

Navy Vet Of 20 Years

MEET MAI ELLA BLACK

by PHIL J.A. Davidson

With over 20 years of Navy service behind her, MA Black is still growing with her Navy. MA Black - the MA stands for Master at Arms - is the senior woman among four selected for the Navy's new Master at Arms rating. The new rating creates police enforcement specialists for today's Navy.

In November, MA1 (Master at Arms First Class) Ella Black departed Navy Recruiting District Seattle, to attend an Air Force-run five-week law enforcement school in San Antonio, Texas. After completion of the school Ella will become a member of the Master at Arms (MAA) force on the Navy hospital ship Sanctuary.

Calling Brownsville, Pa. home, Ella joined the Navy in 1953 just three years out of high school, and after being employed in a position which showed no real hope for promotion or future. "I was going nowhere and getting there fast," MA1 Black quipped with a grin, "so I decided to look around to see what other opportunities were available."

"I had never planned on making the Navy a career, however everytime my enlistment was up I would do it again," Ella explained with a twinkle in her eye.

Once in the Navy, she was selected to attend Communication Technician School in San Diego, Calif., and from there to duty assignments in Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Germany and Maryland.

While working as a MAA in Babinbridge, Maryland, Ella did, however, see the problem some individuals had with adapting to the Navy. Many of the new Navy women just out of basic training and going through service school had problems. These problems, mainly of the personal adjustment nature, might have been related to adapting to the Navy.

"I could not understand how these people had gotten into the service in the first place," Ella mused. "I felt that they should have been able to spot these individuals with personality and adaptability prior to joining the Navy."

The Brownsville Navy woman had seen the problem from one side, now she hoped to see what she could do on the other side.

Ella was selected for an assignment as a recruiter with Navy Recruiting District Seattle.

As far as telling the prospects what the Navy is all about, Ella is a very eloquent and candid. She feels that the prospective recruit should know the good and bad of the Navy. The good being pay, which in the past has increased

with private industry and the economy, educational benefits, schools and training programs which give the individual with the aptitude a skill. The Navy offers travel, Navy ships and stations literally cover the world and could lead an individual to such places as the Orient or Europe.

"There are things that may be negative about the service for some individuals. For instance if you could not take orders, be at a certain place at a definite time, live and work in close proximity with people, maybe the Navy is not for them," she said.

Ella worked initially at the main office of NRD Seattle, which is in Bellevue, Washington, where she was assigned to recruit only women; however, later she worked in a recruiting station in downtown Seattle where both men and women are recruited.

Parents have an intense interest in the Navy their son or daughter may be joining. They are in many cases more anxious than their children to know what benefits are available, and may have questions that their children wouldn't ask. There fore Ella felt that it was important that they be there during the interview or have a chance to talk to the recruiter later.

"In the long run," Ella related, "it is the prospective recruit who must open up to me, I want to be able to talk to the individual and find out what he or she is



MA1 ELLA BLACK

really like. Sometimes this will there be a long wait? means getting out of the Can he be stationed near office and sitting down in a home or as far away as local restaurant where we Germany? These are things just talk informally. This that fit the Navy to the seems to relax a person and individual," related Ella. enables me to see what he "She is honestly candid, or she is really like. Once I and when talking to a see the real person I can woman can give a vivid see if he or she will fit the picture of where and what the Navy is all about," said

Next it is important to fellow recruiter Signalman try-if the individual fits the First Class Jon Tehan. Navy - to fit the Navy to the She feels as do many individual. "Does the Navy other Navy personnel that have the school the Admiral Zumwalt, the individual wants? Will he Chief of Naval Operations, be able to join the Navy had much to do with the right out of high school or many far reaching changes

in today's Navy. These changes have not only opened up more opportunities to the black sailor, but also to the women.

This career Navy woman is also an umpire for the King County Northwest Umpire Association. An avid softball player who has been to all three All Navy Softball Tournaments - her team finished first in two tournaments and placed third in the other - Ella became involved as an umpire in 1964. She has umpired in Washington, D.C., Maryland and San Diego. When she arrived in Seattle in 1971, it took 20 phone calls before she was able to contact the right organization.

"I received some ribbing when I first umpired in King County, but once they understood that I meant business and knew what I was doing, they left me alone," Ella said.

After her tour aboard the hospital ship Sanctuary, MA1 Ella Black plans to retire and live in the San Diego area. When asked what type of work she would be interested in, she said, "I will probably get a job in a bank so I can have my weekends off."

It is hard to visualize Ella working in a bank, for it seems to sedate a job for someone who has done so much. MA1 Black is still growing in her Navy, and working in a bank might be too boring for someone who has seen and gone through so many changes.



outreach

Human Resources in Action
in North Carolina
by
Jerry Blackwelder

An elderly lady calls to say that her public assistance check for the month has not been delivered, and her bills are due.

A frustrated parent has recognized an emotional problem in his child, and does not know where to turn.

An employee telephones to tell of a problem on his job.

All these callers have dialed HOTLINE, a direct toll free number into the office of Secretary of Human Resources David T. Flaherty. The calls are handled by Craig Souza, a member of Secretary Flaherty's staff.

"We get approximately 15 days a day," Souza said. "About 70% of them are from citizens, and the remainder come from our employees."

The HOTLINE number can be called without charge from any telephone in the state. The number is 1-800-662-7950. At nights and on weekends and holidays, the telephone is answered by an automatic recording device. The callers are asked to leave their names and telephone numbers and the calls are returned when the office reopens.

Souza traced the path of a HOTLINE call:

"The call is catalogued, given a case number, and written up on a four-part form. The Division heads have designated individuals to be responsible for handling our calls. They are required to respond to the caller within three days. The contact person is the division either takes the call up with a local office or with a section of the division, depending on the nature of the problem.

"The answer is sent back to the caller, with a copy to our office. A record is kept on the call, in case further follow-up is needed."

Some callers cannot wait three days for an answer to their problem. "If we say 'rush', then the divisions know that the call requires immediate attention," Souza said.

What type of people use the HOTLINE?

Those who are frustrated with personal problems, says Souza.

"They can get help faster by calling rather than by writing a letter," he explained.

Many people call just to have someone to listen to them. "It's like a long-distance counseling service," he added.

so has instituted a HOTLINE system to handle inquiries and complaints.

"We work closely with the Governor's ombudsman's office," Souza said. "If they have a Human Resources problem, they refer it to us and we handle it in the same manner as a HOTLINE call."

Many of the callers are employees of the Department, and they feel that HOTLINE is the quickest avenue to the Secretary's office.

They call concerning new programs being implemented, problems with longevity or other personnel matters, and rumors that they may have heard. Often they are encouraged to discuss the problem with their supervisors, or other appropriate officials.

The number has received wide-spread distribution, and as a result some of the calls do not pertain to services available through the Department of Human Resources.

In those cases, Souza said he informs the state government agency concerned with the problem area and asks that they return the call.

HOTLINE - a new way of providing answers and more efficient services to North Carolinians.

Governor's ombudsman al-

Things You Should Know

Ira
ALDRIDGE...



1807—1867

BORN IN FREEDOM IN 1807, (EITHER IN MD. OR NY.), SON OF A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER; HE BECAME THE FIRST WORLD-FAMOUS AMERICAN NEGRO AC-

TOR / EDUCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW, HE PLAYED O-THELLO IN LONDON AT AGE 20 & TOURED EUROPE PLAYING BEFORE KINGS FOR SOME 40 YEARS / THE SLAVE OPENED IN PLYMOUTH, ENG, AUGUST 14, 1855 / HE DIED ON TOUR IN LODZ, POLAND; AGE 60!

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