO community, you have the opportunity to take on jobs that you would never have been able to as an enlisted Sailor," said Jones. "My perspective on my career changed drastically after being commissioned. I went from considering a 20-year career to a possible 30-plus year career as a Navy captain."

The Navy's CWO/LDO program is open to enlisted Sailors in paygrades E-6 and above with a high school diploma, or its equivalent, who are U.S. citizens.

First class petty officers must complete all eligibility requirements for E-7, with the exception of time in rate and the leadership training continuum course.

Additionally, first class petty officers must achieve selection board eligibility in the annual chief petty officer advancement and have their commanding officer's

recommendation.

There is no age restriction for the CWO/LDO program, but applicants must have at least eight years of active naval service, but not more than 15 years of active naval service, prior to Oct. 1 of the fiscal year applying.

Applicants must also meet physical standards and have no court-martial or civilian convictions for other than minor offenses or non-judicial punishment for three years prior to Oct. 1 of year applying.

The requirements for applicants to the chief warrant officer program are the same, with only a few exceptions.

Applicants must have been selected as a chief petty officer,

completed at least 13 years of active naval service but no more than 22 years prior to Oct. 1 of the fiscal year for which they are applying.

Dise said the program criteria are subject to change in the future, so it is important to consult the latest NAVADMIN when considering applying.

Dise said the application itself is easy to complete for the most part, and that additional information on the program will be made available to interested Sailors.

"The hard part is maintaining sustained superior performance," said Dise.

Dise said Makin Island's CWO/LDO campaign will end Sept. 30, the date all packages are due.

USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8) VOTING ASSISTANCE OFFICER:
Enisgn Ramon Vazquez - vazquecr@lhd8.navy.mil



Are you registered to vote?

SAAM RUN (cont.) from Page 3

Sailors and Marines participate in a 5-kilometer run on the flight deck April 28 to help observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). (Photo by MCI(AW) Andrew Wiskow)

seriously and it's always time to prevent it," said Chief Quartermaster Larry J. Watkins, a Makin Island Sailor who took part in the 5K run.

In addition to the 5K run, Makin Island Sailors and Marines received prevention-based training during the month of April and posters were placed throughout the ship highlighting this year's theme of "Hurts One. Affect All. Preventing Sexual Assault is Everyone's Duty."

A unique "Clothesline Project" display, that featured different colors of t-shirts representing the many types of sexual violence, was also constructed by the ship's SAPR team near the mess decks to help promote SAAM.

Sexual assault prevention is an important element of the readiness area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Navy.

The Department of the Navy is working aggressively to prevent sexual assaults, to support sexual assault victims, and to hold offenders accountable.

PREVENTION (cont.) from Page 2

and initially intended for college students, is designed to make it easier for someone who finds themselves in a dangerous situation to quickly get in contact with friends for help. Launched March 19, the app has been downloaded more than 15,000 times and won the White House Apps Against Abuse Technology Challenge.

After users download Circle of 6, they choose six friends to make up their circle. The app has preprogrammed SMS messages that can be sent to the six friends, along with the user's GPS coordinates, if a threat emerges. It also has a feature that links users

to resources and allows them to program in a local hotline.

"Reaching out for help if possible is absolutely your best option," said West. "However, I also want to encourage Sailors to recognize dangerous situations and to always do the right thing. Sometimes just speaking up against a conversation you feel could lead to a negative outcome is enough to prevent a violent situation."

There are several things you can do to protect yourself and others from sexual assault.

- Be a good friend-keep an eye on your friends to make sure they are safe.

-If you see someone approaching someone in a way that seems to make that person uncomfortable, do something. Be alert, ask if the person needs help, and then get help.

-Sexual assault and rape happen to men as well- males should not feel ashamed if they are sexually assaulted. Men can seek counseling like anyone else that has been sexually assaulted or raped.

- State your desires clearly and ask permission. If you want to be intimate with someone, make sure that person consents. If that person does not want to be intimate, stop right away.

OPINION ISLAND

What are some of the things you've learned so far on deployment?

By SN Matthew J. Hill, Contributor



"Every day I learn something new. When you work with such a variety people, you can learn from your shipmates how to make the work process more efficient."

-Lt. Cmdr. Thompson Xiao

"No matter what the situation, the Navy and the Marine Corps will always work together as a blue and green team to get the job done."

-Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Rauchfuss



"I've learned a lot about being an OS and I've learned to trust my leaders. I've also learned a lot about how important family is, being so far away from home."

-OSSN Sheena Crites

"I've never been on a boat before. It's a different world, and I've learned a lot about the blue side."

-Sgt. Jonathan Carlisle



MKI MWR CORNER

BINGO!

Win Thousands of Dollars!

MWR will host BINGO for the crew on Friday, May 11, on the Mess Decks beginning at 2000.

BINGO will also be broadcast from SITE TV on Channel 7.

Game Cards go on sale May 8!

Ticket Prices are as follows.

1 for \$5

2 for \$8

4 for \$16

6 for \$24

8 for \$32

... and so on.

The more you buy, the more you win!

MAKIN ISLAND'S UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT. 5 MAY

0800 Cinco de Mayo 5K

1900 EAWS Training (Mess Decks)

2000 Latin Dance Instruction (Upper V)

SUN. 6 MAY

2000 ESWS Training (Mess Decks)

MON. 7 MAY

2000 ESWS Training (Mess Decks)

2000 Board Games (Mess Decks)

Pro Flowers Sales ENDS

TUE. 8 MAY

1900 EAWS Training (Mess Decks)

2000 Trivia (Mess Decks)

WED. 9 MAY

2000 Biggest Loser Reveal (Hangar Bay)

THUR. 10 MAY

0900/1400/2000 CPO 365 Phase IIA (CPO Mess)

1900 EAWS Training (Mess Decks)

Malaysia & Hong Kong Tour Sales Begin

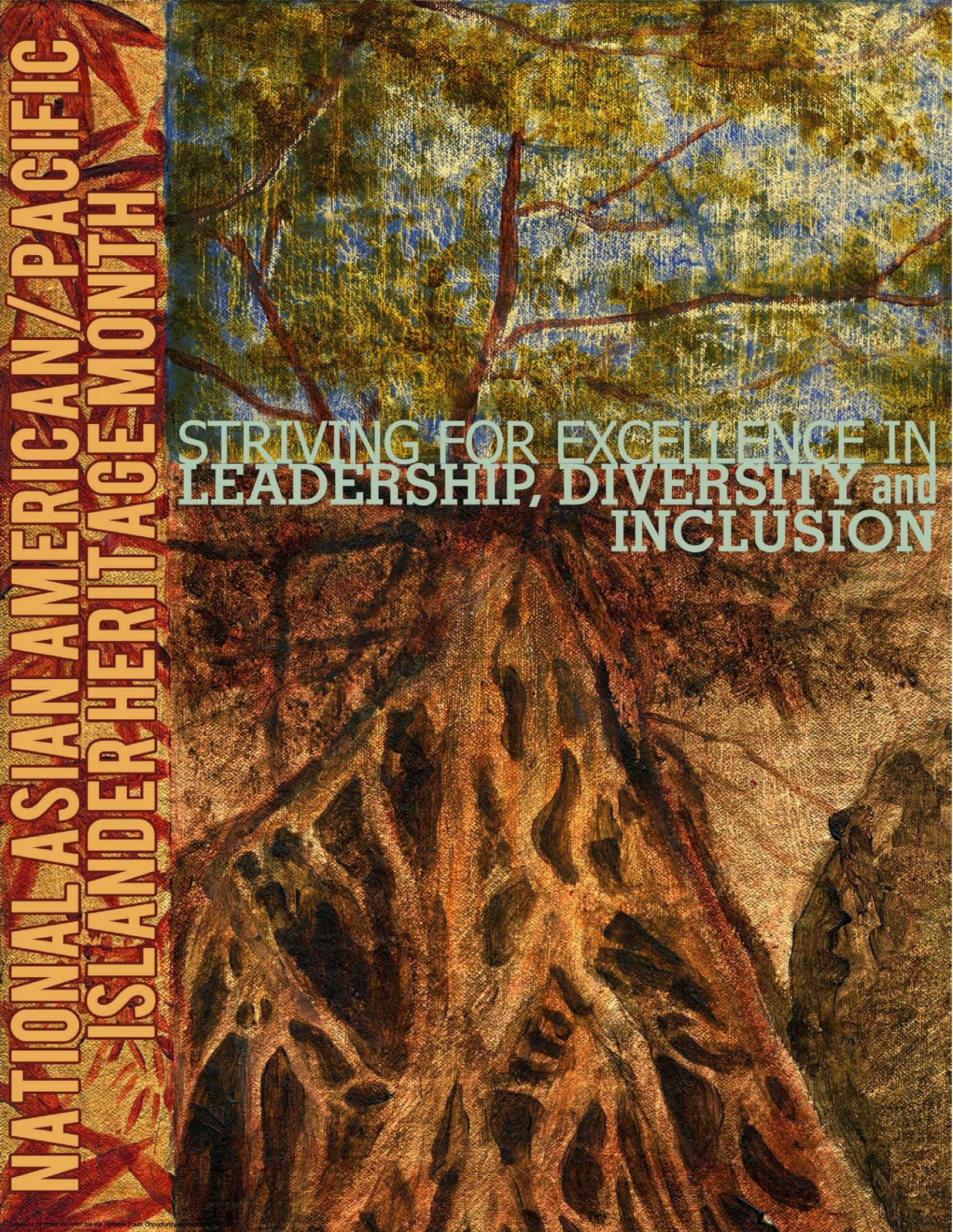
FRI. 11 MAY

2000 ESWS Training (Mess Decks)

2000 BINGO (Mess Decks)

SAT. 12 MAY

1900 EAWS Training (Mess Decks)



**NATIONAL ASIANTHAI AMERICAN/PACIFIC
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH**

**STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN
LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY and
INCLUSION**