



SHARP News

IDC Honored as 500th SHARP Graduate

HM1 (SW/AW) **Linda Benny** was recently honored as the 500th graduate of the SHARP course "**Fundamentals of HIV-STD Prevention Counseling**".

HM1 Benny is an **Independent Duty Corpsman** assigned to MWSS 274, 2nd Marine Air Wing, GAS 27 at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, North Carolina.

As a graduate of this course, she received 14 continuing education credit contact hours and some fun prizes for participating in the group exercises.

This free, NEHC-conducted, 2-day course was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Students improve their ability to support Sailors and Marines in making behavior changes that will reduce their risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and to avoid an unwanted pregnancy.

The course is very interactive. Students examine the various factors that influence risk-taking behavior and learn how to help clients identify their risks, understand their options, and develop a plan to reduce their risk of infection or reinfection. Students improve their **one-on-one** disease prevention **counseling skills** by applying the CDC's 6-step process of effective counseling during role-play scenarios.

The course benefits physicians, Independent Duty Corpsmen, nurses, health promoters, Preventive Medicine (PM) Technicians, PM Representatives and PM Petty Officers, counselors, and public health educators who are tasked to counsel Sailors and Marines regarding sexual behavior risk reduction.

For the training schedule and more information about this course, visit SHARP at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/education&training.htm>.



Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

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