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U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Volume 1, Issue 2, September 2014

# Sea Cadet Quarterly



INST Charles Snyder, NSCC

## The Evolution of 'Me' to 'We'

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Blaine Bradley, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

It was almost five years ago that I took the first step into the rest of my life — a step that would redirect, restructure and re-emphasize the direction my life would take in ways I'm still realizing today.

It was then that I had joined the Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) as a timid recruit. As the few months before I was to leave for Navy League Orientation passed, I learned the ropes, completed my Navy League Syllabus and formed a basic understanding of what I should expect and what I hoped to achieve, or so I thought. I wanted to earn these ribbons, I wanted to attend these trainings, I wanted to reach this rate ... I, I, I.

It took a little while, but I learned that the "I" would take care of itself. My focus — my priority — needed to be the *team*, the *we*.

Now almost five years and a million memories and experiences later, I'm a PO2 in the USNSCC, and I just staffed my first training. And as chance would have it, things came full circle and I was lucky enough to staff Navy League Orientation.

As the Leaguers and parents rolled in, I looked them over, saw a little uncertainty in some of the cadets' eyes, maybe even a little more than a little uncertainty in the eyes of the parents. Like me, I'm sure they all had seen something about "boot camp" on the Discovery Channel, which was probably a bit intimidating. Then there was the unavoidable homesickness that I remembered that was sure to set in. I knew they were all — the parents, the Leaguers, and even the other staff and officers — looking to me as Staff Cadet to provide and maintain an environment where the Leaguers could not only grow and learn, but have some fun doing it. But at the same time, I had to send them home as leaders to their units around the country and examples to the new League and even Sea Cadets that would join in the future.

It was a huge challenge. I realized it was much bigger than me. It was we. It meant doing anything that I could to better the group, better the units they came from and better the NSCC and NLCC. It's all about the *we*!

## From the Field



Eric Parsons

### California

Cadets used the flight simulator at the Navy League Convention.



Courtesy of Thomas Jefferson Division

### Missouri

Thomas Jefferson Division learned boater safety skills.



U.S. Navy Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

### Florida

Cadets carefully maneuvered a P-3C propeller at NAS Jacksonville.

# Letter from the Executive Director

By Capt. Jim Monahan, USN (Ret.)  
Executive Director, National Headquarters

In this issue of "Sea Cadet Quarterly," you will read about summer training experiences from around the country. If you are a cadet or an alumni, you likely have had similar ones, and can relate to these stories in a way that only Sea Cadets can. You remember the nerves from your first day at Navy League Orientation or Recruit Training. You can still feel the pride and elation of graduation day. You vividly recall the first time you set off for an advanced training and met a new group of people from around the country with interests similar to yours. You still feel the weight of the first time you had the responsibility of staffing a training. And for our alumni, you still remember the last time you put on your Sea Cadet uniform. Petty Officer 2nd Class Blaine Bradley of Wolverine Division summarized the experience eloquently: "The cool thing is that no matter where we are all from, no matter where we all trained or where we all drill, we each share an experience that has changed us that only we can really relate to."

Summer training has drawn to an end. School has commenced and you are likely back into the routine with your unit. This year, let's focus on our service to our communities. Dig deep and think of the best ways to give back to the people around you. As you plan this year's activities and work on completing your advancement requirements, let's remember that what we give back to our communities is far more important than what we get. Honor, Courage and Commitment: to ourselves, our units and our country.



Jason Baum, Sr.

## Welcome to Our Family

A big welcome to our new units, TS Henry M. Jackson of Everett, Wash. and Sandhills Squadron of Fayetteville, N.C.!

*There are many valuable news and information resources available to you. In addition to these, please consider our community of volunteers as your best resource!*

**Website:** [www.seacadets.org](http://www.seacadets.org)

**Policy and Reference:**

[www.homeport.seacadets.org](http://www.homeport.seacadets.org)

**Online Unit Management:**

[www.magellan.seacadets.org](http://www.magellan.seacadets.org)

**National Facebook page:**

[www.facebook.com/usnscc](http://www.facebook.com/usnscc)

**National Twitter page:**

[www.twitter.com/seacadets](http://www.twitter.com/seacadets)

## Let's Honor Our Vietnam Veterans

In 2015, the United States will mark the 50th anniversary of our official entry into the Vietnam War. Committed to honoring veterans of the Vietnam War, the Vietnam War Commemoration would like to invite each of our units to sign up to become Commemorative Partners. By becoming partners, units will commit themselves to participating in two commemorative events per year. Most of our units already meet this requirement by participating in parades that honor our nation's veterans and other veteran appreciation activities, so becoming a Commemorative Partner would serve to formalize our commitment to our veterans.

We would like to encourage every unit to join NHQ and sign up as a commemorative partner. For more information, please visit our website at [www.seacadets.org/vietnam-war-partners](http://www.seacadets.org/vietnam-war-partners).





### New York

Cadets from LT Michael Murphy Division learned chart navigation.

Courtesy of LT Michael Murphy Division



### Florida

Cadets from Sun-coast Squadron threw lines aboard USCGC *Resolute*.

Claire Copeland



### Guam

Cadets visited the security facilities at Naval Base Guam.

U.S. Navy photo by Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Jonnary Pagan



Photos courtesy of MIDN Austyn Sutton, USNR

MIDN Sutton as a Sea Cadet (left) and now, as an NROTC Midshipman (right).

# The Importance of Making Mistakes

By Midshipman Austyn Sutton, USNR

As a leader, it can often feel as if there is an insurmountable pressure placed upon you to be perfect. Whether it be the cadets under your charge, your peers, or your superiors, it is easy to believe your every action is being scrutinized and watched. Despite all of this, it is important to settle with one simple fact. You will never be a perfect leader and that is perfectly okay. Admiral Chester Nimitz once ran a destroyer aground and Captain John Paul Jones almost lost the *Bonhomme Richard* in battle. Despite this, both of these men are among the most recognized names in American naval history.

It is not a matter of if you will make a mistake, but merely a matter of when. As a Sea Cadet, I can recall countless mistakes that I made throughout my career. However, what will set you apart from your peers is how you react to mistakes you make. First and foremost, you must recognize a mistake has been made and learn from it. A leader who learns from their mistakes and attempts to teach their lessons to others is a leader of strength. Not only is it important to analyze and learn from a mistake, but, if necessary, to apol-

ogize to those who have been affected. If you can learn from and remedy your mistake, those around you will respect you more for it. As the Irish poet Oscar Wilde once said, "Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes." Never let fear of making a mistake hold you back. Instead, step up and embrace the opportunity. It is how we, as leaders, grow.



**“** A leader who learns from their mistakes and attempts to teach their lessons to others is a leader of strength. **”**

Austyn Sutton is currently an NROTC Midshipman studying at Texas A&M Galveston. As a former Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer with the Central Maryland Corsairs Squadron, he attended eight advanced trainings.

# Chief's Corner

## The Key to Successful Leadership

By Chief Petty Officer Thomas M. Mathis, NSCC  
Charlotte Division, Charlotte, N.C.

There is an old saying that many businessmen use to motivate their peers and it resonates in my particular leadership style. It goes, "If you wish a man to build a boat, do not give him tools or lumber or plans; rather, you simply have only to show him the vastness of the sea." This saying lends credence to an often forgotten principle of leadership: inspiration. Admittedly, a leader can show their command punishment, firmness, or even brute strength to push through a task and deliver results, but they will find that this progress lacks a soul. It is forced and requires ever more force to maintain its momentum.

What, then, could be the most sustainable means of enthusiasm, if not inspiration? We find that the greatest leaders in history were not the greatest disciplinarians, but were more in tune with a certain audacity that drove men to do great things. Would John Paul Jones have defeated the *Serapis* if he had not first stood up and yelled that he (and his crew) had not begun to fight? Would Admiral David Farragut have captured Mobile Bay if he had not challenged his crew to "damn the torpedoes" and steam onward?



Courtesy of CPO Thomas Mathis, NSCC

Obviously, we, as leaders, must command by example, but I would argue something more. As a chief, a petty officer, or even a seaman, we are called by greatness to endeavor to find our units' passions, to ignite those passions, and to see that passion carry through to greatness. Each one of us must understand this: Force of arms is never an ample substitute for force of will.

## Going Outside of My Comfort Zone

By Chief Petty Officer Logan Novak, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

This past summer I had the privilege of being Command Chief of a training at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Mich. I was in charge of and helped run the training of both staff cadets and cadets from all over. It reminded me how much I've grown and accomplished since I began as a League Cadet seven years ago.

When I first started as a League Cadet, I knew I wanted to be the Ship Leading Petty Officer and earn as many ribbons as I could. I set and aimed for this goal and accomplished it. As I graduated to the Sea Cadets, the goal was to one day be a Chief Petty Officer and earn those ribbons. During my training, I worked on building my "leadership toolbox." I filled it with everything I learned: the "screwdriver" to hold us together, the "file" to sharpen our skills and the "wrench" to turn each of our opportunities into success. I began to use these tools as I moved through the ranks.



Courtesy of CPO Logan Novak, NSCC

One of the most important realizations I had was that my road to personal success needed to be based on challenging myself and going outside my comfort zone. In doing so, I achieved my goal of becoming a Chief Petty Officer. This past year I was named Chief Petty Officer for the Wolverine Division out of Monroe, Mich. It truly was one of the proudest days of my life!

I'm thankful for the opportunities I've had and been given. I've learned how to be a good leader and know that I have a responsibility to be a good role model. However, the biggest lesson I learned was in order for me to continue to grow and succeed, I need to challenge myself and step outside my comfort zone.



# Alumni Spotlight: Special Edition

*Our Alumni and Volunteers Forward Deployed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa*



Staff Sgt. Leslie Keopka

Front Row: LCDR Danny H. Cruz (Chicago Division, John F. Kennedy Division), Sgt. Jennifer B. Slown (Ghostriders Squadron, Central Iowa Division) Back Row: LSC Felix I. Jordan, LT Teresa A. Perez (Enterprise Division), CDR Brett D. Chauncey (Hubbard Division), Mr. Kirk A. Stevens, IT1 Cynthia Martinez, LT Jason T. Godusky, Mr. Jason C. Hickman, A22 Jonathan M. Sub (Pittsburgh Battalion)

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Leslie Keopka  
Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa  
Public Affairs Office

Lt. Cmdr. Danny Cruz, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa staff civil engineer, spent three years as a Sea Cadet. He joined at 15 with the Chicago Division and when it closed, transferred over to the John F. Kennedy Division in Forest Park, Ill.

Cruz originally enlisted on active duty in the United States Marine Corps and then transitioned to the USMC Reserves. After earning his engineering degree, Cruz commissioned through Navy OCS in 1998 and remains as an active-duty engineering officer.

“My advice [to current and future Sea Cadets]: go all in,” Cruz said. “Academics, athletics and teamwork; approach life with no holds barred and give your all in everything you endeavor.”

Petty Officer 1st Class Cynthia Martinez, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa tactical communications NCO in-charge, entered the program in sixth grade and spent seven years in a Los Angeles, Calif.-area division.

“The Sea Cadet program taught me responsibility, respect and integrity at such a young age,” said Martinez. “The mental and physical challenge I experienced has guided and shaped me to never settle for less; I try to instill that same mindset with all who I serve with today.”

The community and camaraderie of the Sea Cadet program tailored Martinez’s decision to join the U.S. Navy. She encourages current and future cadets to step out of their comfort zone and always strive to become a better citizen, leader and cadet.

“For those who might wonder what happens when cadets graduate, here it is. Former cadets doing great things, positively changing the future of Africa.”  
— Sgt. Jennifer Slown, USMC

To all of our deployed alumni and volunteers:  
We thank you for your service!

# Recruit Training a Success in Great Lakes

By Lt. Cmdr. Brian Kobleur, NSCC  
CO, Recruit Training-Illinois (RTIL) 2014

Shipmates, my staff and I couldn't be more proud of the great teamwork and results at this year's RTIL 2014. Together, Team Family delivered impressive results in our 52nd year at Recruit Training Command (RTC) Great Lakes. The best part of the experience for me is the incredible transformation I see in many recruits during the 10 days between Intake Day and Graduation Day. My staff and I are incredibly proud to be the start of your transformation into more mature and responsible young adults.

Specially-trained Recruit Division Commanders (RDCs)

provide all of the hands-on instruction, using the Navy's most current training methods. They make Recruit Training at RTIL such a unique and positive experience. They are phenomenal to train with, and we are so fortunate to enjoy their enthusiastic support and participation in our training.

The staff of RTIL wish each and every one of you success in school, in your Sea Cadet career, and in your life beyond, whatever you choose to do. Carry with you always the lessons of RTIL, and remember always that you are capable of so much more than you might have believed possible.

## Coming Together as a Team

By Seaman Apprentice Grant Domingo, NSCC  
Yorktown Division, Charleston, S.C.

During my experience at RTC Great Lakes, the word "team" was the only word in our vocabulary. Everything was about the team, not about yourself. I believe that the fact that everyone was having a new experience really helped most of the cadets come together as a team and compete with the other divisions as one. Even while we were competing against each other, the four divisions all came together as one to make the graduation a special experience for themselves and their parents.

As for my experience at RTC Great Lakes, it was one of the best times of my life. Though at first it may seem like all the cadets are miserable, we're only getting used to it. All of the things we learned definitely made it enjoyable. The staff cadets, RDCs and Division Officers were all there on their volunteer time and they always did their best to help us learn and thrive.

I would just like to say thank you for all the people that helped my division and me thrive throughout RT, and I would also like to say good luck to all the incoming cadets! Make the most out of it!



Jennifer Wells

## Boot Camp 'Isn't All That Bad'

By Seaman Recruit Michael D'Onofrio, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps "boot camp," an infamous title that recruits dread, isn't all that bad. My experience with boot camp was quite the opposite of the stereotypical terrible, gruesome experiences I had heard from my friends and higher-ranking peers. Throughout my nine days of boot camp I learned how to march, stand watch, make my rack according to RTC instruction and many other basic naval customs.

Sounds pretty boring, right? That's because I failed to mention the platform jumping, weapon firing, fire-fighting

and other activities that I participated in. Nevertheless, Naval Sea Cadet Corps boot camp isn't all fun and games. Different tactics are used to teach the recruits the core values of honor, courage and commitment, develop our character, and instill a positive attitude. Some of these tactics are tedious and annoying, such as making your rack (bed) countless times until you can make it perfectly without a single mistake, and others are brutally straightforward (yelling). In the end, boot camp, for me, was enjoyable. I made plenty of new friends and made memories that will last a lifetime.



# Inside Look: Recruit Training Great Lakes



LTJG Adam Glaysheer, NSCC

## Day One

On intake day, recruits arrive, check in, receive haircuts and are assigned to their divisions.



LTJG Adam Glaysheer, NSCC

## Day Two

Recruits spend time in the combat swimming pool learning essential skills.



PO1 Miranda Heis, NSCC

## Day Three

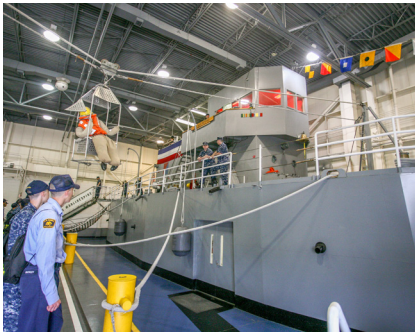
Recruits stand whites personnel inspection and receive instruction on how to wear, care for and stow their uniforms.



LTJG Adam Glaysheer, NSCC

## Day Four

Recruits complete their baseline Physical Fitness Assessment, based on Navy standards.



SA Samantha Loto, NSCC

## Day Five

Recruits experience shipboard procedures aboard USS *Marlinspike*.



PO1 Miranda Heis, NSCC

## Day Six

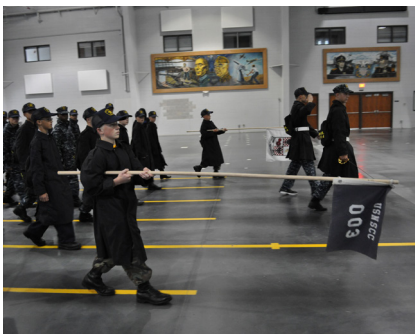
Recruits receive marksmanship instruction and fire for pistol qualifications.



LTJG Adam Glaysheer, NSCC

## Day Seven

Recruits learn shipboard firefighting procedures at USS *Chief* and don the gear to douse the blaze.



PO3 Kaylee Ritchey, NSCC

## Day Eight

Recruits participate in drill assessments and have their final personnel inspection by a Fleet Quality Assurance inspection team.



PO1 Miranda Heis, NSCC

## Day Nine

Recruits prepare for graduation, which includes a final knowledge test and a compartment readiness inspection.



INST Smith, NSCC

## Day Ten - Graduation



# Flying at Aerial Robotics Training

By **Seaman Apprentice Sophia Estes, NSCC**  
Michael A. Monsoor Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

I recently attended the STEM Aerial Robotics training at Camp Pendleton. STEM is a training that inherently focuses on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the province of aerodynamic studies. One positive aspect of this training was the convivial atmosphere that facilitated the prodigious amount of knowledge acquired from STEM. This training not only taught me in the classroom, it also engaged me in hands-on learning activities that captured my attention and significantly expanded my understanding of the topics being discussed.

My favorite learning activity was flying the remote-control airplanes above the flying field because it helped me understand the flight principles by applying what I learned in the classroom to real life. While learning in the classroom, the instructor, Lt. j.g. Eugene Anastasi allowed multi-

tinuous opportunities to participate, which helped the cadets remain engaged.

During STEM, the most difficult but most useful knowledge I gained was how to charge all different types of batteries. After being part of the battery maintenance crew, I now consider myself an expert on batteries, as I am capable of charging nicads, LIPOs, NiMh, NiCd, and Pb batteries. I also really enjoyed the engineering aspect of the training, such as wiring a camera to special goggles to attach to the airplane to see what the plane is seeing.

Overall, the exceptional organization of the STEM program, the challenging and exciting environment, and wealth of knowledge I have gained has made this my favorite advanced training.



Photos courtesy of Camp Pendleton's Photojournalism Training



# Learning Engineering Concepts at USNA

By **Petty Officer 3rd Class Melissa Snyder, NSCC**  
Akron Battalion, Akron, Ohio

Going to STEM camp at the Naval Academy was a great opportunity for me and I am so grateful that I was chosen to go. The classes taught me a lot about different fields of engineering, and the professors explained everything and helped us when we had trouble grasping a concept.

The midshipmen answered any question we had about the Naval Academy and gave us tips on what classes we should be taking and the application process to get in. I met a lot of great people who have the same interests as I do, and I'm sure we will stay in touch long after STEM 2014 Session Two. I also want to thank all the midshipmen for volunteering their time.

Did you know? The Summer STEM Program at the U.S. Naval Academy is available to rising 9th, 10th and 11th graders from around the country. For 2015 session dates and more information, visit the Summer STEM Program's website at <http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/STEM/>.



Courtesy of PO3 Melissa Snyder, NSCC





Photos courtesy of SN Xavier Garza, NSCC

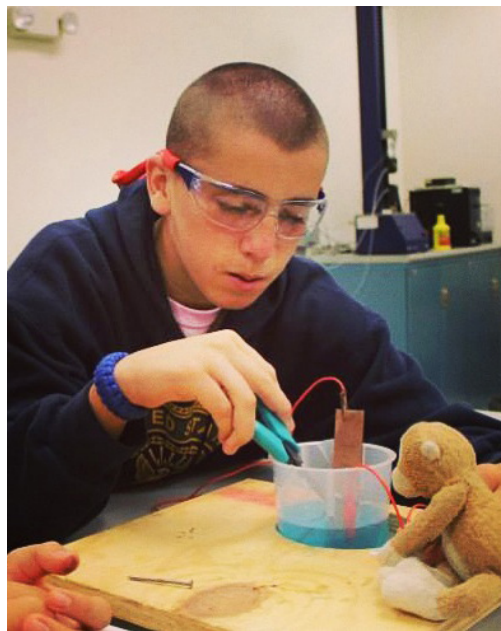
# STEM Training and Academy Life

By Seaman Xavier Garza, NSCC  
Desert Storm Division,  
Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

This past June, I was accepted into a STEM camp at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. I wanted to attend this camp because I wish to attend the academy and I wanted to learn new things, have fun, interact with midshipmen, and meet people from all around the United States. It is a highly competitive program and I feel being a Sea Cadet helped me get accepted.

On our first day, we went to an induction meeting where they told us about the history of the academy and what to expect. We were privileged to berth in Bancroft Hall, which is the largest college dormitory in the world. Every day we had three classes in the morning, such as aeroengineering where we built model rockets; robotic programming where we programmed robots to go through a maze; and fundamentals of aerodynamics.

After a lunch break, we would have three more classes, and then we had a sports period before dinner. On the last day there was one free choice of a class and there were options like chess, saltwater power, gadgets and gizmos, treasure hunt, and lunch at the museum. That night a guest speaker spoke about taking initiative and being motivated at home, if we



“The camp motto was, ‘If not me, then who?’ This statement challenges you to step up and make a difference.”

had jobs, or at school. The speaker talked about stepping up to be a leader and to help teach others who might not know as much. For example, if a Leading Petty Officer teaches someone in their squad how to handle new recruits and help them grow as a cadet, that person can become a better leader when it’s his or her time. This process is called passing it forward. The camp motto was, “If not me, then who?” This statement challenges you to step up and make a difference.

On the final day, we set up displays in Mahan Hall where parents could see what we learned at camp for the past week. The entire week I was there was a lot of fun. I learned a lot of new things, like how to solder wires, how torque is used, an easy way to take copper from a penny and coat a nail with it, and how to program security websites so hackers can’t steal passwords. I highly recommend applying because it is a great experience and it challenges people to act and think better. It also helps you become a better cadet because you have to be respectful and responsible for yourself

even when you are far from home. Sea Cadet trainings can teach you the basics of STEM, but at the USNA STEM camp they teach with a lot of depth and it will help your problem-solving skills, which develops a better leader overall, both as a cadet and as a civilian.

# Hands-On Training Is Invaluable

Every year, our cadets are welcomed at U.S. Navy and Coast Guard commands across the country. This hands-on training and glimpse into “the real Navy” and “the real Coast Guard” are invaluable to our cadets as they consider the opportunities available to them after they graduate from high school. The stories on pages 10 and 11 are from cadets who spent four days aboard USS *Anchorage*, homeported in San Diego, Calif. On page 12, you’ll hear from a cadet who spent two weeks at Coast Guard Station Ashtabula in Ohio, and on

page 13, from another cadet who stayed aboard USS *Essex* as part of Seattle’s Seafair Fleet Week. This is just a glimpse of the support shown to Sea Cadets nationwide.

To the crews of USS *Anchorage*, USS *Essex* and Coast Guard Station Ashtabula, and to all of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard commands that welcome us every year, we thank you for your support. Your hospitality, professionalism and sense of fun make a lasting impact on our cadets.



Photos courtesy of ENS Linda Wright, NSCC



## USS *Anchorage*: A Taste of the Real Navy

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Nolan Wright, NSCC  
El Toro Battalion, Irvine, Calif.

I arrived on the dock and saw what looked to me like an older frigate, but to my surprise it was an LPD, the USS *Anchorage*. The ship itself was outfitted with different equipment that blocked radar all throughout it. You could see the change in technology from the USS *Spruance*, a destroyer, to the USS *Anchorage*, an LPD.

The flight deck was one of the main highlights of the ship because it was large enough to hold two MV-22 Ospreys and could pretty much serve any purpose that you need on the ship; whether it be training exercises, piloting, entertainment, or just sitting and relaxing and looking at the ocean. As the highest-ranking cadet, I was chosen to be the LPO. Overall, I feel that I learned a lot more about leadership than any of the other cadets because I hadn't been put in a leadership position before. It was kind of scary being LPO because you're in charge of all of the cadets and it falls on you whether or not they get to do fun things based on their behavior, and it falls on you to know everything regarding where the cadets are, what they're doing. You have to be accountable

for those cadets and everything.

I didn't really talk to any of the different rates – jobwise – because I'm not sure what I want to do in the Navy. My dad was an ET1 and my brother was an AT3. My grandfather flew Mustangs in the Air Corps in World War Two so I might want to be an officer in the Navy. I listened during all the tours, which were interesting, but especially when we got to sit in the Officer's Mess and talk with a Navy “mustang” because then maybe I could do both and see things from both sides.

I would definitely do this again and not just because I was LPO, but because the crewmen, Cmdr. Joel Stewart, Lt. Windsor Frinell and Petty Officer 1st Class Mitchell were so friendly and made you feel like you were an actual crew member on the ship like in the real Navy. They gave us special tours that the public didn't go on. I had such a fun time with the trip and I bet all the cadets who have gone in the past would want to do it again in the future. It really gives you a taste of what the real Navy is like.





ENS Linda Wright, NSCC

## MV-22 Ospreys and PT With the Marines

By Seaman Apprentice Thomas McKean, NSCC  
Airpac Squadron, Santa Barbara, Calif.

This training was the greatest experience that anyone thinking about joining the Navy could ask for. I learned so much in the past few days, such as communication, combat and firefighting aboard ship. Those were only a couple things I learned.

Midshipman Gonzalez and I were the only two people to go into the control tower to watch the Ospreys land and take off. We also went to an 03 deck to watch them, and we had to wear the skullcap and goggles just like if we were directing the Ospreys. That was my favorite opportunity that I had.

We had the privilege to do PT with the Marines onboard, and even though I am Presidential in PT, it was still quite difficult for me.

I saw a lot in the bridge and it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn firsthand. I hope I get to do it again and I hope other cadets get to experience it for themselves.



ENS Linda Wright, NSCC

## Learning from the Ship's Crew



SN Jessica Guillen, NSCC

By Seaman Jessica Guillen, NSCC  
Challenger Division, Lakeside, Calif.

I have an interest in Mass Communications (MC), which is like photojournalism. Since I have such a passion for it, I was able to talk to the MC Chief and even carry one of her cameras around to help take pictures. She even gave me the opportunity to write out a caption about one of the pictures I took that she loved, which will be posted on the ship's website. Not only did she give me a chance, but she gave me some pointers. She told me which pictures came out amazing and which ones I needed to fix.

All in all, she gave me great advice. She told me her story about how she got to where she wanted to be and that if I'm devoted, I can, too. One great tip she gave me was, "When you enlist, just be sure to pick what you will enjoy. Don't be forced into a job."

# My 14 Days With the U.S. Coast Guard

By Seaman John Peters, NSCC  
Pittsburgh Battalion, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Two weeks at a Coast Guard station. Search and rescue cases, vessel boardings, and boat maintenance are just a part of it. This training is certainly different from the rest

Before we get started, a quick background about myself. I became a Sea Cadet in 2012. I attended RT at U.S. Coast Guard TRACEN Cape May in 2012, as well. Since then, I have learned about the missions of several branches as well as the occupations in them, but what stood out the most to me was the Coast Guard. After RT, I ended up contacting USCG Station Ashtabula, in Ashtabula, Ohio, about having my advanced training there, and soon enough my orders came through for them. The training in 2013 was fantastic, I even qualified as a Communications Watchstander, a PQS that the Coast Guard has. This year, however, was an even more interesting experience.

Upon the first day of reporting aboard, I was greeted with a search and rescue case. Unbeknownst to me, this case had set the operating tempo for the rest of my training. When a case was called in (including the one that we got at 1:50 a.m.), I went down to the communications watchroom to assist with position plotting and issuing radio transmission to the boat as well as other boaters. Along with radio transmissions, I also answered phone calls and relayed information to other agencies through the phone during a case.

When there wasn't a case, I was helping prepare the station for its ready for operations inspection, or RFO. Preparations included trailing the boat for a complete overview of the boat and its equipment, repairs and maintenance on the boat and its engines, and several underway drills. Daily maintenance of the boats during morning boat checks helped keep the amount of repairs down. Most of the underway drills I was part of are called Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercises, or BECCes. These include loss of steering, engine fires, loss of GPS, and collisions with a submerged object, to name a few. They all involve teamwork and are an important part of being in a unit.

Along with RFO preparations, I was able to get un-



Photos courtesy of BM3 Adam Garloch, USCG/Station Ashtabula

derway on one of the station's small boats, which was a 25-foot Response Boat-Small. In total, I had around 14 hours of underway time. My first time underway for this training, I was able to do a pyrotechnics shoot, which was firing off the flares that the station uses for various purposes. The Mark 79 and Mark 124 flares are both flares that were required for my PFD PQS, which was required to wear the life vest. I also shot off the Mark 127 flare, a parachute flare used at night during search and rescue.

The other times underway, we either practiced the BECCes, or we did vessel boardings. The boardings were safety checks, and unlike state or local agencies, the Coast Guard does not need probable cause to board a vessel. When we were looking for vessels to board, they allowed me to be on the helm, and what an experience that was. Hitting waves and making hard turns to port and starboard were my favorite, as I could actually see the capabilities of such an adverse boat.

This training is certainly one I'll remember, and my favorite. The training, being the only cadet there, was hands-on directly with me. One thing that really made this training stand out was the fact that I was treated as an important member of the duty crew, not just a cadet. If you are interested in the Coast Guard, or even just want an awesome training opportunity, I urge you to talk with your training officer about going to a Coast Guard Station. You won't regret it, take my word for it.





# Aboard USS Essex at Seattle's Seafair

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Katharine Shaw, NSCC  
Spruance Division, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

I attended the Seafair Fleet Week training in Seattle, Wash., this summer. This training was unlike any other I have attended before; living aboard the USS Essex for most of the week was an amazing experience that I will not soon forget. I, along with my 23 shipmates, got the chance to learn about and experience firsthand the daily routines of many crewmembers aboard the Essex. We were given the opportunity to shadow personnel from many different departments, including Boatswain's Mates, Medical crewmembers, and Culinary Specialists. The chiefs were especially helpful in arranging tours, shadow watches, and providing answers to our many questions. My favorite part of this training was everything from living aboard ship to helping the crew to meeting and bonding with new friends. Living aboard ship helped me better understand the everyday lives of enlisted personnel.

The first night of the training, we got the chance to be in the Seafair parade, which was very exciting and a huge honor for me since I am from Florida. Thanks to our incredible adult staff, we were able to tour the Museum of Flight, ride the Ducks in Seattle, explore Seattle on liberty, and even see the Blue Angels in Genesee Park. I had an amazing experience at the Seafair Fleet Week, and I hope to go back as a staff cadet next summer.



Elaine Torres



Elaine Torres

## A 'Competitive Spirit' at NASS

By Chief Petty Officer Joseph Jones, NSCC  
Alexandria Division, Alexandria, Va.

As a Sea Cadet, it is an honor and a great adventure once you select a career of military service. I aspire to be a midshipman and fly jets in the Navy. From a very young age, I realized that I wanted to serve my community and was awestruck by brave young men and women who make sacrifices to preserve the American way of life. I have always had a strong interest in the Navy and its various opportunities for all.

I attended the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS), which was exciting, challenging and inspiring for a high school student. As a rising senior, the six-days were a great taste of academy life as a midshipman. I had the opportunity to talk to my squad leader and other shipmates, which was a great teambuilding exercise. I believe the program was well put together, and I enjoyed the Sea Trials that we did against other companies. The competitive spirit was motivating and I also enjoyed the classes. I see this training as a positive development in enhancing leadership skills.

My favorite was the cyber ops; I can really see myself making a positive influence on the world and protecting the nation's intelligence from enemies foreign and domestic.



Courtesy of CPO Joseph Jones, NSCC

# Strive for Excellence: Go Abroad

By Lt. Cmdr. Michael Campbell, NSCC  
Director, International Exchange Program

As Hans Christian Andersen wrote in his autobiography, “To travel is to live.” I keep this quote on my refrigerator to remind me how powerful international travel is to our cadets and officers. Hundreds of Sea Cadets from around the world experienced the benefits of travel this past summer. Whether sailing in the United Kingdom, learning about the maritime police force in Hong Kong or sampling lobster rolls in Newport, R.I., it’s all about friendship and sharing.

As you read about their experiences, remember that this program is available to you. Excellence is rewarded in our incredible Sea Cadet program. As you study for your school exams, try out for that special team or musical, practice your

knot-tying skills or strive for perfection in leadership. The IEP is waiting for you.

I live just 20 minutes from where Mark Twain said that “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.” That is truer today than it was when he put pen to paper. Strive for excellence and we’ll watch for your application next year.

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For more information about our International Exchange Program, visit the IEP’s website at <http://iep.seacadets.org> or send an email to [mcampbell@seacadets.org](mailto:mcampbell@seacadets.org).

## N.Y. Sea Cadet Trains in Sweden

By Lt. Cmdr. Forrest Woodward, NSCC  
Regional Director for Empire Region 03-4

Cadet Chief Petty Officer Forrest Simpson from the George Washington Division, Bronx, N.Y., recently returned from Karlskrona and Stockholm, Sweden, where he represented the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps as part of the International Exchange Program. Simpson has been enrolled since November 2008; he is a highly motivated and successful cadet and, now, a member of a very special league of cadets.

During the two-week training, the cadets’ primary barracks and base of operations was a small island just outside of downtown Karlskrona called Kungsholms fort, which is the world’s oldest continuously fortified military barracks. It has been in use since the 17th century and is one of four national summer training centers used by the Swedish Sea Cadets Corps Association.

They reached the island by way of a very fast combat boat. In route to their home away from home, they were treated to a demonstration of the boat’s incredible turning and stopping power. Turns out, this was a mere sample of things to come. The Swedish exchange is unique as the foreign exchange cadets participate in the same training the Swedish cadets are going through.

The first week found the exchange cadets on a road march deep into the woods before setting up camp for a three-day field training exercise. They learned how the Swedes march, work and survive when in the field. They received instruction in areas such as fire-starting, small unit and patrol tactics, camouflage, first aid, knot tying and general wilderness skills. This field exercise provided the cadets an opportunity to “bond” and learn about each other’s military customs and culture.

It wasn’t all work, as the cadets and their officers did get to spend time in the town of Karlskrona and, leave it to American cadets, they celebrated the 4th of July by purchasing an American football.

The final night on the island, they were treated to a big barbecue and send-off as they all shared memories of the past two weeks. The experience would not be complete without a closing ceremony with the Swedish cadets who rowed around the island at 1 a.m. with lights on their rowboats and docked in the fort’s harbor before they all stood in formation.

Chief Simpson enthused, “It was a truly amazing experience and I learned a tremendous amount (which I hope to bring back to my unit) by working with cadets from Sweden, the U.K., Hong Kong and Canada. From going out on field exercises and sailing with the Swedish cadets to participating in the royal changing of the guard and meeting the Chief of Staff of the Swedish Navy, it was an incredible trip.”



Courtesy of CPO Forrest Simpson, NSCC



# Swedish Cadet Enjoys Visit to U.S.

By FKCDt Ida Magnusson  
Sweden

To leave home and travel to a whole new country on a different continent for two weeks, meeting over 50 new individuals from seven different countries and live together with them on a huge naval base can sound a bit scary, and it was. But only in the beginning.

To be welcomed with open arms by completely wonderful people and to experience all the things we did and see all the amazing things and places we saw, made it very hard for us to say goodbye to one another and go home after two weeks together. I think many of us wanted to stay a little bit longer in our new home with our new family. But everything has to come to an end.

It was really incredible to see how youths from seven different cultures all over the world worked together and to see how we learned so much from each other. And to spend so much time with individuals who enjoyed the same things as you did was truly amazing.

I think this trip taught us all how we work with others, and with ourselves. I also think that something we all will bring with us and remember for the rest of our lives, besides our dear friends and to believe in ourselves, is that leadership isn't only talking, it's listening as well.

Last but not least, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made this exchange possible and also those who made it so incredible.



Courtesy of FKCDt Ida Magnusson

# 'A Life-Changing Trip' to Hong Kong

By Chief Petty Officer Sierra Slobodecki, NSCC  
F. C. Sherman Division, Port Huron, Mich.



Courtesy of CPO Sierra Slobodecki, NSCC

My first thought upon the arrival to Hong Kong was, "Wow, this is nothing like the United States!" The International Exchange Program through the Naval Sea Cadets was most certainly the trip of a lifetime. Just experiencing the customs and cultures of this trip was more than enough to fulfill my expectations. It is difficult to describe in words my amazement for this country because seeing is truly believing. Everything about it was beautiful. We traveled throughout the busy city, observing all of the people and appreciating the magnificent skyscrapers. It was so amazing to travel only a short distance, and overlook the beauty of the countryside of Hong Kong. At night, there was no better sight than looking out at the bright city lights.

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“ My first thought upon arrival to Hong Kong was, ‘Wow, this is nothing like the United States!’ ”

My trip to Hong Kong was definitely a life-changing trip. Being able to interact with cadets from different countries was unbelievable. They all had something

to share about their homes and were eager to hear about the United States as well. These interactions created friendships on this trip that one knows will last a lifetime. The host cadets from Hong Kong were beyond great. They were welcoming and treated us even better than family. These cadets put our needs before their own and were always there when we needed them. I am so thankful to have been able to travel with that outstanding group of cadets all around Hong Kong.

Each day was excitement filled and jam packed with cultural and fun activities. We were grateful to be able to visit many organizations such as the Museum of Coastal Defense, Marine Police Headquarters, and the Fire Services Department Diving Base. I cannot begin to describe how welcome and at home I felt at each of these visits. They all treated us with respect and kindness. Overall, I was thankful to have this opportunity to step outside my comfort zone of everyday life and experience this amazing country as well as represent my home country, the United States.

# Applying to USNA? Read This First.

By Lt. Douglas Cabarle, NSCC  
[USN, RET]  
U.S. Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officer

Applying to the Naval Academy might seem apparent for Sea Cadets as a first choice. However, many cadets struggle with sharing their Sea Cadet experience during their Blue & Gold Officer (BGO) interview. Part of the interview consists of evaluating communication skills. Your BGO may not be aware of the value of the program, and this is your opportunity to highlight your leadership skills and your contribution to the program. For cadets who benefited from training on an active-duty military base or the International Exchange Program, explain how you interacted with both enlisted and officers. Petty Officer Leadership Academy training is a leadership discussion item that should be addressed.

Be sure to describe lessons learned — even if you learned the hard way! We want to know how you overcame obstacles, especially when surrounded by cadets from across the country with different values than yours. Another tip is to send your BGO your resume prior to the interview. Although it is not a mandatory document, it does help the BGO in providing a strong evaluation and shows you are better prepared than your competition. Be sure to include key items such as community service, employment, awards, and leadership positions.

I would like to invite cadets and parents to join my USNA Candidates Facebook Group, which can be found at [www.facebook.com/groups/USNACANDIDATES](http://www.facebook.com/groups/USNACANDIDATES) or to email me directly at [dcabarle@seacadets.org](mailto:dcabarle@seacadets.org).

# A Symbol of Freedom

By Seaman Apprentice William Adams, NSCC  
Vollrath Division, Cascade, Wis.

The ACUITY Insurance Flagpole is truly a magnificent symbol of freedom. The idea started when Ben Salzmann, the president and CEO of ACUITY Insurance, went on one of his daily walks with his wife and said, “You know, we should put up a really tall flagpole.” And so they did; they put up the tallest flagpole in the United States.

My unit, the Vollrath Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, attended the ceremony for the flagpole and served as side boys for the arrival of the official parties. It was an honor to be able to meet and greet people and to salute the national ensign on such an important occasion.

The flagpole makes me feel proud to live in Sheboygan County. Whenever I look at the flagpole, it encourages me to pursue my goal to become a Navy SEAL. At the ceremony, there were many important people in attendance, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, many military officers and personnel, and Navy SEALs. That was the most exciting part — seeing actual Navy SEALs for the first time in my life. The day of the ceremony was definitely a milestone in my life.



Seth Starck



Courtesy of Vollrath Division



# Best Practices from the Field:

## Recruiting and Retention

By Instructor David Otte, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

Since our very first drill weekend in September 2013, Wolverine Division quickly grew in terms of overall enrollment numbers. Beginning with four officers and staff, we now have 11. Sixteen cadets showed up that first weekend, some of whom had transferred over from other units. As of our commissioning ceremony, which took place this past June, we had 37 Sea Cadets and 10 League Cadets. While we have enjoyed a steep growth curve over the last year, just like any other unit, Wolverine Division is not immune to attrition.

Regarding potential recruits, we encourage parents who inquire about the program, have their child attend one day of an upcoming drill weekend as a “shadow” to see if the program is right for them. Taking part in the activities of the day helps give them insight and a feel for whether Sea Cadets is right for them. Our conversion rate for these shadow candidates is 81 percent.

Cadets being active in their communities and those surrounding your unit location is very important. Even if your intention is not to recruit, by being visible and taking part in activities like parades, memorials and commemorative celebrations, your units are promoting the program as a whole.

We try to balance the time we have with our cadets during drill weekends between three main themes: classroom time, physical training (PT) and hands-on training. We use our time in the classroom for instruction related to coursework, uniform rules and regulations and other information specific to our unit and the USNSCC. We try to have a guest speaker on a regular basis and our cadets have enjoyed presentations from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Naval Academy to name a few. PT can be monotonous, which means constantly changing up routines and activities is important. Our staff gets very creative to make sure exercises vary from one drill weekend to the next. If planned for and carried out properly, PT can be turned into fun, exciting games that keep our cadets active and engaged. One time, we set up an obstacle course using a web of ropes. Our cadets were then ordered to enter a “minefield” and follow commands to save a fallen shipmate, while also dodging en-

emy “small-arms fire.”

Hands-on training is invaluable to the program. Just as they would during an advanced training evolution, we try to give our cadets opportunities to learn for themselves by preparing activities they can participate in that translate to “real world” experience. For example, with equipment provided by a military veteran’s group, our cadets spent part of a drill weekend learning about water-borne survival techniques in the pool facilities at a local high school. During another drill weekend, that same military veteran’s group brought a Civil War-era cannon to our drill location, giving our cadets a chance to learn about the operation and maintenance of the gear that was so vital to the birth of our nation.

At the close of each drill weekend, we hold an awards ceremony, which is open to friends and family, to celebrate our cadets’ many accomplishments. Whether it be a certificate of achievement, a promotion or a pinning ceremony, all are worthy of official recognition. Being called out of formation to receive an honor in front of their peers builds confidence and motivation. Because of their time and effort put forth in earning this recognition, they deserve to be rewarded and it’s our responsibility as their training team to ensure they receive proper accolades in a timely manner.

Reaching out to past and current members of the military has gained our unit many new friends and mentors, most recently leading to Wolverine Division being “adopted” by the Nimitz-class supercarrier USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76). Examples of the benefits of building strong relationships can be seen in everything we do.

Together we make every effort to keep trainings and drill weekends as fresh as possible, giving our cadets opportunities to grow mentally and physically. Together we encourage and motivate each other to adapt and overcome the challenges we face as a new unit. Together we’re moving forward keeping one main idea at the forefront as our goal: this program is about the kids in and around our communities and about challenging them to become more than even they had ever thought possible.

Together everyone achieves more!

“The importance of recruiting cannot be understated. Our leadership fully understands that when drill weekends are packed with fun, challenging activities and educational opportunities that keep our cadets engaged, they will tell everyone around them about their experience.”

# The Qualities of a Leader

By Chief Petty Officer Cole Arnold, NSCC  
Manatee Division, Yankeetown, Fla.

Initially, I joined the USNSCC because my cousin had recruited me and was already a member. In the past I had played a variety of team sports, taken karate, and even spent a little time in the Cub Scouts, but I never found something that I could really stick with. But as I climbed the ranks, created a brotherhood with my division, and earned the respect of my peers, I was hooked. At the rate of petty officer first class in the NLCC, I was given my first squad of League Cadets. It was at that point that I found my calling, I was meant to be a leader, to help others and set an example. With each experience, good and bad, I kept going at it knowing that the lessons I would learn then, would make me the leader I am today. This determination of not wanting to fail and to learn all that I could drove me to try and achieve the rate of chief.

Although it is true that the rate of chief is directly a part of the USNSCC the characteristics of a chief are carried on into the real world. It is these characteristics that I wish to take away. The characteristics of a leader, of a person who is reliable, knowledgeable, and capable to accomplish any task that is set forth. A person who is willing to say, "Yes, I was wrong, but I have learned from my mistakes and next time I will do it better and faster." A person who realizes it is the ability to lead your crew that completes a mission, not the size of one's own ego. Lastly, I want to be able to take away the fact that I had the honor, the courage and the commitment to lead America's future in a program as great as the Sea Cadets.

## Inspiring Leadership: Paying It Forward

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Otte, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

This year I chose to go to Fort Custer, Battle Creek to Staff on the Navy League Orientation Course (NLO) for my summer training. I had no idea when I checked in about the adventure that was about to have!

It was early morning at about 0600, there was a session of PT in store for the young League Cadets. One of my cadets, LC1 Jorge Castillo, was one of the many League Cadets to participate in the PT session.

During the running portion of the PT test, LC1 Castillo slipped off the side of the track and rolled his ankle pretty badly. I was not present at the time to see this happen. It was not until we got to the barracks that I noticed Castillo lying in his bed. I came over to him and asked him, "Are you alright?" He replied, "Yes, Petty Officer, I just rolled my ankle really bad." I asked him, "Do you have to go home?". He replied, "I am not sure. Our OIC is going to call my parents and ask if they want me home or not." I asked him, "Do you want to go home?" He looked at me and said, "No, Petty Officer. I want to graduate like all my shipmates."

I could hardly believe my ears, as some of the other cadets were whining and complaining, saying they couldn't do it. This cadet was given a golden ticket, a one-way pass to go home, and he flat-out refused to take it because he did not want to quit. He didn't give up, he didn't want to go home, and he didn't want to leave his position. Even when the worst hit him, he didn't quit.

Overwhelmed by Castillo's bravery and unwillingness to

quit, an idea had sparked in my mind. I marched off to my OIC and explained that I'd be happy to help LC1 Castillo get to where he needed to be for each event.

My OIC said, "Well, if you're willing to, I don't see why not." I hurried back to LC1 Castillo and said, "You have two options. You can go home, or 'we' can get to graduation together as a team, and you will graduate with your fellow shipmates." With an ear-to-ear grin, he replied, "Let's do it!"

So we did it together. We traveled from one activity to the next, me double timing him some places and doing a few of the PT activities with him on my back such as the shuttle run. All of which he enjoyed (and so did I).

Soon we were there — graduation day. LC1 Castillo graduated with his shipmates from Bravo Company. Everyone was on edge and excited to see their parents and graduation. Looking at Castillo, I realized he learned that it's important not to quit, and not give up. He was not the only one who learned something though; I realized that League Cadets can be brave and overcome just as much as a Sea Cadet can. I saw an LC1 with the potential to turn into a great League Cadet Petty Officer that day. When graduation came, his bravery and the happiness of his parents and family members was my reward. Above all else, I was proud to pay forward the "inspirational leadership" which was shown to me during my own recruit training experience. I can only hope that LC1 Castillo is similarly inspired by my example.



Courtesy of PO3 Ryan Otte, NSCC





U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Martin L. Carey

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. — The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Michael D. Stevens delivered the opening remarks as the guest of honor for over 500 League and Sea Cadets at a graduation ceremony on July 19, 2014. Prior to the ceremony, MCPON Stevens met with the honor cadets from each Navy League and Sea Cadet training. He also met with the 11 Naval Reservists who served as staff during the two-week training. In his remarks, MCPON Stevens encouraged cadets to “go forth and be great in all that you do.”

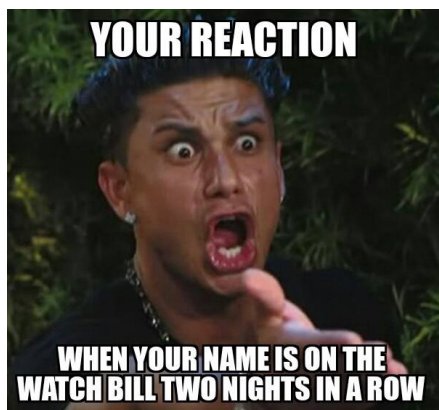
## Photo of the Quarter



Great Lakes, Ill. — Photographer **Jennifer Wells** beautifully captured the pivotal moment when recruits from Division 002 entered the Midway Ceremonial Drill Hall for their graduation from our Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes. They entered the building as recruits and left as Sea Cadets.



Jennifer Wells



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