

Tampa Bay Navy Week  
Tampa, FL – March 15<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Event Report



## Attendee: Christina Cummings

The Navy Week Gallery Exhibit was a breathtaking event for the MSCCN Gulf Coast team. I spoke with a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Petty Officer who is currently a musician for the United States Navy Band. I learned how the band travels all across the world and how they are the only rated service members who are guaranteed never to be deployed overseas to fight. Everyone I talked to was intrigued by our organization and fascinated that there is a group of women who believe in helping spouses, veterans, war wounded soldiers, and their caregivers. I was told that, even though some of us at MSCCN have not worn the uniform and served, we are truly patriots in their eyes because of our support to the Armed Forces.

Besides MSCCN's presence, Navy members who are stationed on the USS Florida, the President of the International Academy of Design & Technology, the President of the Department of Photography, and LT. Hecht also attended. The exhibit started with the Attention to Colors with the band singing our National Anthem a capella and was immediately followed with an introduction to the exhibit by LT. Hecht. Lt. Hecht introduced MC1 Davis, the photographer for the exhibit, and talked about how the vision for this project took four months to complete. Following MC1 Davis' speech, everyone had the honor to view the many photographs taken by MC1 Davis during her time in Afghanistan. All of the papers and canvases were donated to support the work and talents of MC1 Davis. The following points were made by MC1 Davis through her vision that came from her mission in Afghanistan.

- Only 4% of the citizens in Afghanistan have the opportunity to become educated.
- The people of Afghanistan would not allow the Armed Forces to distribute humanitarian supplies. Rather, the people would fight to take the supplies from the Armed Forces due to their way of life.

- In the Afghanistan hospitals there would be at least three babies in each incubator due to insufficient funds to support the hospitals. With that said, approximately 26% of the people who enter the hospitals die because of the re-use of bandages that they distribute to heal open wounds. It is also very unlikely to see women being treated in hospitals because women cannot be examined or treated by someone other than their husband in that society.
- To decrease the amount of killing in Afghanistan the American Armed Forces would have the people of Afghanistan hand in 30 of their weapons in exchange for humanitarian supplies.
- The U.S. built new schools to educate the children in Afghanistan.
- There are two homeless camps stationed in Afghanistan grounds: The Refugee Camps and The Internal Displace Camps. The Refugee Camps consist of people from other countries who become homeless in Afghanistan. The Internal Displace camps consist of people from Afghanistan who become homeless.

Attending this event was a once in a lifetime experience and left me wishing I could go to Afghanistan to help the people who are desperately suffering there. I will never forget the photography talents of MC1 Davis or the aspects of Afghanistan that I witnessed in the photography. There will always be a special place in my heart reserved for the Navy and Afghanistan. Now more than ever, veterans and war wounded soldiers are in need of our resources. I plan to reach out even more to help these honored patriots who are part of the missions of Afghanistan.

Our expenses for this event were nothing more than our empathy and heartfelt compassion for the members of the United States Armed Forces.