

MWR Youth Activities Gets OSD-Level Visit

Cassandra Work, wife of Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work, visits Naval Support Activity Panama City Youth Center and Child Development Program

By NSA PC Office of Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY BEACH –The wife of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Cassandra Work, met with Naval Support Activity Panama City’s (NSA PC) Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Youth Activities Center students and staff to learn about the base’s child care services Jan. 16, 2015.

Work visited the base while the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Bob Work, visited with senior leadership and service members at NSA PC. During her visit, Cassandra Work toured the Naval installation’s Youth



20150116-N-CD100-016 – Mrs. Cassandra Work speaks with children at the Youth Activities Center aboard Naval Support Activity Panama City, Fla. on Jan. 16, 2015, as NSA PC Commanding Officer, Commander Chris Serow looks on. (Photo by Anthony Powers)

Center and Child Development Multi-Age Program (CDMAP).

“We were honored that Mrs. Work wanted to see our childcare facilities, to meet our staff and some of our parents, as well as meet the children,” said NSA PC Commanding Officer Cmdr. Chris Serow, USN. “We are very proud of our MWR Youth Activities program. NSA PC strives to provide the highest-quality childcare services and we have a great relationship with the local school district.”

Discussions with NSA PC Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Chris Serow, USN; School Liaison Officer, Lynda Brown; MWR Director Brian Connors; and Youth Center Director Heather Steinzor focused on community engagement. She also took time to talk with parents of children who attend the MWR Youth Activities Center’s before and after school programs.

Brown spoke to the positive and cooperative relationship between NSA PC and the Bay County School District as well as the role of School Liaison Officers.

“SLO’s are the boots on the ground, who build relationships between the military and the local schools. We work directly with the district school superintendents, local school administrators, and guidance counselors to build partnerships and help educators to understand the unique military lifestyle and meet the educational needs of our military-dependent children due to this lifestyle,” said Brown.

The NSA PC Youth Center offers daily childcare for children ranging from six months to 18 years of age, including Age-specific groups, an Open Recreation Program, and a Sports Program. The services they offer are a vital part of supporting military families in a demanding work environment, further enabling mission success and readiness.

Director Heather Steinzor was impressed with Work's involvement. "[Her] visit really stressed the importance of ensuring top notch child care is provided to our military families. She also wanted to learn about any issues that our military families face when transitioning to our base. She was very impressed with our facilities, staff, and programs offered."

In addition to NSA PC, Secretary Work and Cassandra Work visited Tyndall Air Force Base in Tyndall, Fla.