



The Source for Navy News

www.news.navy.mil

Virtual Reality Used For Training on Drunk Driving

Story Number: NNS060406-03

Release Date: 4/6/2006 8:23:00 AM

! Top Story

By Gas Systems Turbine (Electrical) 3rd Class Andrew Korenkov, Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- The Navy was introduced to a whole new way of educating Sailors on the effects of drinking and driving during the nationwide "Save a Life Tour" aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and Training Support Center San Diego, April 1-6.

Each day of the tour, about 125 Sailors got a chance to experience effects of drinking on the drunk driver simulator. About 500 other Sailors got a chance to witness these effects from outside the driver's seat.

"We lose Sailors every year to drunk driving," said Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Moses Truesdale Jr., alcohol and drug coordinating officer for Commander, Naval Surface Forces, and one of the organizers of the tour for the Navy.

The drunk driving simulator only shows the delayed reaction caused by alcohol consumption.

Nathan Vanderploeg, a tour assistant, said 75 percent of accidents caused by drunk drivers are because of tunnel vision and having a one-track mind, which is when a mind is focused on one thing only and disregards everything else.

The delays in the drunk driver software simulated tunnel vision in Sailors. Since their brains tried to compensate for the delay, Sailors dismissed everything else. Sailors were speeding or going too slow, running red lights and stop signs, going the wrong way on a one way street and crashing into poles, other vehicles and buildings.

"It's not your usual slideshow training," said Truesdale. "It's different. You actually get to experience the effects of alcohol with a conscious mind."

Chief Engineman (SW) James Franklin from PCD Green Bay (LPD 20) participated in the simulation and believes that the Navy can't do enough training on drinking and driving.

"I think it's an excellent simulation that will hopefully deter Sailors from drinking and driving," he said.

For related news, visit the Navy Region Southwest Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cnrsw/.

[E-mail this story to a friend](#) | [Send a comment about this story](#)

Related Stories:

NADAP Summit Aims to Increase Drug, Alcohol Awareness - 4/28/2006

Big E Begins Stand Down with the Right Spirit - 3/31/2006 

Truman Conducts DUI Fair - 3/7/2006

Search:

 Go **MS Word Friendly** **Print Friendly**[Subscribe NavNe](#)[Submit Story/Pho](#)[Tools](#)[Contact Us](#)[Privacy & Security](#)[About This Site](#)[External Links](#)[Home](#)