



Rancho Santa Fe  
FOUNDATION

PROMOTING PHILANTHROPY SINCE 1981

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE MILITARY

The Naval Training Center, San Diego, was created in 1923 as the navy boot camp for the western United States. Over a span of 70 years, two million recruits completed their basic training here before going on to their next assignment. Closed in 1993, the Department of Defense and the City of San Diego set aside the land and the history to create what is now a perfect public/private partnership under the auspices of the NTC Foundation.

On Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup>, more than 30 people gathered to hear representatives from Balboa Hospital, the Navy, the Marine Corp and the USO about how the private sector can help to meet the needs of the military in the San Diego Region.

The program was co-hosted by San Diego Grantmakers and the Armed Forces Interest Group (AFIG), an initiative of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation.

RADM Christine Bruzek-Kohler, Commander Navy Medicine West and Naval Medical Center San Diego spoke about the 700,000 personnel, and their dependents, for which they are responsible from Guam to Hawaii. Naval Medical Center provides comprehensive health care in most every specialty, command of the USS Mercy, C-5 which is the rehab department for wounded warriors, and a complete specialty in mental health issues.

Paul Denyer, chairman of the Board of the USO San Diego, told the audience about the services they provide to service personnel from all branches of the military. The USO San Diego receives for Federal support, relying solely on private donations to service the more than 100,000 men and women who pass through their doors every year.

Col. Steve Dinauer, CO Security Battalion and Asst Chief of Staff for Security and Emergency Services at Camp Pendleton, reiterated the need for additional support services for transition – for the personnel and their families prior to deployment and again for re-integration as they return. He also explained that as service personnel are getting out of the service, they are requiring access to education and job training above and beyond what the “Post 911 GI Bill” provides.

Capt. Joe Stuyvesant, CNRSW, re-affirmed the same tissues as the other speakers and talked about the effectiveness of the United Through Reading program as a wonderful means for families with young children to stay connected through the reading of stories together via video tape.

The group will re-convene again after the first of the year to review the data gathered during a feasibility study being conducted by Promises2Kids and the Leichtag Family Foundation at the Jewish Community Foundation.

For more information about AFIG, please go to [www.rsffoundation.org](http://www.rsffoundation.org).