

CSADD is valuable resource for junior Sailors

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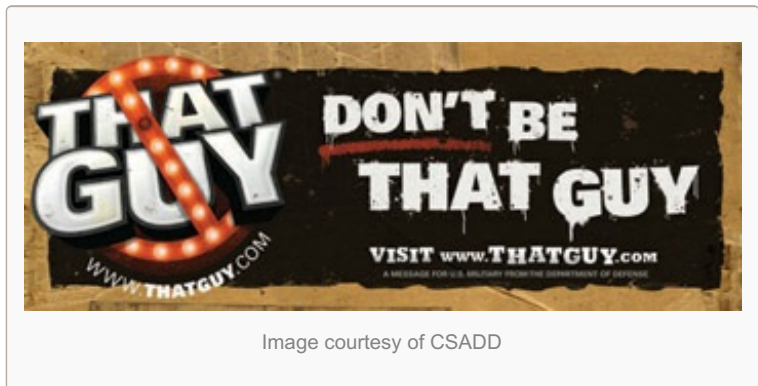
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The Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) program encourages positive influence and behavior, while at the same time bringing together on-line social networking with peer interaction and in-person networking.

This reinforces the message of “shipmates helping shipmates” and is reinforced with the “Don’t be that Guy” campaign.



CSADD serves as a peer-to-peer Sailor mentoring group for Sailors 18 to 25 years old.”

The importance of the CSADD is the mentoring programs itself where it gives Sailors the opportunity to do things on their off time,” said Gas Turbine System (Mechanical) Seaman (SW) Dominic Lachapelle of New York, a CSADD committee member assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG-70).

“The program uses the buddy systems, Sailors giving each other ideas to help each other in today’s Navy, helping them make right decisions,” Lachapelle said.

The program is run by a group of volunteer petty officers, and its mission is to provide junior Sailors with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with issues such as alcohol misuse, reckless driving, recreational safety hazards and other activities that can lead to destructive decision-making in a manner to which they can relate.

“When a shipmate sees other shipmates going down the wrong path, you correct them. It’s easy for someone in the same pay grade to talk with one another, rather than a chief to talk with the Sailor because (for them) it becomes just another lecture,” said Chief Engineman Saul Gomez, a CSADD regional team leader who is assigned to Navy Operation Support Center (NOSC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“When we empower our junior Sailors, they mentor themselves and they listen to each other, work collectively with each other to be the most effective Sailors they possibly can,” Gomez said.

The CSADD program also builds camaraderie among the junior Sailors involved. Many chapters plan alcohol-free liberty activities like movie nights, day-trips or sporting events for their shipmates to enjoy on liberty in a responsible way.

“It brings the crew on ships or shore commands together. It also helps to know the person you work with on a day-to-day basis also. It builds teamwork,” said Lachapelle. “And I’ve heard the word teamwork a lot after being involved with the program.”

In addition to promoting healthy life choices, the program also develops members’ leadership skills.

“The program is about initiative. It’s something Sailors already do every day. It’s an initiative that

empowers them as leaders and future leaders,” said Gomez.

Through programs like CSADD, Sailors are proving that helping their peers to achieve success individually is vital to achieving success as a team.

“This program is important because it empowers the Sailors to write their own destiny and go forth to do great things without their leadership telling them how and when to do it. It’s great Sailors doing even greater things for themselves and their shipmates,” said Gomez.

“What I enjoy most about the program is the network it brings,” said Master-at Arms 2nd Class Troy Gollihar of Klamath Falls, Ore., CSADD region advocate who is assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Security.

“Sailors who may not make the right decisions in the past (may have been prevented) had they had the guidance or that knowledge that CSADD offers,” Gollihar said.

CSADD Sailors are taking on leadership challenges, both on and off-duty, reinforcing both the core principles of CSADD and the Navy’s 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative. The 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency, and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Currently there are 15 chapters at Navy Region Hawaii and 14 sub chapters.

CSADD began in 2008 when Rear Adm. Mark Boensel and Fleet Master Chief (AW/SW/SCW) Scott Benning, while assigned at Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, wanted to create an organization similar to MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

The concept, along with “That Guy,” evolved as it addressed the basic decision-making process in many areas affecting Sailors on and off duty. With strong support from the Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, CSADD became an official Navy peer mentoring program in June 2010.