



Adam Carbullido

Interview:
Capitol
Hill pp. 6-7



Courtesy of Ensign Mas, NSCC

Stories
from Winter
Training pp. 8-13

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Volume 2, Issue 1, March 2015

Sea Cadet Quarterly



Courtesy of Lexington Division

Teamwork Builds Camaraderie

This year's winter training evolution boasted more than 1,600 cadet participants at 54 locations across the country. Training events varied from scuba diving in Puerto Rico to field operations in California to Petty Officer Leadership Academy in Florida. Cadets endured the elements, the challenges and the unfamiliar as they pushed themselves to succeed.

Our winter survival training in Colorado is a Special Operations practical skills training course that combines winter survival with cold weather military tactics. Cadets learn shelter-building, treatment of cold weather injuries and hypothermia, fire-making techniques and military cold weather tactics.

The cadets, including those pictured above, persevered through teamwork, enduring freezing conditions. The nearest weather station read 22.4 degrees below zero during the evening of Dec. 30. Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Patrinostrro of Liberty Bell Squadron in Pennsylvania reflected: "In the mountains, your best resource is your squad. With a willing squad, you cannot only survive, but thrive."

This was the emergent theme from all of our cadets who participated in this winter's training. The articles in this issue illustrate that teamwork and camaraderie prove to be the greatest resources in every type of training, in every environment.

From the Field



Courtesy of Michiana Division

Michigan

Cadets brave cold weather to train with the South Bend SWAT team.



Courtesy of Battleship New Jersey (BB 62) Division

New Jersey

Cadets conduct shipboard training aboard Battleship New Jersey.



Maj. Robert Demchak, USAF (Ret.)

Maine

Cadets use the ship simulator at Maine Maritime Academy.

Letter from the Executive Director

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

Shipmates, with the start of another new year, you can gaze back with pride on what you've accomplished and look forward with excitement toward what is yet ahead of you. In this issue of SCQ, we have many tremendous stories of how winter training experiences helped to shape the lives of your fellow cadets as well as build their self-confidence. We had more than 1,600 cadets participate in this past winter training at 54 locations around the country, and they were supported by more than 250 adult volunteers who made the training possible. That was the largest winter training ever!

Now is the time for you to be setting your goals and preparing to achieve even greater things in 2015, and we at your National Headquarters are working on building a summer training program that will both motivate and challenge you. As we head into spring and the completion of annual inspections, I hope that all of you are focused on completing coursework for advancement and preparing for exciting summer training opportunities. The full schedule will be out soon. In the meantime, we already have several International Exchange Program events posted and are accepting applications for adults until 10 April and for cadets until 24 April.

Finally, for our graduating seniors who will be continuing on to college, we are accepting applications for Naval Sea Cadet Corps Scholarships from now until May 1st. So, as we bust out of this record-breaking winter weather and into the spring-time sunshine, let's charge forward with enthusiasm toward achieving our goals!



Lt. Adam Demeter, USN

On Feb. 3, Executive Director, retired Navy Captain James Monahan, presented the Sea Cadet Trophy to Captain Douglas Pfeifle. Pfeifle, the commanding officer of Recruit Training Command (RTC) Great Lakes, was recognized for his outstanding support of the Sea Cadet program. Pfeifle and his team at RTC Great Lakes work closely with Sea Cadet leaders to ensure an exceptional training experience for our recruits. Thank you for your enduring support, Captain Pfeifle!

Meet NHQ

Please join us in welcoming Amanda Kaer and Kathryn Scott to the NHQ staff.

Amanda joined us in February as the Training Grant Director and is responsible for the end-to-end execution of the training grant. Amanda hails from Morgan, Vermont and enjoys riding her motorcycle, a 2008 Kawasaki Vulcan 900 Custom that she bought last year. Amanda was a field radio operator in the Marine Corps from 2002 to 2009.

Kathryn joined our staff in January as the new Director of Administration. Kathryn retired from the Navy last year as a commander with 22 years of experience. While on active duty, Kathryn served in the Navy's Human Resources community, and her last assignment was on the staff of the Navy Inspector General here in Washington, D.C. In her free time, she loves spending time with her grandchildren.

Amanda and Kathryn are both excited to be at NHQ and are eager to make a difference.

Website:

www.seacadets.org

Policy and Reference:

homeport.seacadets.org

Online Unit Management:

magellan.seacadets.org

National Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/usnscc

National Twitter page:

www.twitter.com/seacadets

International Exchange Program:

iep.seacadets.org



Courtesy of TS Kit Carson

California

Cadets work on their land navigation skills during a drill weekend.



Courtesy of Robert I. Rudy Division

Pennsylvania

Cadets lay wreaths as part of Wreaths for America.



Ann Heis

Wisconsin

Milwaukee Cruiser Division participates in a flag disposal ceremony.

The D'Onofrio Family Sea Cadet Tradition

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Rosalie D'Onofrio, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

Sea Cadets has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. As a young girl I remember my brother James, who is now a youngster at the U.S. Naval Academy, leaving for a weekend every month. During the summer he would go on fun adventures — diving in California, shooting M-16s in Buffalo, and learning how to be a leader at his POLA training.

Once I turned 11, my parents let me join my local League Cadet Training Ship. A few years later, I became a Sea Cadet at an amazing division in Monroe, Michigan — Wolverine Division. When I transferred divisions, one of my other older brothers, now Seaman Michael D'Onofrio, decided he wanted to join Sea Cadets as well. James has led me and Michael to discover an amazing program that leads us to hundreds of opportunities and teaches us life skills that we will use forever.

With my father and two uncles being Naval Academy alumni, and my grandfather being a naval officer for 32 years, you can imagine our life is very military oriented. Back in December one of my older brothers, John, decided he wanted to join the military. He graduated from Air Force officer training on Dec. 20 as a second lieutenant in the Air National Guard. My dad flew the F-14 Tomcat, and now my brother will be flying C-130s. There are lots of fun Navy-Air Force jokes thrown around during the holidays at my house.

Sea Cadets has allowed me to build my knowledge of the military, as well as understand what my father and other family members had to go through to get where they are now. As a cadet, I've done many things. I've gone to boot camp at Great Lakes in Illinois, marksmanship training at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan, and POLA at NAS Jacksonville in Florida.

My favorite memory as a cadet would have to be POLA. My POLA experience is one I will never forget. The F.D. Roosevelt Squadron did a fantastic job of running it. With every leadership concept we learned, there was an activity to go along with it.

I made some awesome friends while I was there too. Seaman Catherine Barker made my experience there so fun, and I still talk with her on a daily basis even though she lives in Florida. Besides making an awesome friend, I found an amazing role model — Chief Petty Officer Kimberly Vickers of Manatee Division in Yankeetown, Florida. She was a phenomenal staff cadet that has really impacted my leadership skills and my outlook on Sea Cadets. I hope that one day I can be as good of a chief as she is. I want to be able to earn the respect from others that I have for her. All in all, not all POLA trainings are boring and dreadful; mine was amazing.

By the time I am a senior, I hope to achieve the rank of chief petty officer and participate in the International Exchange Program. I think it's amazing that other countries offer a program like this that their citizens can enjoy as well.

Our family loves Sea Cadets, and I hope to have my very own children go through the program. I am very thankful for Sea Cadets in my life, and I cannot thank my brother enough for showing me this program. I hope the D'Onofrio family Sea Cadet tradition will live on through future generations.



Courtesy of PO3 D'Onofrio, NSCC



D'Onofrio (left) with her father and brother, Seaman Michael D'Onofrio.

Chief's Corner: Growing As a Leader

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

What do I need to do to improve as a leader? This is a question that I have pondered ever since I entered into this program as a Navy Leaguer. When I first began my journey in the program, I was a timid and frightened individual. I can honestly say that after putting in seven years with the Naval Sea Cadets, I have become an independent and confident young adult. After reflecting on all of my experiences, attending and staffing multiple trainings like SEALs, medical, Master-at-Arms, scuba, Navy League Orientation, and the International Exchange Program to Hong Kong, this program has prepared me to be successful in the real world.

I have been told that as a leader, one will make mistakes. I have found this out for myself. However, I truly believe that in order to excel as a leader, one must put the time in as a follower. During my time as a follower in the lower ranks, I have observed many different leadership techniques and picked out the qualities that I liked and began to incorporate them into my leadership style. I have had many positive role models and influences in this program. I am also very thankful to those who helped me grow and develop into a leader.

To be a successful leader, one must get to know and build relationships with all of the cadets below them. A chief sets the example; they are the ones everyone looks up to. It is important to stay calm and collective in front of your cadets. Explain to the cadets in private what they are doing wrong

and praise them for what they are doing right in public. Do not focus on the power you gain as a chief, focus on what you can do to help your cadets improve as future leaders. Give each cadet the experience of being a leader. Help them to become confident individuals. To me, it is honestly the best feeling to watch cadets grow

from beginning to the end in this program. I know that I am doing something right when I have cadets from previous trainings coming back for advice and thanking me for everything that I have helped them with.

As I graduate from this program and continue my future as a Midshipman at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, Michigan, I hope to continue to grow as a leader and help our world to become a better place to live and work in.

“It is important to stay calm and collective in front of your cadets. Explain to the cadets in private what they are doing wrong and praise them for what they are doing right in public. Do not focus on the power you gain as a chief, focus on what you can do to help your cadets improve as future leaders.”



Courtesy of CPO Slobodecki, NSCC

Left: Slobodecki (center) in Hong Kong with her new cadet friends from Hong Kong and Japan. Right: Slobodecki (far right) is shown inspecting cadets for military bearing during medical training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois.

Alumni Spotlight

Former Sea Cadet Newly Elected As President of the NSCC Alumni Association

By Nathan Rolfe

I knew from the beginning of high school that the military was in my future. Both my grandfather and father served in the Navy during World War II and Vietnam respectively and I felt a strong desire to serve as well. Halfway through my junior year, a friend was telling me about the great weekend he had as part of a military youth program. I was instantly interested and went with him to the next meeting. It was then that I was introduced to the Sea Cadet program and I joined the C.W. Nimitz Squadron out of Arlington Heights, Illinois. The local Recruit Training was at Great Lakes where I got as real of a Navy experience as possible. Just three days after Great Lakes, I was on a plane for San Diego and spending two weeks aboard the USS *Fort McHenry*. I continued with the Sea Cadets through graduation, participating in several other trainings and receiving an invitation to the National Youth Leadership Council on Security and Defense in Washington, D.C. I left the Sea Cadet program as a Petty Officer Second Class, but that would not be the end of my involvement.

I threw most people for a loop and joined the Army instead of the Navy after high school. Despite wearing a different uniform, I was still drawn to the Sea Cadet program. Within just a few months, I contacted a local unit and began drilling as an adult leader. This would be the beginning of 17 years of support as an adult leader, working in nearly every position available within a unit and supporting several advanced trainings around the country. In 2000, while stationed in Hawaii, I was given my first command of the then Barbers Point Squadron. While my time in Hawaii was somewhat short, it includes one of my favorite memories from the Sea Cadets. In September 2001, only two days before the 9/11 attacks, I had my change of command on the fantail of the USS *Missouri*.

Like so many others, my military career went in a different direction following the 9/11 attacks. While transitioning from Hawaii, I was diverted to the D.C. area for what would be an unusually long assignment. After a year of supporting local units in various ways, I eventually settled down with the Central Maryland Corsairs Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, and assumed command in January 2003. My tenure with the Corsairs lasted nine incredible years of challenges and successes, and most importantly, was filled with awesome adult volunteers and many, many cadets of exceptional character.

I can honestly say that my life and career have been profoundly affected by my participation in the Sea Cadet program. For almost my entire 19 years in the program as a cadet and officer, I have held some sort of leadership position. I cannot say that even of my active duty career. And when the time came for me to assume leadership of Soldiers, I already had several years of experience, and lessons learned, under my belt which I am confident helped me be that much better of a non-commissioned officer in the Army. In an evolving military where the lines between the Services are being blurred, I also had a jump start on my peers by having almost equal exposure to the sea services as I did the Army.



Courtesy of Nathan Rolfe

Rolfe (center right) aboard USS *Missouri* during the recommissioning of the Barbers Point Squadron to Battleship Missouri Division.

I will admit however, that my loyalties were fiercely divided once a year during the annual Army-Navy game. Go team!

Today, I am an officer in the Naval Reserve (yes, I finally went into the Navy). Without a doubt, that would not be the case but for my involvement in the Sea Cadets. I received my commission through the Navy's Direct Commission program, which at the time was unique to the Naval Reserve for a select few career fields. I learned about this program from a fellow Sea Cadet officer, who had also been in the Army. Without that connection, there's no telling what my military career would look like now, if it even existed at all.

My favorite aspect of the Sea Cadet program has been the cadets themselves. I have had the privilege of training and working with hundreds of cadets over the years. Many have gone into military service themselves, or on to successful civilian careers in various industries. There is no greater feeling than receiving an email or phone call from a former cadet and hearing about the positive impact the Sea Cadet program has had in their lives.

I have even had to work through the mixed feelings of losing former cadet Pfc. Kevin Wessell, U.S. Army, who while deployed to Iraq in 2005, was killed in action while protecting the lives of his entire platoon. Every time I am at National Headquarters, I take a moment to reflect as I look at his picture on the wall of honor there.

I have also returned to the program that has been such a large part of my life with membership in the NSCC Alumni Association. In January 2015, I assumed the role of president of that organization and I am looking forward to working with a great group of former cadets and officers (and some current adult leaders) as we work to give back to the Sea Cadet program and support the thousands of cadets all around the country.

After more than two decades with the Sea Cadet program, I have only one regret: I wish I had known about it sooner.

Shameless Plug: If you are a former cadet, or a current or former adult volunteer, and are interested in a membership with the NSCC Alumni Association, please visit www.nsccea.org or email president@nsccea.org.

An Interview With Longtime Supporter, Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, D-Guam

The congresswoman from Guam has been a supporter of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps since 2003. In February she graciously sat down for an interview with us, which was comprised of questions sent in by our cadets and volunteers from Guam.



Petty Officer 2nd Class
Sheamus Strantz,
NLCC

Q: *How long have you been working with and supporting the Sea Cadet program in Guam?*

Bordallo: The Sea Cadet Corps provides a unique opportunity for our youth to become civically engaged and the programs instills important life lessons among its cadets. I have been proud to support the Sea Cadet Corps since I was first elected to Congress in 2003, and have worked with

my colleagues to protect federal funding for this program. In particular, when I became the Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee I took a leadership role in fighting for the program's annual funding. I believe that youth who participate in this program learn strong moral principles and demonstrate strong values as good citizens enthusiastic in serving their communities and our nation.



Apprentice Cadet
Lanz Estrella, NLCC

Q: *What do you like most about being a Congresswoman?*

Bordallo: Representing the people of Guam in Congress is a distinct privilege, and I am humbled by the continued confidence my constituents have placed in me to serve them. I am entering my seventh term in the House of Representatives, and I continue to advocate strongly to ensure that

Guam's issues and concerns are addressed. We have many challenges on Guam, but we continue to make progress on these issues. It's a difficult undertaking, but it is also the most fulfilling aspect of the job that motivates me to continue to serve Guam and our people.

Q: *What do people in D.C. typically ask about Guam?*

Bordallo: When I first came to Congress, there were many who would visit or call my office who would ask where Guam is. Thankfully, due in large part to Guam's growing importance in the Asia-Pacific region, I do not hear that question as often as I used to. Today most people in Washington have an understanding of Guam and the role we play as part of

the American family. Mostly, people ask about Guam's culture and history, and I am always happy to share my views and promote the unique and vibrant heritage of the Chamorro people and the diversity of our community.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Cali Strantz, NLCC

Q: *What is it like being a female Member of Congress?*

Bordallo: Women in Congress bring important perspectives when we discuss and debate policies that affect our country. As a female Member of Congress, I work diligently with my colleagues to protect values and perspectives that promote equal pay and equality, provide our children with a

quality education, protect the environment, and keep our communities safe, both at home and abroad. One of the most important aspects of my job is working together with my colleagues, and as a woman, that means being able to reach across party lines on issues that are important to my constituents.

Ensign Joe Strantz, NSCC: *How often do you sponsor Guam-based students in their applications for admission to one of the U.S. service academies?*

Bordallo: One of the requirements for a student to attend one of the service academies is receiving a nomination from either their Member of Congress or another qualified source. I have nominated very talented and bright individuals from Guam to the academies each year that I have been in office, and I am very proud of those who have gone on to attend and graduate. We have had a strong track record of cadets and midshipmen who have gone on to be successful officers in our armed services. The process for obtaining a nomination from my office usually begins in November when I begin accepting applications. My office is ready to help students who are interested in receiving a nomination, and we work closely with them to ensure that they are able to compete with other candidates nationwide. I have made it a priority to encourage students on Guam to seek admission to the U.S. service academies. We have a strong record of public service in the military on Guam and that is aided, in part, by Guam students being admitted to the service academies.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Gavin Whitt, NLCC

Q: What advice can you give Sea Cadets who are interested in attending Annapolis or one of the service academies?

Bordallo: My advice would be to stay focused on school and remain active in the Sea Cadets Corps. It is important to maintain academic success while being involved in extracurricular activities that will help prepare

you for the academies. Attending the academies is physically, mentally and academically challenging, and they look for students who are well rounded and demonstrate the potential to be successful.

Q: How much of the year are you required to be away from Guam and in Washington, D.C.? What do you miss most about Guam when you are working in D.C.?

Bordallo: Congress's schedule keeps me in Washington for a majority of my time. I try to make it back to Guam as much as possible, primarily during the longer District Work Periods. Further, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I often travel to military installations abroad. I always meet servicemen and women from Guam stationed at these bases; I am so proud of their service and always look forward meeting with them.

I miss being with our people and meeting with my constituents. Guam is such a close community, and the culture and beauty of the island is unmatched anywhere else. I am always able to connect with anyone I meet in Guam, and there is always some link that I am able to make, whether through a relative or mutual friends, that makes anyone from Guam feel like family.



Seaman
Tomoya Tisdale, NSCC

Q: What needs to happen for Guam to become a state?

Bordallo: In talking about possible statehood, we must recognize that Guam must first resolve our political status with the United States and decide for ourselves how we want to be affiliated with the U.S. I have long held that this is the most important long-term goal for our people, and

there has been some progress over the years to move us close to this goal. I have supported efforts to provide federal resources to assist the Government of Guam with this endeavor, and I will continue to support efforts to make a political status vote a reality. I hope that we will be able to resolve this issue in the coming years; but I do understand the very personal viewpoints this issue has among our community.

Q: What is your favorite local food? Do you have a favorite place to eat on Guam?

Bordallo: I cannot pick just one! When I am on island, I really just love going to a fiesta and eating a traditional fiesta plate.

Lt. Cmdr. Cecilio Gonzales, NSCC: Do you think it is possible that a new naval ship will be named USS Guam one day?

Bordallo: We do have a high-speed transport ship named the USNS *Guam*. I have spoken to the Navy about naming another ship after Guam. While I understand that there are many considerations that go into naming our ships, I would certainly welcome naming one of the active surface fleet ships the USS *Guam*.



Seaman Apprentice
Daniel Villanueva,
NSCC

Q: What advice can you give high school students who are looking to become leaders in their communities?

Bordallo: I would encourage anyone interested in public service to find what they are passionate about and get involved in something that nurtures their interests. There are so many organizations and people advancing a cause or working to improve the community, and they are

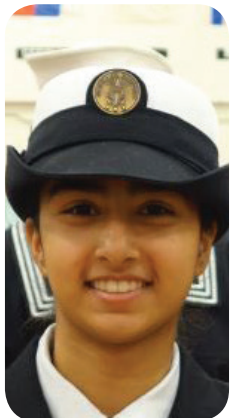
always looking to for people to share in their work. Before I entered public office, I volunteered with numerous organizations where I made lifelong friendships. I still keep in touch with many of these individuals and they were really the foundation that sparked my interest in serving in public office.



Bordallo and National Headquarters staff member, Kate McIlvaine, discuss the Sea Cadet program in Guam. The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has a strong presence on the island with two active Sea Cadet units and a League Cadet Training Ship. (Photo: Adam Carbullido)

Boot Camp: ‘If I can take it, I can make it’

By Seaman Apprentice Srinidhi Nagireddy, NSCC
Alexandria Division, Alexandria, Va.



Of all my accomplishments — academic and extracurricular — one of my most memorable achievements is my graduation from Recruit Training this past winter. On a crisp and cold morning in December, I reported to Camp Perry in Ohio both looking forward to and dreading the start of Recruit Training.

At first, the adjustment was very difficult for me. At age 13, I was the youngest of all the recruits, and this training was my very first time away from home. It was hard to get used to the strenuous physical exercise and the constant yelling at you to hurry up. For the first few days, I just wanted

to leave the training and go home. It was dreadful — and bitter cold! But, about halfway through the training, something clicked for me. I was learning from the staff cadets and the officers. I volunteered regularly for activities, made friends, shared duties, stayed awake during class and somehow got

through the many push-ups we had to do. I actually started to enjoy boot camp! I realized that by focusing on the positive things each day, I could appreciate what the training was doing for me!

On graduation day, I was overwhelmed to see my parents for the first time in nine days. I was extremely proud of myself for persevering through the challenges. Recruit Training has made me a stronger, better person, and I was sorry to leave. It instilled many values in me such as leadership, teamwork, discipline and service. I know now I can take on anything, if I set my mind to it. The quote “If I can take it, I can make it” reigned true for my Recruit Training, and I believe will be true for anything I do in the future!



Cadets stand in formation during their graduation ceremony.

Sridevi Settipalli

Training Reinforces Cadet’s Dream

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Isabella Cioffi, NSCC
F.D. Roosevelt Squadron, Jacksonville, Fla.

My two weeks of training in Tennessee was one of the most interesting and challenging experiences I have ever had. When I first got there, I was awestruck by how beautiful the woods were surrounding our camp. Little did I know that by the end of the training I would be able to navigate them with my eyes closed, which coincidentally was what I had to do because it was so dark. Every night I was dead tired, but it was the most satisfying feeling because I accomplished something that most people my age are physically incapable of doing. The photo accompanying this article was taken just before I qualified for my expert marksman ribbon. The instructors pushed me harder than I have ever been pushed before but they showed me that I could do whatever I set my mind to. The PT exercises they had us do every day were unique, and now that I look back on it, fun.

Every night when we had a mission, they would always be on the walkie-talkie telling us how to do things and when to do them. As the days passed we were given less and less instruction and truly tested on what we had learned the previous week. In week one, they separated us into three companies and in each company they gave us jobs. I was lucky enough to be a medic. Being a medic for my own company



POZ Josiah Mezera, NSCC

was interesting, but being a medic for the whole training was especially gratifying. Being a medic made me realize that I really want to become a doctor in the Navy. I have always known this, but this experience, solidified and reinforced my desire.

My experiences at Latimer are ones that I will never forget and I want to thank my amazing instructors for the time and effort they put into making this such an amazing experience.

Lasting Bonds from Field Ops Training

By Seaman Apprentice Andrew Beckman, NSCC
Long Beach Division, Bell, Calif.

Field operations training was comprised of basic Marine Corps reconnaissance and Army Ranger field tactics like land navigation, basic field medical, fire team and squad formations, patrol formations, escape and evade training and night operations. We started off with little leadership knowledge and didn't quite know how to work together. Throughout the training we traveled in small groups through Army ranges to include the EST 2000 (visual weapons simulator), the Leadership Reaction Course, obstacle course and land navigation course. As we moved through these ranges we interchanged roles within a typical formation. This taught us to think like a unit and gave us an

opportunity to form lasting bonds with each other.

Toward the end of training I observed huge changes in our company's work ethics. We were listening to each others' ideas, being more observant of our surroundings and most importantly, we learned that teamwork is crucial to the success of any group whether it is military or civilian in nature.

I recommend this training to everyone because it is a great learning experience and includes information that will prove useful in civilian life. I know many of us have gained a greater respect for what the armed forces do for us. Hooyah U.S. military!



Lt.j.g. Dawna Stewart, NSCC

Left: Cadets pose for a group photo during this winter's field operations training held at Camp San Luis Obispo in California. Right: Beckman (center) talking with his fellow cadets.

Teamwork and Leadership at POLA

By Seaman Grant Domingo, NSCC
Yorktown Division, Goose Creek, S.C.

Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA) at NAS Jacksonville in Florida was a great experience, both physically and mentally. Our group of about 30 cadets became a family from the second we formed up. Throughout the training we became even closer, learning from each other, passing on our personal experiences and having fun every step of the way.

We learned quite a bit from the training — everything a petty officer is supposed to know. We learned how to improve our leadership skills, and how to apply them in real world instances. We learned how to follow, which is required in order to lead. We played many team building games as a break from our classroom sessions, such as the human knot which was my favorite!

While this was all essential in our training, I learned one very important lesson while at POLA. That lesson was: no

matter where you come from, or who you are with, a good bond of teamwork and a few people willing to step up in leadership roles is required to have success in any task, and can further inspire you to challenge yourself and others; perhaps it can even encourage you to make a change or difference in the world.

Petty Officer Leadership Academy was an amazing experience, and a lifetime learning opportunity. I spent it with the best group of people I could ask for, and I learned so many things that I can apply in my life.



Cold Weather Lessons Learned at Drill

By Ensign Kathy Berghoff, NSCC
F.C. Sherman Division, Port Huron, Mich.

Most folks have heard of the “gales of November,” especially if you’re from the Great Lakes region. But Valentine’s weekend brought the frozen sweetheart gales in 2015. With temperatures well-below zero (25 degrees below zero on Sunday) and wind chills adding to the discomfort, most people would elect to stay inside and remain warm. The F. C. Sherman Division of Port Huron, Michigan chose a different tact.

Drill activities were scheduled aboard the training ship NSCS *Grayfox* long before the weather forecasts of bitter cold and biting winds. Cancellation or postponement was considered, but the unit’s annual inspection had been planned to take place during drill and rescheduling the inspection was not an option. F. C. Sherman cadets are a tough lot and they are experienced in conducting drill activities on board the ship in all weather conditions. A decision to proceed with drill was made.

The cadets arrived prepared for the weather with heavy-duty overnight gear and winter weather uniforms. The first order of business was to shovel the decks to gain better access and increase safety.

The weekend training evolution included a presentation by Jamie Burleigh, an instructor at the Pathfinder School in Port Huron, on cold weather

precautions for nights spent aboard the ship. Burleigh instructed the cadets in steps to take to prevent hypothermia. Dry socks, multiple loose layers and mittens instead of gloves were top items recommended by Burleigh, who has had experience in suffering severe hypothermia.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Zachary Bryce felt that Burleigh’s experiences added credibility to the lecture and warnings. Other cadets stated that they are now far more aware of the dangers of hypothermia and even a little nervous about over-exposure.

Burleigh asked the cadets about their plan to keep warm overnight on the ship. He reiterated the need for layers in their sleepwear, and cautioned against sleeping with shoes or boots on. He warned that if wearing boots to bed was necessary, it was essential to keep the feet dry. Another precaution given was to avoid breathing inside the sleeping bag or clothing. Burleigh explained that breathing inside clothing releases moisture that can freeze and cause hypothermia. He recommended putting cold hands in areas of high blood flow such as the armpits, neck and groin areas.

Cadets attending drill felt well-prepared for the weather they experienced thanks to the lecture presented by Mr. Burleigh.

Liberty Division Cadets Build Confidence

Submitted by Liberty Division
Lake City, Fla.



Liberty Division cadets participated in an exciting local training during fall semester. The first phase of training was a field training exercise which simulated a survival situation that the cadets would experience if their chopper crashed behind enemy lines. Although they were constantly under attack, the cadets all made it through until they were rescued the next day.

The second phase of the training was designed to increase confidence and teamwork. Cadets spent the day at the University of Florida’s Lake Wauberg Challenge Course where they worked

together to complete the low ropes course and then overcame their fear of heights on the Alpine Tower. Every cadet conquered the 40-foot tower by the end of the day.

Seaman Recruit Erika Clesi (pictured at left) stated, “It was a great experience and a good introduction to climbing.”



LTJG Elliot Robinson, NSCC

Training and Teamwork in Paradise

By **Ensign Enrique Mas, NSCC**
Mahan Division, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

If there is something that fascinates me about our program it is the seamless fashion in which people from all over the country can converge and work as one. This was exactly the case during this past winter's scuba training, which I hosted in Puerto Rico. Having been a Sea Cadet, I know exactly what a cadet expects from training: the thrill, the challenge, and the camaraderie. Therefore I decided to conduct a training that would mark the first of its kind in Puerto Rico in which cadets from the states would participate. I witnessed how four cadets from New York, Boston and Florida bonded with four Sea Cadet members from Puerto Rico. The training spanned nine days during which trainees learned how to manage their equipment, conduct safe dives and most of all, work as a team. There is no such thing as a lone diver; it is

against the rules and it was that exact motive for which the cadets took it upon themselves to become friends.

After long days of classroom work and practical exercises, the cadets bonded over food, the beautiful outdoors, their personal experiences and their experiences in the Sea Cadets. It is something to attend training and become part of a team, and it is another to be the host and COTC of the training and to be able to say that the training was a success thanks to the incredible group of cadets and officers, which I had the privilege to train with. It is for that reason I love this program so much and why so many of us invest time, sweat and money to better our country's youth and provide them with memories and teachings which will pave their paths in the future.



Courtesy of Ensign Mas, NSCC

Survival Training Worth the Challenge

By **Petty Officer 3rd Class Israel Diaz, NSCC**
Manatee Division, Yankeetown, Fla.

This winter I went to a survival training organized by the Marvin Shields Battalion. The training was held in the Green Swamp in Lakeland, Florida. Originally, I was supposed to be just a regular cadet attending the training, but they assigned me to be a staff cadet because they were short-staffed. At first, I was all tense and always at attention, but after setting up the campsite and getting to know the other cadets I started to feel more comfortable.

The first day was mainly teaching new cadets facing movements and marching. It felt like a recruit training. The second day, training was delayed due to rain. Later that day we started learning survival skills and about animals in the wilderness. During night watch we were told that panthers were in the area preying on food and hunting. We even heard

a high-pitched scream that one of the cadets said was a panther. The next morning we saw coyotes on the edge of the woods watching the training. Day three was more concentrated towards combat techniques and squad movements. We also raced on an inflatable obstacle course. Reveille was at 0630 because of the animals and because it was so cold. Lights out was at 2300. I loved this schedule.

During training I was taught the 16 rifle movements and I was assigned to the color guard for the graduation ceremony. During the graduation I was out there, prepared. The color guard was perfect and my squad was chosen as Honor Company. I felt very proud of myself and my squad, especially for not quitting despite the weather conditions and the challenges.

Determination Over Fear

By Seaman Tasha Wagner, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

It's Day One of boot camp and not knowing what to expect.
Is this something I really want, or something I'll regret?
Will I hold my head up high and forget about the past?
Will I jump and take a dive and come up a cadet?

TOE LINE! TOE LINE! TOE LINE!

I heard one Commander say.

As all these crazy thoughts began to fade away.

"Keep your hands to your sides and thumbs to the ground.
1,000-yard stare and don't look around!"

Every word and every yell made my body tense,
Not to mention a whole day, filled with lots of stress.

One hard part was reminding me, the reason I was there.

Those thoughts made me happy, and made me want to cheer.

For I knew when 'boot' was done I would have no need for fear

That I would be one step closer to becoming a leader.

Marching down the side street yelling a cadence
Knowing this was the LAST day and I'd actually made it!
Having taken a test the day before
And knowing if I passed I'd be home free.

Little faith did I have.

I always doubt myself

I'm glad I had my shipmates

There when I needed help.

Sea Cadets is not just another name in a book.

If you feel like it is, its time you take a look.

We Cadets work as a team.

We learn to become leaders.

Not just for ourselves but for others too.

Going on fun trainings; culinary, POLA, and CERT

Sea Cadets have fun and work together.

We learn military bearing, and attention to detail.

How to say Yes Ma'am, Yes Sir and shine our boots as well.

How much time we put into something determines the results.

So why not do something good and know you're not at fault?

As terrified as I was at the very start,

I didn't let the voice that said "I can't" tear me apart.

Instead, I kept my head up high and I stood my ground

USNSCC has changed me and it turned my life around.

*"Only as high as I reach can I grow,
Only as far as I seek can I go,
Only as deep as I look can I see,
Only as much as I dream can I be."*

Quote from Karen Ravn



Left: Wagner (left) and D'Onofrio during Wolverine Division's drill weekend. Right: Wagner during culinary training at Fort Custer.

Courtesy of SN Wagner, NSCC



INST Sue Dunn, NSCC

Staffing Recruit Training at NB Kitsap

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Wisshack, NSCC
Portland Division, Portland, Ore.

From the minute I arrived I could tell this training was going to be absolutely worth my time. Everything was very well-organized and made it much easier for the staff cadets and myself to do our job. The staff cadets were given a lot of freedom, control and responsibility in dealing with the recruits. I feel like I learned more because I was allowed the opportunity to make decisions as needed without requiring administrative supervision.

I enjoyed that we were given time to discuss our issues among the group of staff cadets but at the same time we could relax and talk about our lives and experiences in and out of Sea Cadets. Along the way I created many new friends and reinforced old friendships.

Our performance in the closing ceremony topped off the training; everything we worked for during the training came together. I'm very glad I attended this training and look forward to my next opportunity.



INST Sue Dunn, NSCC



INST Sue Dunn, NSCC



Sara Krebsbach

Top: Alpha Company was awarded the Honor Company distinction. Middle Right: The staff cadets assemble during graduation. Bottom Left: Cadets in line for chow at the Trident Inn. Bottom Right: Group photo on the bow of USS *Turner Joy*.

From Student to Teacher

By Chief Petty Officer Kasani Wise, NSCC
Fresno Battalion, Fresno, Calif.

On Sunday, the first day of training, we began by setting up the classroom. Once complete we found out this class was giving us the opportunity to design our own vehicles with the material on hand and a specific mission in mind. We worked in teams of two. Each team came up with a design, established a schedule and a plan to complete the build in a timely manner. Along the way we studied basic electricity, electromagnetism, how motors work, reading schematic and wiring diagrams, buoyancy and basic construction techniques.

On the fifth day of our training we actually put into practice what we had learned about motor construction. Our class hosted a Leaguer exploration class and we helped them build and understand motor design. The idea that we had learned enough to teach and help our younger shipmates experience a STEM training was very rewarding.

On Friday we took our projects out to the Marine Amphibious vehicle base. We tested our vehicles, onboard cameras, and the pyrotechnics. We learned a lot, but one of the most important things we learned was teamwork. It takes a whole lot of teamwork to do all this work in a short time.

I had a lot of fun. I enjoyed the learning process as well as troubleshooting problems. Because once I isolated the problem there was not only self-accountability for doing it right

the first time, but knowing that even if I did make a mistake there would always be a way to fix it at the source. The soldering was very hard to master, but after awhile it became very rudimentary. A sound mind is just as important as a sound body.

This training provides the basic essentials to go into any STEM field. My plans are to go into the Navy and specialize in a STEM-related field, working with female and minority groups.



Wise working on her soldering skills.

Courtesy of Lt. Eugene Anastasi, NSCC

CyberPatriot: 'A Passion for Computers'

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Samuel Precourt, NSCC
Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.

The CyberPatriot program is a cyber defense program that was created by the Air Force Association to educate people in the online world. This program is very educational, especially in this day and age when computers fit in your pocket. The CyberPatriot program teaches us to defend computers, write scripts, create and use programs, and many other fun and exciting techniques. A high school CyberPatriot team consists of two to five cadets, with a coach and a mentor.

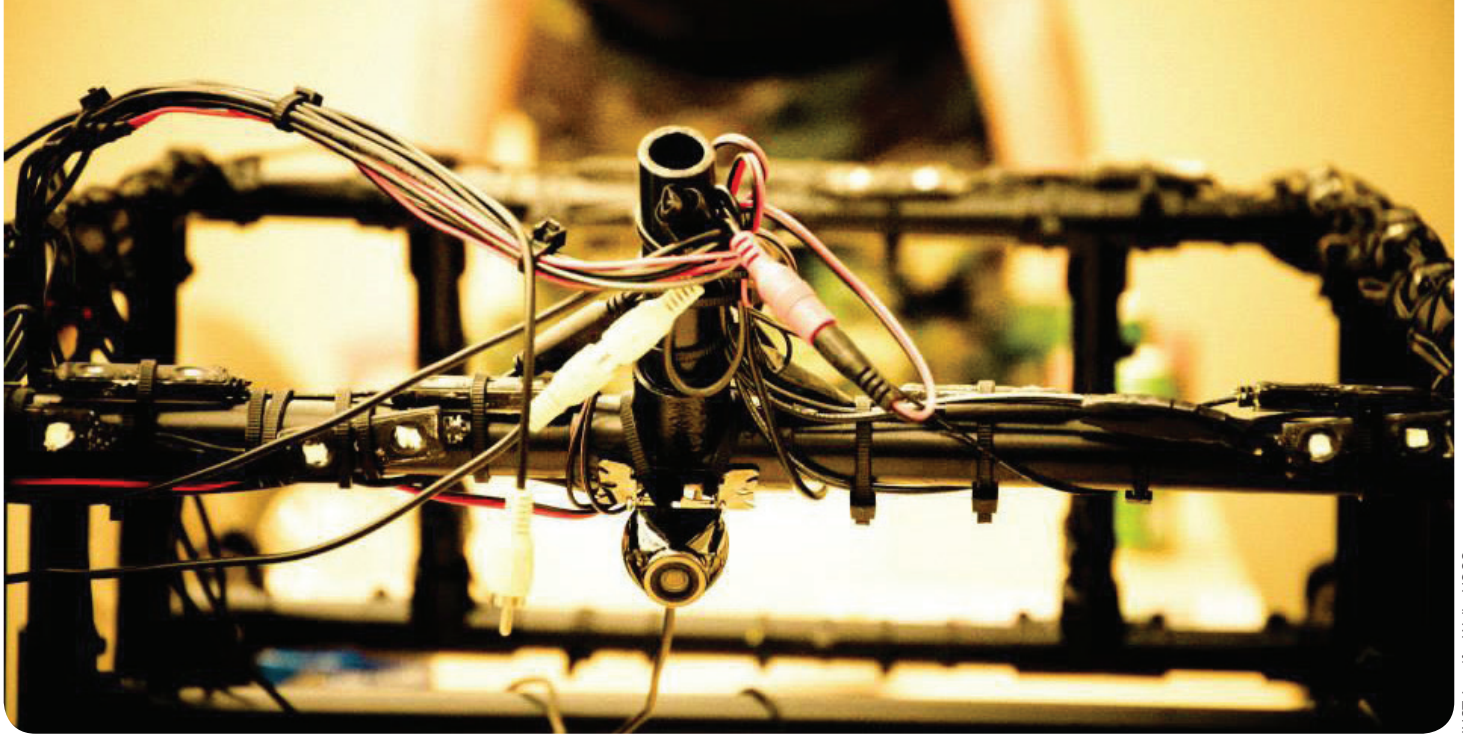
Learning how a computer works is fun, and so is learning how to use them properly and keep them safe. In today's society there are thousands of jobs that can be acquired by learning cybersecurity, because as technology progresses, threats to businesses expand. If you are able to learn at a younger age how to fix and secure a computer, you can take that knowledge with you to higher education and graduate with a degree.

If you have a passion for computers then the CyberPatriot Program is something that will not disappoint. I've seen people that didn't know much about computers go from not knowing what an operating system is to being able to do almost everything in command, which is what you had to do to use a computer before user interfaces were invented.



Courtesy of Centurion Battalion

If you are competitive or enjoy challenges, the CyberPatriot Program has a nationwide competition, with finals being hosted in Washington D.C. As a Sea Cadet involved in the CyberPatriot program, I would like to invite you to join your local team, progress and learn with them as you compete for number one in the nation.



INST Jennifer Wells, NSCC

Our Unit's ROV: Project 'Silent Knight'

By Petty Officer 3rd Class John Gibbs, Seaman Apprentice Alexandra Schreifels, Seaman Garret Smith and Seaman Virjle Wells
Polaris Battalion, Cambridge, Minn.

It started out as one crazy idea and a handful of motivated cadets and is now one of the biggest remotely operated vehicles in the Sea Cadets. Although the definition of crazy is mentally insane, we are anything but — we are the cadets from Polaris Battalion, creators of "Silent Knight."

Project "Silent Knight" was originally our recruiting instructor Dawn van Hees' idea. She said, "I wanted to be able to offer positive opportunities outside of drill for cadets who are interested in STEM to excel." STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math, but this is not the limit of what we do.

Our first class was about a year ago. We began by learning the fundamentals of electronics such as circuits, electrical wiring, formulas, and much more. Over the course of the next few weeks we met every Tuesday and put together a frame made of polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, without using any blueprints or manuals. This became the frame of our remotely operated vehicle, or ROV. We have now installed lights that we are waterproofing ourselves with silicon. The lights are specially positioned so that the cameras that we have mounted on the front and back of our frame can "see." The camera is connected to an old TV screen from which we can control the ROV without having to look at it.

We are currently in the process of making a control box from an old brief case. Notice that most of the materials we have used are things that anyone can pick up from general hardware stores or can easily be ordered online. We have not yet, nor will we, purchase a kit. This is because we believe that we will learn more from experimenting with our hands and making mistakes and learning from them. In building an ROV, there is lots of trial and error. The biggest mistake we

can recall is not squaring the corners on our ROV. Spending eight minutes trying to come up with mistakes, we couldn't remember many because we don't dwell on mistakes. We fix them and move on. This is one of our greatest assets as a team. The biggest thing we have learned from building an ROV is to check our measurements at least twice before cutting the parts. We are experimenting and learning how to apply the skills we have learned in this program to solving real life problems.

Once our ROV is complete, we intend to use it for research in lakes and rivers in our area and possibly loan it out to a local school that a couple of the team members attend.

Our goal as the first unit to create an ROV of this kind is to inspire others. We want to help pave the way and lead others to learn that it's okay to think outside of the box and take chances every once in a while. You never know what could happen. We took the chance and we have learned so much more from it than any kit could teach us. We are going to continue doing what we are doing and in the words of our instructor, Layne van Hees, "We are going to either go big or go home — we haven't gone home."



My Brothers: ‘They Are My Heroes’

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Sam Stoepfel, NLCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.



My very first memory of Sea Cadets was when my family and I were walking to the building to get information about joining. I really didn't want to join at the time. Every time we would go to pick up my older brothers, Dakota and Austin, the officers would ask me, "When are you going to join?" and I would say "I don't know."

I remember when I was 10 and I shadowed for the first time. I learned how to hold and fold a flag. The next day we went to a Coast Guard station and learned about swimming in harsh weather conditions. Every question the instructor asked us I would raise my hand to answer. I was so curious about everything. The instructor told me, "Your new nickname is Stretch." I asked her why and she said it was "because you raise your hand so much – you look like you're stretching to reach the roof." I thought, "Hey cool! I've got my own nickname."

After that weekend they asked again if I would like to join. I said I didn't know. I didn't want to admit that my mom was right; she said I'd love it and she was right! I was so bullheaded that I waited a couple years to join. I finally had plucked up the courage to join. I was so excited to start going to drills and having fun. It was great. I have learned so much being a League Cadet; it's one of the best decisions I have made in my life.

My eldest brother Dakota graduated Sea Cadets as a petty officer second class. He is now a petty officer third class in the Navy serving aboard USS *Leyte Gulf*. In January, my mom, dad, and I went to Norfolk, Virginia to watch my brother sail in on USS *Leyte Gulf*.

The ship is very big; I thought that it was so cool to be

in front of a real vessel. The anchor was also very cool too! There were many guns and even a raft; hope they never have to use it for real! There were also many sailors, I was surprised at that. It was so much bigger than I thought it would be.

I loved seeing my brother smiling from ear to ear when he got off the ship and saw us and waved. It was great to see him. Dakota has been able to see lots of other countries such as Spain, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Canada.

My brother, Austin, graduated Sea Cadets in June 2014 as a petty officer first class and joined the Army. He's a military policeman he will be leaving for South Korea soon. When Austin came home for Christmas I could see that deep down he had changed. He was still Austin, my brother who helped raise me, but now he stands for American peace, too. When he left again I wanted to leave with him. I was so disappointed that he had to go and I was scared for him. He was going to be facing the world by himself.

I have always been really close to my brothers and when they left, I cried. Once I realized that they are protecting America it was easier. People asked me if I was lonely and at first I was, but now I am not. I still miss my brothers all the time, but I know that they are protecting America's freedom. I will never again see them as kids that use to play with me, or the liar that took my DS and hid it under his pillow. Now I see them as American heroes. My brothers stand for American peace and freedom and they are my heroes, and I know that I have to share them with the world.

I have been in Sea Cadets for two years and I have learned so much. I am going to Sea Cadet boot camp at Great Lakes in June, and can't wait to experience what my both of my brothers have done. My dream is to graduate the program as a chief petty officer.

I am also in Toledo Aviation School learning how to make airplanes and fly; it's an amazing program. I can graduate from this program with my FAA license. That will also help me go into a branch of military as an officer.

Most of all, I want to make my brothers as proud of me as I am of them.

Top: Stoepfel (right) with his brother, Austin, who graduated from the Sea Cadet program as a petty officer first class and is now serving in the Army as a military policeman. Right: Stoepfel (center), his father and his brother, Dakota. Dakota graduated from the Sea Cadet program as a petty officer second class and is now serving in the Navy as an electrical gas turbine technician aboard USS *Leyte Gulf*.



Many Opportunities for League Cadets

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Jack Hixson, NLCC
Training Ship Orion, Mountain View, Calif.

Many League Cadets struggle to figure out their place in the Corps. There are a lot of older cadets who seem to have access to better trainings and leadership positions. But I'm here to tell you the ways that League Cadets like me can take full advantage of all our program has to offer.

I have been promoted to Petty Officer Second Class with a goal to become a Ships Leading Petty Officer. Being a Petty Officer means I can lead marches, staff trainings, and lots more. I am able to attend various trainings, and I can choose from a huge variety of training types. I have been able to learn about the Navy and other branches of the military and their rates. I also have visited many places such as Camp Pendleton and Camp San Luis Obispo. We are able to spend the night on various ships including the SS *Lane Victory*, the SS *Gem State*, and USS *Callaghan*. You earn ribbons and are recognized for things you learn. I have made many new friends from all over the country.

In each of the trainings I have attended I was able to learn fun and interesting things I did not know before. At my first training, League Orientation, we learned all about the Sea Cadets and military life. The fun part was making new friends. I attended Navy Seal training which has been my favorite so far. We learned about weapons and shooting. I received some medical training and I was able to scuba dive, which I had never done before. I built an underwater SeaPerch at STEM training. I also attended leadership training where

we learned how to be leaders and take charge. I am looking forward to my next training and seeing the friends I have made.

I attend bi-monthly drills where we learn naval history and marching drills. We have tied knots and have had different visitors sharing their military experiences and what they do. I have gone to different community events like the commissioning of USS *America* during San Francisco's Fleet Week. We visited Coast Guard Island Alameda and were able to spend the night aboard a ship. I attended a memorial service honoring veterans that have served. We also get together with other units for challenges and trainings.

Because of this program and these trainings, I am learning things I would not have known as a normal middle school student. Younger League Cadets can also select trainings just like the older cadets do. I now feel like I know more about military life. It has been an amazing experience and I am excited to attend trainings and drills.

I encourage all League Cadets to join early and take advantage of all the program has to offer and don't be afraid of trying new things!



The Best Kids I Know

By Ensign John Eaden, NSCC
Paul Revere Division, Norco, Calif.

It's 0530. I am up and ready for Master-at-Arms (MAA) winter training. I was excited and apprehensive all at the same time. This is the third time we had presented MAA at Camp Pendleton, but the first time I was the officer in charge. The first two classes I had a partner and we were getting our feet wet, trying to figure out what we wanted to teach and how we would teach it. This time we thought we had it wired. We had grids, paperwork, course work set up, field trips... we were organized. We were teaching drug awareness, police operations such as hand-cuffing and baton tactics as well as criminal law/UCMJ and ethics.

It's tough to teach a subject that, of late, has been in the news a lot and in a negative light. The intricacies of police work can be difficult to understand. In developing the program we wanted the cadets to not only experience the exciting parts of the job, but also understand the reasons law enforcement officers do what they do. When I taught this stuff to adults in the academy, all they

wanted was to get done and get out onto the streets and catch the bad guys. During Sea Cadet training I found something different, something exciting... cadets who couldn't get enough. I was amazed how much they could, and wanted to learn. Some of the driest material seemed to spark the most interest. Everything we taught the cadets, they ate up and then wanted more. They seemed to want to know what made policeman tick, not just how to arrest people. I was amazed by this desire to learn.

It has been an awesome experience to see these cadets become examples to their communities and home units. I am challenged not to "dumb" down the experience for the cadets, but instead see how much I can give them. How much they will absorb, how much fun can we have together. I look forward to MAA summer training. The challenge is to keep the learning as interesting, fun, and challenging as I can. Maybe together we can both — student and teacher — become better examples to our community.

A Namesake Like No Other

By Seaman Joseph Mawad, NSCC

Cpl. Kyle Carpenter Division, Farmingdale, N.Y.



On Sunday, Feb. 1, the former Liberty (AGTR-5) Division retired their colors and was proudly recommissioned as the Cpl. Kyle Carpenter Division. This ceremony took place at Naval Operations Support Center Long Island and was

host to many distinguished guests. Most notable, however, was the presence of Medal of Honor recipient retired Marine Corps Cpl. Kyle Carpenter, who made the trip to New York specifically for this occasion.

In his speech, Carpenter shared some of his experiences and spoke of the lessons he learned throughout his life. He also showed his extreme gratitude for the honor of having a unit named in his honor. He noted "how impressed I am that each and every one of you shook my hand as you said hello and addressed me as 'Sir,' looked me in the eye and thanked me." He explained that this is very rare in today's world from such young people, and that each and every one of us "should be proud of that and always conduct yourself in the highest manner."

The cadets, while standing in formation listening to his speech, were in a state of awe at the honor they were receiving in being renamed after such a heroic person. Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Antonucci said, "It's incredible to be able to be a part of this. Having Cpl. Carpenter as our division's namesake and hearing him speak is truly inspirational." Carpenter shared his thoughts with me on having a division named after him: "It's extremely special, much more so than a lot of honors I've received before. It's one

thing to present a plaque or give me this or give me that, but to want to be associated with me, to want my name a part of this unit is very special and I'm very appreciative."

Carpenter made a point to take the time with each cadet to have a photo with him. He was extremely humble during the visit and a down-to-earth person. Retired Coast Guard Capt. Bruce Bruni summed it up — "others before self." Carpenter proved that in Afghanistan in 2010 and displayed that again on Feb. 1, 2015

With its outstanding adult leadership and exemplary namesake, the Cpl. Kyle Carpenter Division has a bright future ahead of it. Although the day ended the proud history of one unit, it paved the way for the prosperity of another.



Top: Carpenter speaks to the audience. Above: Carpenter spends time with the division's color guard.

Courtesy of Cpl. Kyle Carpenter Division

'I Will Never Surrender the Ship'

By Petty Officer 1st Class Blaine Bradley, NSCC

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

As a sailor, I am born of Neptune's strength, and his Trident's power.

From the old man, I received courage to attack any obstacle in my way, the commitment to stay the course and see any mission to its successful conclusion, and the sense of honor to make the right decisions in any circumstance.

From the tips of his Trident, I gained the mental sharpness to think through any problems. Also I must very literally be the tip of the spear, I must be always prepared and the first

into the fight and the last to leave. From the shaft I learned that I must be unbreakable, morally straight and balanced. I must also offer a firm grip to those in need of my strength and security.

I am a Sailor. I am a tempest! I am an ever present, unyielding force of nature against my country's enemies. I will lend strength to those standing next to me and strike fear into the hearts of those standing against. I am never out of the fight and I will never surrender the ship!

From Our Ship to Your Ship

By Petty Officer 1st Class Melania Mezei, USN and Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Christensen, USN
USS *Ronald Reagan* First Class Petty Officer Association



Early in the morning of Feb. 13, we awoke to catch our “break of dawn” flight from San Diego, California to Detroit, Michigan. Little did we know that the polar vortex was awaiting our arrival into the great state of Michigan. Upon touchdown we were greeted with sub-zero temperatures, a

wind chill factor of negative 20 degrees and snow flurries. As soon as our phones were taken off of airplane mode we were astounded to see all the welcoming messages from Captain Sydes and the Wolverine cadets.

We braved the Michigan winter weather and arrived at Captain Sydes’ home to be welcomed by several members of the team ushering us to the warm comfort of the awaiting cups of hot tea. Before we knew it our car had been unpacked and our coats and shoes stowed away neatly in closets.

Saturday started off with morning colors and the recitation of the Sailor’s Creed followed by a pre-inspection of uniforms and PT before lunch. The teamwork demonstrated during these evolutions was by far the best we have seen; in particular, Seaman Ryan Bezeau displayed exceptional leadership during PT. League Cadet Recruit Seguin was shadowing, as it was his first drill weekend, but during his short time with the team he already recognized the teamwork displayed. He is one of the newest members of the seven who joined that weekend and by the next day, was ready to go for inspection with shiny boots and knowing his first general order. What an amazing young man.

Throughout the day every cadet and staff member worked exceptionally hard to ensure everything had the final touches needed for the upcoming inspection. Instructor David Otte and a few others ensured that the S-3B Viking plane, which was to crash during the flight demonstration was ready to go for the next day. Other staff members were reviewing the administration side, while others kept the families informed.

The hard work and dedication by all hands leading up to the inspection has been nothing short of outstanding. What really made this weekend a success was all of the preparation that preceded it. Volunteer working party led by Instructor Robert Gilmore to ensure the two deck guns were polished, the new cadet cannon was mounted, as well as, the hand-made ships bell which was later presented to us as a token of appreciation were all ready. The study sessions led by Petty Officer Blaine Bradley. The encouragement and reassurance of success by Seaman Austin Boone. The daily course work submissions by all the cadets. And, last but not least, the preparation by the Sable Company League Cadets Carrier Flight Operation demonstration as well as the Wolverine’s demonstration of necessary action when landing does not go as planned were all instrumental.

During the closing ceremony numerous personal awards were presented from promotions to academic achievements. Families were also recognized for all their support.

The results of the overall inspection were astonishing. Following the Regional Director’s review of the attendance statistics, administration review, training achievement, recruiting & retention data and a personal inspection of all hands. Accomplishing an overall score of 3.74 for NSCC and 3.76 NLCC (on a 4.0 scale) with a unit that is less than 19 months old is the true reflection of everyone who makes up this team.

The Battle Efficiency Award is a well-deserved, excellent achievement and the first of many more awards. The Wolverine Division is a pace setter, committed to high standards and they are an example for all to emulate. They live by the Navy’s core values, wear their uniforms with pride and understand the true meaning and value of teamwork. Being with them this weekend reminded us both of a famous saying by President Ronald Reagan: “There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.”

“A picture is worth a thousand words” and this weekend’s memories are forever priceless and all of us in the First Class Mess aboard the USS *Ronald Reagan* are honored to be part of “Team Wolverine.”



Courtesy of Wolverine Division

Top Left: AD1 Mezei and IC1 Christensen enjoy Michigan’s winter during PT. Above: Christensen (center) presents USS *Ronald Reagan* rocker patches to each member of Wolverine Division.

The First Class Mess of USS *Ronald Reagan* adopted Wolverine Division as the ship’s official Sea Cadet unit. The First Class Mess provides motivation and support as the cadets work on their advancement materials. Sailors share their deployment and training experiences with the cadets, allowing them to feel like part of the Navy through this special affiliation. The relationship is hands-on, too; Petty Officers Mezei and Christensen were flown to Michigan on official orders to attend Wolverine Division’s annual inspection. If your unit is interested in being adopted by a Navy or Coast Guard ship and you have questions, you can contact Wolverine Division at wolverinedivision@yahoo.com.

Navigating Distractions as Leaders

By Lt. Todd Dunn, NSCC
Manatee Division, Yankeetown, Fla.

During a leadership training opportunity at a Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch, the cadets were introduced to a game called "The Walk of Life." I won't go into the whole story behind the game, but there are four players: A blindfolded "Traveler" who has to navigate "life," or a series of small obstacles on the ground that represent the distractions in life that keep us from meeting our goals. A "Leader" is assigned to talk them through the path, but can't touch them. An "Encourager" helps motivate the Traveler and a "Distracter" tries to hinder the Traveler's progress by getting them to touch the distractions in their path.

In Sea Cadets we have already developed a vocabulary and the skills to guide them through the course. "Half-right Face. One step forward, March. Two side steps to the left, March." The facilitator made it difficult by shifting the layout of the course and changing the location of the obstacles. Yet, the training and discipline of our cadets provided a foundation of trust between the Leader and the Traveler. However, Instructor Marty Pickard pointed out that if the Distracter didn't focus on the Traveler, but rather tried to distract the Leader they could accomplish their objective of foiling the process more effectively.

For Instructor Pickard and I, this became one of the most important lessons of the weekend's training. As Sea Cadet leaders, we need to make sure that we aren't distracted and that we remain focused on the task at hand. As leaders we have a lot of life experience and a good view of the course of our cadets' lives. If we allow ourselves to become distracted from our objectives we can lead them astray and let them down. Our cadets are depending on us to help them navigate through some of the most difficult years of their life as they transition into adulthood.

New Unit, New Challenges, New Friendships

By Lt.j.g. Courtney Putnam, NSCC
Jake Garn Squadron, Layton, Utah



Courtesy of Lt.j.g. Putnam, NSCC

For the past 11 months, a new unit has been growing in northern Utah. The unit was established in response to the growing need for support in the northern region of Utah and is sponsored by the American Legion, Post 27. As with any new endeavor, challenges were presented and ultimately overcome.

The unit is now well-established and drills on Hill Air Force Base, near Ogden, Utah. At present, the unit has 16 enrolled adults and 30 cadets. The unit was formed on April 19, 2014 and is named after former Sen. Jake Garn, who was a naval aviator and astronaut. Mr. Garn also happens to be a retired brigadier general. Sen. Garn was present for the formation ceremony and has been a great supporter of the unit since its formation.

The unit drills as a squadron which is in contrast to the other well-established Utah unit, Battleship Utah, which drills as a division.

Battleship Utah Division has been in place for more than 30 years and is very successful. It is commanded by Lt.j.g. Jeanette Hernandez, who has been a very valuable asset in getting the Jake Garn Squadron up and running. Without her and her wardroom's support, it would have been significantly more difficult to establish the Jake Garn Squadron.

Another person that must be mentioned is Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Marsh.

His dedication is beyond compare. I started working with Lt. Cmdr. Marsh in 2005, when I first started working in the Sea Cadet program. He was and continues to be my mentor and friend. There is no way I can thank him enough for the help he provided me in making this unit possible. Jeff embodies what every Sea Cadet officer should: selfless dedication. Additionally, he is a meticulous planner and always puts the needs of the cadets above everything else.

In closing, let me say that the challenges presented in starting a new unit are far outweighed by the satisfaction and joy you will receive in the form of new adult friendships and cadet support. My wardroom is comprised of some of the best people I have ever known. Every day I am amazed at the dedication and insight they offer to this program. I simply don't know how I got so lucky. If you think your area might need a new unit, let me know. I would be glad to answer any questions and share any of my experiences with regard to starting a new unit.

You can also take a look at our unit's website at www.seacadetsutah.org. We are a young unit, but we are growing. I look forward to getting to know the other units around the nation. Remember, "It's for the cadets." Keep that in mind, and you will always succeed.

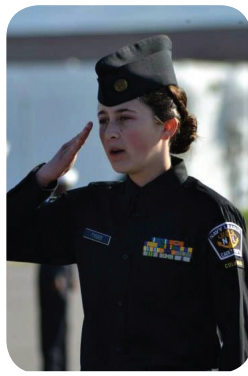


Our 2014 Annual Award Winners



Chief Petty Officer Forrest Simpson
George Washington (CVN-73) Division
Willis E. Reed Award for
Sea Cadet of the Year

Simpson, a member of the program for six years, serves with distinction. Known for his leadership abilities, initiative and sterling academic achievements, Simpson has completed 83 training days, to include Naval Intelligence Training, an underway aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln*, and participation in our International Exchange Program. He will graduate from high school this year, and has been selected for a four-year Naval ROTC scholarship.



SLPO Samantha Tyssee
Training Ship Columbia
Keith T. Weaver Award for
League Cadet of the Year

Always the first to volunteer, Tyssee is an exemplary League Cadet. She has completed 72 training days, to include training in sailing, photojournalism, STEM and field operations. With her unsurpassed military bearing and friendly, but firm leadership style, she is a prime example of what a League Cadet can achieve. In addition to the many hours spent with her unit, Tyssee is a competitive swimmer and dedicated student. She recently transitioned to NSCC.



Lt. Cmdr. Martha Robinson
Liberty Division
Nicholas Brango Award for
Inspirational Leadership
NSCC Officer of the Year

A member of the organization for more than eight years, Robinson has proven herself invaluable to both Liberty Division and Region 6. Robinson was the driving force behind the creation of three new units, and has served as a COTC since 2008. Robinson is known for her pursuit of new opportunities for League Cadets, her strong alliances with local veterans and community groups and her recruitment skills.



Instructor David Thiede
Barque Eagle Division
Judge R.T.S. Colby Award for
Excellence in Training
Instructor of the Year

A member of the organization for almost 10 years, he recently had the daunting task of stepping in as commanding officer for his brother, Lt. Cmdr. Denis Thiede, who passed away in October. During this period he maintained his responsibilities as the unit training officer, increased unit enrollments and kept the division moving forward. Always working to create new opportunities for cadets, Thiede is the embodiment of dedication to the Sea Cadet program and truly worth of this distinction.



Cmdr. Robert Rombach, USN (Ret.)
Pacific Southeast Region 11-3
Fred D. Carl Award for
Regional Director of the Year

Rombach developed and implemented a recruiting program which resulted in significant enrollment increases of cadets and officers. In two years, his region has seen the results of this effort with a growth in enrollments of 43%. He has successfully developed efforts with other organizations which resulted in recognition of the Sea Cadet program, netting recruitment, financial and program support throughout the region. Energetic, dedicated and courageous – these words define Rombach.



Lt. Cmdr. James McClure Jr.
Southeast Region 6-4
Bruce B. Smith Award for
Regional Director's
Recruiter of the Year

As Regional Director, McClure stresses the importance of enrollment, training and retention, and through these tenets has grown Region 6-4 considerably. Over the course of one year, he has gained a reputation for excellence. In a large region, he established an enviable track record of starting new units, while increasing regional enrollments by 27%. Incredibly dedicated to the units in Region 6-4, he doggedly pursues new training opportunities for cadets.

We Honor Our Own

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Jarrod Ogden, NSCC
Veteran's Pride Battalion, Glendale, Ariz.

December 7, 1941 became "a day which will live in infamy." These words, which were said more than 70 years ago by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, rang in the back of my mind. On December 7, 2014, my unit took part in the ceremony at our state capitol, commemorating the tragedy.

Later that day, we were informed that one of our unit's dearest associates, Radar Technician's Mate 2nd Class Perry Sartain, had passed away unexpectedly. Along with his wife, former NSCC Lt. Cmdr. Wanda Sartain, he owned and operated the 30-foot replica USS *Arizona* battleship that has been a mainstay in events like that day's, parades and car shows for years. It was ironic that he was a crewmember of the replica and died on the 73rd anniversary of the sinking of the USS *Arizona* in Pearl Harbor.

Wanda Sartain asked Veteran's Pride and our neighboring units, Mykel F. Miller Battalion and Phoenix Division, to conduct military honors for his funeral. This was a first for Region 15-2. Over the next few days,

our Honor Guard prepared, determined to honor our own. Our team consisted of a bugler who played "Taps," a seven-man rifle squad, which fired the 21-gun salute, and the six-man flag detail, which folded and presented the national ensign to his widow. As pictured below, I had the enormous honor of presenting the ensign personally to Sartain. As the rifles sounded their sharp reports, I gave the flag to her and repeated my lines. Lines that had minutes ago been just words took on a new profound meaning as I experienced such raw emotion while handing over our flag to her.

We did well. There were a few minor hiccups, but we finished the rendering of the honors with excellent military bearing. This will always be one of the most memorable things that I will ever do in the Sea Cadets. This event, unlike parades where we are out in the public eye, was never about us. It was purely about giving the utmost respect and reverence to a family that has served our nation and the units in Arizona. We honor our own.



INST Marion Cartland, NSCC

Bravo Zulu

Congratulations to the Sea Cadets who were selected for this year's international exchange trip to Australia! In April, they will be joining sea cadets from around the world to train with Australian Navy Cadets in New South Wales. Their training will include sailing and canoeing, and weapons simulator training. Among many other activities they will also visit the Sydney Maritime Museum and the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Chief Petty Officer Tracy Robinson, NSCC
Liberty Division, Lake City, Fla.

Chief Petty Officer Paul Treacy, NSCC
John T. Dempster, Jr. Division
Lawrenceville, N.J.

Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Weggen, NSCC
Senior Escort Officer for Australia
Commanding Officer of
America Division, Richmond, Va.



Courtesy of Lexington Division

What did you learn from your experience as a staff cadet at winter survival training?

“I realized that, while a leader should be steadfast in pursuing the objective, it is important to listen to your squad’s ideas about reaching your goal. I can’t overemphasize the importance of hearing out my cadets’ ideas.”

- Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Patrinostro, NSCC of Liberty Bell Squadron, Willow Grove, Pa.

Photo of the Quarter



Tampa Bay, Florida — A Sea Cadet color guard participating in the Tampa Bay Frogman Swim. Proceeds from the event provide injury assistance to Navy SEALs and for families who have lost a loved one in training or combat.



Todd Montgomery

Important Reminders

Scholarship applications are due May 1. Instructions on how to apply can be found at homeport.seacadets.org.

The summer training schedule is available at homeport.seacadets.org.

Do you want to apply for the International Exchange Program? Applications are due April 10 for officers and April 24 for cadets. Visit iep.seacadets.org for details.

The Band of the West is coming to Washington D.C. for advanced music training this summer. Auditions will be held via Skype in April. For information, go to www.seacadetBOTW.com.

Sea Cadet Quarterly

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Want to be heard?
Send submissions for the June issue to: pao@seacadets.org



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ATTENTION: Students in Grades 6-12

The Navy League STEM Institute is proud to partner with the Office of Naval Research to host the first Naval STEM Exposition, to be showcased at the 2015 Sea-Air-Space

WHERE: The Naval STEM Exposition at Sea-Air-Space will be held on Sunday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Potomac Rooms at the Gaylord Convention Center in National Harbor, Md.

WHO: Middle and High School students from around the area are invited to participate in this exclusive, hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) exhibition.

WHAT: Students will be able to connect and engage with our nation's foremost military and civilian organizations by participating in interactive exhibits and career-exploration opportunities that have a theme directly tied to the sea services. The exposition will have two main areas of focus:

Career Track: Students will be able to talk with industry representatives about STEM careers and the qualifications one would need for various career tracks.

Hands-On Activities: Organizations will have hands-on demonstrations that incorporate various STEM activities to educate and bring more interest in STEM and demonstrate its impact on everyday life.

WHY: By fostering more transparency between industry representatives and students before college, the STEM Exposition at Sea-Air-Space can offer early insight for students about the value of a STEM skill-set in today's world.

HOW: Register now for the opportunity to explore exciting hands-on exhibits and career opportunities from our nation's top companies. Encourage all the students you know to set their education on the right path today for the career of their future!

Register Now: <http://navyleague.org/stem>



Navy League
STEM
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