



Courtesy of LCDR Jennifer Weggen, NSCC

International Exchange Program pp. 8-11



Courtesy of Wolverine Division

The Class of 2015 pp. 12-13

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Volume 2, Issue 2, June 2015

Sea Cadet Quarterly



Courtesy of Elise Odom, NSCC

From Sea Cadets to USNA

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Elise Odom, NSCC
Gunfighter Squadron, San Diego, Calif.

I joined the United States Naval Sea Cadets as a sophomore, which made me a little late to the program. By that time I had already set my hopes and dreams upon attending the United States Naval Academy. The Sea Cadet program was fun and enjoyable and I loved everything about being a cadet. What I didn't notice through all of my experiences were the things that I had learned. At Recruit Training, I learned to march, have bearing and recite the General Orders and military ranks. At Advanced Training, I learned about leadership, especially what was effective and productive. All of these things came to a point when I had the chance to attend a program for rising seniors put on by the Naval Academy called the Naval Academy Summer Seminar, or NASS.

At NASS, I had the opportunity to live at the Naval Academy for six days and experience everything the academy has to offer. I took academic classes similar to those available to midshipmen, went to morning PEP, met many amazing midshipmen who were detailers, went to briefs about the admissions process and opportunities at the academy and lastly, learned about the

academy's many traditions.

Throughout this time there were people quietly watching: the teachers giving classes, the academy staff giving briefs, upper-class midshipmen and our detailers. Looking back, one example of this is when a midshipman asked if anyone knew how to march a platoon. I quickly raised my hand and was eager to have an opportunity to march the platoon. It was not the fact that I knew how to march or call a cadence that impressed the detailers, it was my willingness to volunteer — something I learned from being a Sea Cadet.

Another example was on the second-to-last day, we went through a long day of fun activities that tested everything we had learned over the week. Throughout the day, we worked as a squad and I easily adapted, and was soon motivating my team to do their best and to push themselves. The traits I had learned as a Sea Cadet, like teamwork and motivating others and to push myself, made a huge impact on those around me.

(Continued on next page)

From the Field: Memorial Day



Atterbury Battalion

Indiana

Cadets placed flags on the graves of veterans.



Lehigh Valley Division

Pennsylvania

Cadets and the local VFW worked together to hand out poppies.



JFK Division and TS Carl G. Stockholm Battalion

Illinois

Cadets paraded the colors in a storm in Elmhurst.

Letter from the National Chairman

My involvement with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps began in the 1960s. In the last 50 years, I have seen the program grow from a few all-male units to a vibrant and diverse corps comprised of nearly 400 units around the country. My time with the Sea Cadet program has truly been a labor of love and it is with some sadness that I announce the end of my term as National Chairman, effective at the end of June.

The program would not be what it is without the dedication and effort put forth by all of our volunteers. Thanks to all the parents, officers, Navy League volunteers, members of the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps — and all others — who have contributed to the overall success and positive movement of our program. We have grown from offering just a limited number of subjects to training our cadets across a broad spectrum that includes the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). I am humbled to have had the honor and privilege to be part of and watch grow what is now a youth program second to none.

Best wishes to each and every one of you in your future endeavors. I hope that the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was able to help you Chart Your Course.



Warren H. Savage, Jr.
National Chairman

(Continued from front page)

What the adults saw in me was something different. I stood out in a very positive manner. Many of the rates I had learned in my time in Sea Cadets were helpful, but what I feel made such an impression was the motivation, determination and effort I put into every day. These traits were developed as a Sea Cadet and were what the adult staff saw in me that made them know I would be successful as a midshipman.

I did not realize the full impact of all of this until almost seven months later, after the submission of my application to the Naval Academy when I received a letter stating that I was offered a conditional offer of appointment, pending a medical waiver for my eyesight. On the back of this letter, the signer of the document had scrawled, "Elise, Good job at NASS!" It was then I knew that not just the knowledge, but the characteristics and morals that Sea Cadets had taught me had a huge impact on my acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

Website:

www.seacadets.org

Policy and Reference:

homeport.seacadets.org

Online Unit Management:

magellan.seacadets.org

National Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/usnsc

National Twitter page:

www.twitter.com/seacadets

International Exchange Program:

iep.seacadets.org

Meet NHQ

Everyone, meet Stephen Bunting, our Training Director of 19 years and also known to the field as Mr. Magellan, thanks to his knowledge of and affinity for our unit database management system. Originally from Lewes, Del., Stephen enjoys a game of golf, visiting with his grandchildren and eating steak and pasta. His favorite part about what he does? "As the training director, you are able to endorse so many challenging and neat opportunities for the cadets to experience. This is what the program is all about — it's for the cadets!" Well-said, Mr. Bunting!



Stephen visited Victoria Falls in South Africa during an International Sea Cadet Association conference.



New York

Cadets marched proudly in a Buffalo-area parade.

Sullivans Division



California

Cadets participated in a local ceremony.

Modesto Division



Wisconsin

Cruiser Milwaukee Division supported their community's events.

Ann Heis

Thoughts on Becoming a Sea Cadet

By Seaman Dylan McGettigan, NSCC

John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.

My life took a turn on what was supposed to be an otherwise ordinary Saturday at the beach. On most weekends in the summer of 2010, my family and I made our way to a favorite beach along the New Jersey coast. As we headed south in the car toward the shore on that particular Saturday, my father caught something that made him come to a complete stop.

At the side of the road stood a small, inconspicuous sign announcing the "U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps." Underneath the writing was an arrow that pointed west to a building about 50 feet away. As a typical 9-year-old who only wanted to get to the beach, I was a bit annoyed that we had deviated from our course, and I was more than relieved when we discovered the gate to the building was locked. My parents were curious, however, and before long they readily researched what the Sea Cadets were all about. As it worked out, I am grateful they did.

Above anything else, my aspiration has been to become an officer in the U.S. Navy. The inspiration for this goal came from my first visit at the age of 7 to my grandfather's grave at Arlington Cemetery. He served on the destroyer escort USS *Lloyd* during World War II. During my visits to Arlington, I began to understand that in order to maintain freedom and democracy, a price must be paid. I realized that those who have paid the price to guard these concepts are buried at Arlington and other national cemeteries. From

then on, I, too, wanted to be a guardian of freedom and democracy like my grandfather.

It turned out that the mission of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps "to encourage and aid American youth to develop and train them in seagoing skills and teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues" proved to be a wonderful opportunity and a tangible way for me to start to follow my Navy dream now.

I was fortunate to find a Sea Cadet unit that was a comfortable fit for me; one that has a solid, supportive leadership structure that encourages cadets to achieve their greatest potential as members of society. I joined the John T. Dempster unit as League Cadet in 2010 and crossed over to become a Sea Cadet in 2013. In the four-and-a-half years that I have been a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, my experience in the organization has been nothing short of outstanding.

Beyond the remarkable activities that my unit has provided me (how many young people get a chance to fly in a KC-10 as it fuels another plane in the air?), I have been given numerous opportunities for personal growth whereby my willpower, confidence and principles have become stronger. For example, through drills, trainings, physical activities, and classroom lessons, I have learned how to set goals and high standards for myself and to figure out a concrete plan to achieve them. Through color guard events and other ceremonial occasions, I have developed a greater respect for what it means to be an American and a good citizen, and to honor our military members and their families for their sacrifices. Through community service, I have realized that we all have a responsibility to help each other and that it is up to each of us to make the world a better place by any effort that we can contribute.

Most importantly, as a Sea Cadet I have learned that, for the most part, you get out of life what you put into it. With your own determination and the backing of a supportive group who considers you one of their own, you can achieve whatever you want to. As I move forward, my intent is to use the invaluable lessons I have learned and take the tremendous opportunities I have been given in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps to continuously improve myself and the condition of others, no matter where life may lead me.



Courtesy of SN McGettigan, NSCC

Chief's Corner: My Calling in the Navy

By Chief Petty Officer Emily Featherstone, NSCC
Truxton (DDG-103) Division, Oswego, N.Y.



Courtesy of CPO Featherstone, NSCC

I have very specific goals for my future. After completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to attend medical school in order to become a medical officer in the United States Navy. After I've fulfilled my commitment to the Navy, my ultimate goal is to work as a physician or medical director for a non-governmental organization (NGO) in the international public health arena. I believe that preparing myself with a

unique combination of academic, social and research opportunities will help me achieve these goals.

For the past five years I have participated in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. In addition to attending boot camp and field operations, I received training in medicine and honed my leadership skills at the Petty Officer Leadership Academy. I am a New York State Certified Emergency Medical Technician and a member of the Dryden Ambulance Company. My training as a cadet and an EMT has sharpened my sense of public service, which ultimately helped me understand the right path for me, which is to become a Naval Medical Officer.

From my point of view, one of the most rewarding aspects of a career in the Navy is the Navy's humanitarian mission, which often goes unnoticed in a world where conflicts seem to be raging everywhere. It's why I became a cadet in the first place. The Navy's hospital ships are on the frontline of U.S.

foreign policy, giving aid to victims of natural catastrophes in places such as Haiti and the Philippines. Most recently, the Navy cooperated with the World Health Organization to build a high-tech laboratory to help stop the spread of Ebola in West Africa.

My future career goals include a focus on emerging health problems that effect entire communities, perhaps even countries, as well as its multidisciplinary focus on research and action to solve these problems. I firmly believe that the only way to tackle the chronic health issues the world faces today is through a multidisciplinary approach. Take the Ebola crisis, for example. NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders responded quickly to the outbreak, but their heroic effort wasn't enough to stop it from spreading. That's because the Ebola epidemic wasn't just a medical problem to be solved in makeshift clinics run by western doctors. Many sick people didn't trust these doctors who came to their villages dressed head-to-toe in hazmat gear and speaking strange languages. Some volunteer doctors were even killed. It wasn't until the Ebola crisis was addressed as a social problem, with educational outreach and new practices that were sensitive to cultural concerns that the tide began to turn on the epidemic.

I've always been a hands-on learner. That's why I'm especially interested in experiential learning. I would welcome the opportunity to apply the skills I've learned in the classroom to the field, ideally in a resource-poor part of the world, the kind of far-flung place that the Navy steams off to assist when there's an earthquake or typhoon. I have no doubt that my educational pursuits over the coming years will provide me with a solid foundation to reach my goals as a physician on the front lines of the fight against disease in the world.

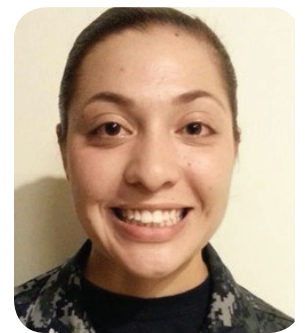
I Am a Naval Sea Cadet

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Gia Barber, NSCC
Nautilus (SSN-571) Division, Groton, Conn.

When I first walked through the doors of the training building to Nautilus 571 Division, I was intimidated by the sharp looking cadets staring me down. The staring turned into smiles and the unit welcomed me with open arms. This program has given me many opportunities and has led me to friendships that I will always cherish.

Throughout my time as a cadet, the future goals I would set for myself changed constantly. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life but I knew I wanted to be something great.

Finally, I decided on following in my grandfather's footsteps and becoming a Navy Sailor. Sea Cadets gave me the guidance I needed to find the right pathway for a bright future. As a cadet, we are taught the values of honor, courage, and commitment. I try my best to live by these values every day and hold my head up high as I proudly say "I am a Naval Sea Cadet."



Alumni Spotlight

Former Sea Cadet from New York Achieves Dream of Being a Navy Civil Engineer

By Lt. Corinne Sims, USN

When I was 14 years old, my brother left for U.S. Navy boot camp. At the time I had no idea what that meant other than my annoying older brother finally left the house. Well, as it turned out, I missed him terribly and when it came time for his graduation, I was beyond excited to see him and hear about the great adventure he was embarking upon. We headed to Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, and during our visit I saw some amazing young Sailors marching in formation. I was mesmerized at how they worked together to move as one cohesive unit. It was at that moment I decided to join the U.S. Navy. I wanted to learn how to march and be a part of a team just like I had seen at my brother's graduation. When we got home I went straight to my brother's recruiter and told him I wanted to join. Of course, at 14 I was way too young, but he had the next best thing for me. He said, "Try the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and see how you like it."

So I did. I joined the Sea Cadets and never looked back. From the start of my journey with the Sea Cadets, I knew I wanted to be the one standing in front of the division, preparing the team for inspection and leading them through our drill weekends. Of course, you can't start out being in charge and I quickly realized I had to learn to be a follower before I could be a leader. I diligently listened, observed and learned from everyone in my division — the officers there to guide us, the cadets in charge, and even those who were younger and quick to tell us when we were wrong. At boot camp I learned what it was really like to be a part of a team and to accomplish tasks that could only be completed with everyone's cooperation.

Being a part of the Sea Cadets also afforded me great opportunities, like taking part in an exchange program with Japanese students, sponsored by a World War II Japanese Kamikaze pilot rescued by one of our ships. We went camping and learned survival and navigation skills. We participated in countless ceremonies, parades, where we were able to thank veterans who sacrificed so much for us and taught us what it really meant to serve. Inspired, I studied hard to complete my correspondence courses and pass the advancement tests. As I earned positions of real responsibility and leadership, I finally became the leading petty officer, standing in front of my division preparing them for inspection. All of these experiences were to prepare me for the real challenge ahead — enlisting in the U.S. Navy.

When the time came to seriously start talking with the recruiter I was sure of two things: first, I wasn't ready for college and second, I wanted to be a civil engineer. In addition to my parents, I brought my Sea Cadet commander (who else would I trust to help me make such a huge decision?) with me to talk to the recruiter about all my options and the best plan to reach my goal. I decided to enlist as a Fire Controlman and went off to boot camp. We hadn't been there for two days and my Recruit Division Commander came to me and asked if I was a Sea Cadet. Puzzled, I asked her how she



Sims during deployment in Afghanistan.

knew and she quickly replied, "I can tell by your confidence in leading your shipmates." It was then I realized how much more of an impact the Sea Cadets had on me. She made me the master-at-arms of the division where I stayed for the duration of boot camp.

From there things only got better. I graduated in the top of my class from Fire Control School and quickly earned a reputation of being a leader on my ship. I continued to bolster the skills and lessons I learned in Sea Cadets as I studied hard and advanced quickly. Once on shore duty, I decided it was time to pursue my second dream of becoming a civil engineer. I applied for a commissioning program called "Seaman To Admiral-21." The program allowed selectees to complete their bachelor's degree free of charge and commission as an Ensign upon completion. I knew the Civil Engineer Corps was the only option for me so I went for it. I was selected, completed my bachelor's of civil engineering and was commissioned in 2010. My dream had come true. I am a U.S. Navy civil engineer.

Since commissioning, I have had the opportunity to lead Seabees and coordinate their movements around the world. I went to Afghanistan to teach Afghan leaders how to serve their communities by providing their citizens basic needs like fresh water for consumption, farming techniques and the building of safe housing. Now, I work on the largest Navy base in the world ensuring the Atlantic fleet receives the best possible service in order to deploy and protect everything we have worked so hard for.

None of my dreams would have come true if I hadn't been in the Sea Cadets to learn how to be a part of a team and lead a team. I still have more goals accomplish and milestones to reach, but I know where it started — the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets — and for that I will forever be grateful.

An Interview: U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa)



Sen. Ernst graciously sat down for an interview with us, which was comprised of questions sent in by our cadets from Central Iowa Division.

Q: I am 13 years old. What would you recommend for me to prepare for my Navy future at Annapolis or West Point?

Ernst: As a member of the military for over 20 years, I have the great honor of nominating

some of Iowa's finest students to attend the United States Service Academies. These academies allow young people the opportunity to serve our country while receiving a full four-year scholarship from some of our finest institutions of higher learning. I would encourage you to study hard in

school, participate in extracurricular activities like athletics, choir and debate teams, and get involved in your community. My parents taught me early on in life the importance of hard work, service and sacrifice and I try to apply those values to everything I do. When it comes time to apply for the military academy, make sure to visit my website www.Ernst.Senate.Gov to learn more about eligibility and the application process.



Seaman Recruit
Preston Ojeda

Q: What are the qualities you look for in someone seeking a nomination to a service academy?

Ernst: It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to recommend some of Iowa's bright and hardworking students. I have no doubt that it's a very tough decision for Members of Congress across Iowa. When reviewing applications, I will be looking for students with a strong record of academic achievement, strong leadership skills, and outstanding moral character. I am also interested to hear about the ways in which you serve your community, the great state of Iowa, and our country.

of academic achievement, strong leadership skills, and outstanding moral character. I am also interested to hear about the ways in which you serve your community, the great state of Iowa, and our country.



Chief Petty Officer
Conner Dickson

Q: With your military experience and now law-making ability, what do you propose to be the best solution for the sexual assault problem within the U.S. military?

Ernst: Sexual assault in the military is an incredibly serious issue — one which calls for serious action. Any type of sexual assault or abuse hurts the victim as well as the integrity of a military unit and that's a significant problem.

I believe there must be a more concerted effort to get out in front of the issue proactively, by eliminating any cultural issues and educating folks on ways to protect themselves from a potential attacker. For those who are victims of sexual assault and abuse, we must encourage them to come forward and report these cases.

There have been proposals put forward in Congress, however, I believe this issue merits its own legislation and therefore, proposals should center solely on sexual assault in the military.

The bottom line is that there should be no tolerance for sexual assault and abuse of any kind in the military. Our men and women deserve better. I remain committed to working to prevent future cases of sexual assault and abuse, make sure that victims have their voices heard, and ensure that those who indeed have committed a crime are being punished justly.



Seaman
Moises Garcia

Q: What skills and character traits you developed in the military most help you do your job as a senator?

Ernst: I am deeply thankful for my experience in the military, which taught me essential leadership skills and the importance of consensus building. The military showed me that we are strongest when working together as one team. I have taken

these principles with me to the United States Senate. Our nation is at a difficult crossroads and faces many challenges, but there is nothing that can't be accomplished when we work together.



Petty Officer 2nd Class
Luke Hermesen

Q: *What factors led to you wanting to join the Iowa National Guard?*

Ernst: In the summer between my freshman and sophomore years at Iowa State University, I was very fortunate to attend an agricultural exchange in Ukraine when it was still part of the former Soviet Union.

The Iowa students and I lived on a collective farm for a number of weeks.

In the evening, when the community members came together, we did not talk about agricultural practices like I anticipated. What we talked about was what it was like to be free. What it was like to be an American. Those were the things that the Ukrainians wanted to know. They wanted to know about freedom, our Republic — democracy.

Just a few short years later, they became an independent nation. They are a sovereign nation. It was then that I better understood what it meant to have freedom and how much people elsewhere truly desire it. I wanted to do my part to ensure our country always remained free.

That realization led me to make a decision when I was 19 years old, to join the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps, commonly known as ROTC.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Cole Cameron

Q: *What were some of the most valuable life lessons you learned as a result of being in the military?*

Ernst: As a lieutenant colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard, I have learned firsthand the vital role that citizen soldiers play. These are folks who train for military duty so they are prepared to defend our country in the

face of an emergency. While deployed overseas, I had the opportunity to serve alongside some of America's bravest men and women. I saw how important it is for our military — Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve — to work together as one cohesive unit. We are strongest in numbers; when working together to support and build one another up. We come together from all corners of the country united with one clear mission: to defend our freedom. 🇺🇸



Ernst (left) and National Headquarters staff member, Kate McIlvaine, discussed the Sea Cadet program and Central Iowa Division in April. Central Iowa Division currently boasts 93 cadets and 11 volunteers. The unit is very active, keeping cadets busy with scuba training (below) and field exercises. Central Iowa Division consistently ranks in the top 10 of all Sea Cadet units in the nation.



Courtesy of Central Iowa Division

Adventures Abroad

The 2015 International Exchange Program kicked off with an exchange trip to Australia in April. In May, a group of escort officers met in Hartford, Conn., for the International Officer Leadership Academy. The first of its kind in the worldwide Sea Cadet community, the conference focuses on preparing our officers to lead this summer's international exchanges. During the conference, the escort officers were given the names of the cadets who would be traveling with them, and were then able to give the good news to each cadet with an exciting phone call.

In addition to sending 26 of our own members abroad, this summer we will host 47 cadets from all over the world during our Inbound International Exchange in Newport, R.I.



From left: Director of IEP LCDR Michael Campbell, LCDR Pamela Silver, CDR Duncan Rowles, Stephen Bunting, Kate McIlvaine, LCDR Julian Meisner, LCDR Jennifer Weggen, LCDR Eric Thiessen, LCDR Rodel Agpaoa, LCDR Lisa Strickland and LCDR Todd Dunn

‘When I Got the Call...’

Cadets react to being selected to participate in our International Exchange Program

By Petty Officer 2nd Class David Almeida, NSCC
Pimiteoui Division, Peoria, Ill.
Selected for Exchange to Sweden

When I got the call... it was a rare afternoon that I was home, because my track meet was cancelled. The extra time was a lucky break to catch up on my homework. With a headset on in the middle of a German lesson, I heard my mom rushing down the stairs, and she handed me her phone. I had a feeling it might be an escort officer to an IEP training, but was not too hopeful after reading a Facebook post the night before from a petty officer I went to Petty Officer Leadership Academy with, in which he posted that he is going to Vancouver on an IEP training. Reading that, my heart sank with the thought that the recipients were already announced. When I heard the words “you are going to Sweden” from my escort officer, Lt. Cmdr. Meisner, my face flushed, and I was simply speechless.

Congratulations to all of our officers and cadets who were selected for this year's International Exchange Program!

Australia: LCDR Jennifer Weggen, CPO Tracy Robinson, CPO Paul Treacy

Bermuda: LCDR Lisa Strickland, PO1 Cameron Brewer, PO3 Hanh-Bao Phan

Canada: LCDR Rodel Agpaoa, PO1 Daniel Browne, PO2 Stephen Dante, PO3 Jerverous Johnson, PO3 Lucas LaFave, PO1 Peter Nguyen, PO1 Seth Thompson, CPO Connor Wheatley

Hong Kong: LCDR Pamela Silver, PO2 Emily Dutton, CPO Frederick Lacombe

Japan: LCDR Todd Dunn, PO3 Tatianna Capko, CPO Dominick Khuat

Sweden: LCDR Julian Meisner, PO2 David Almeida, CPO Kimberly Vickers

United Kingdom: LCDR Eric Thiessen, CPO Joshua Churchill, PO1 Noah Dahm

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Hanh-Bao Phan, NSCC
Chesty Puller Battalion, Watsonville, Calif.
Selected for Exchange to Bermuda

On May 3, around 1400, my mom sent me a text asking when I will be home as I had a very important phone call to return regarding the International Exchange Program. My mom had surmised that it was going to be an interview over the phone. I returned to my house two hours later after studying for my AP Calculus test, I sat down, prepared myself for any questions that could be asked. I had my glass of water ready in case I felt parched, and my mom made me to do some breathing exercises, which I thought was questionable. Settling down, I called the number and asked to speak to Lt. Cmdr. Strickland. A few sentences into the conversation, I found myself completely and utterly astonished. I looked across to my mom who already started cheering because I was unsure if I heard the news correctly. Thoughts of why and how this came to be immediately rushed through my head. I remember having to ask again to make sure.

After the call ended, and the logistics were settled, I was stuck feeling amazed and surprised. Running back and forth through the thought that I was chosen to represent the United States on an international exchange program was almost breathtaking. I am so excited to take part in a program where young people are given the opportunity to take a step into the global community. Accepting the invitation to the International Exchange Program is something that I will never forget as it is the first step to accepting greater responsibilities in the international community, and I am sure that it will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Escort Officers Gain Knowledge at IOLA

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

Having been on two previous international exchanges to Sweden and Hong Kong, I thought I was an old hand in the IEP program. This year, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Campbell, the director of IEP put together a new International Officer Leadership Academy (IOLA) as a way to ascertain the level and quality of education of the Senior Escort Officers selected for exchanges in 2015.

There were both new and experienced IEP escorts, but everyone learned something new! We all shared our tips from previous exchanges and helped coach officers going to exchanges that we had previously done. Everyone benefited from the knowledge that was shared. Prior to graduating and being authorized as escorts, we had to read the manual, commit to attend the training, and participate in the classroom and scenario training, then pass a comprehensive final examination. I envied the new officers who had their learning

curve drastically reduced in this weekend training.

In addition to IEP-specific training, we also got to meet some of the National Headquarters staff that filled us in on the headquarters perspective on things like the workings of Magellan and our exchanges as well as tips on taking photos and writing articles for press releases. We also got to meet Chris Tanguay, who does all our ticketing and travel arrangements. We met the Consul General from Brazil who gave us perspective of what it means to be a diplomat and how to effectively represent oneself abroad.

I feel like I'm a better escort officer and I'm eager to hear the follow-up from my fellow classmates at the end of the summer. This training is an exciting and effective tool to concentrate then redistribute a lot of experience. Because of our time at IOLA, our cadets should have an even more rewarding travel and international experience.

Adventures in the Outback

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

“The Australian trip, for me, was the experience of a lifetime. I lived, I laughed, I cried, I learned life lessons with my international friends and, for the rest of my life, I will continue to carry the memories of my adventure in ‘the Land Down Under.’”
— Chief Petty Officer Paul Treacy, NSCC

From April 10-26, Chief Petty Officers Paul Treacy and Tracy Robinson, accompanied by escort officer Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Weggen, flew half way across the world to participate in the International Exchange Program to Australia! Upon arriving in the country, the cadets were immediately immersed in four unfamiliar cultures as they met cadets from New Zealand, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, and embarked on a whirlwind of adventure. Beginning the week by building teamwork through an overwater obstacle course, the 13 cadets on the exchange then toured cultural and military installations around the Australian capital of Canberra. Cadets ended the first week at the Shoalhaven Zoo, where they interacted with emus, kangaroos, koala bears, crocodiles and many other indigenous Australian species.

The second week of Australian adventure found the cadets in Sydney, experiencing everything from walking tours of the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbor Bridge; to a visit to the Maritime Museum; to a tour of HMAS Sydney, a guided-missile frigate; to a shopping spree in Paddy's Market! The excitement of the week culminated, however, with the Anzac Day parade.

From all over the country, Australians had gathered to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, and that afternoon they were treated to the sight of 13 cadets in five different dress uniforms marching together down the streets of Sydney to honor Australia's and New Zealand's fallen heroes.

Two days later, when the cadets boarded their planes for home, each one carried more than just luggage. After their incredible two weeks in Australia, they carried new life experiences, knowledge of other cultures and memories that would last for the rest of their lives. But most of all, each cadet carried away a new family. From five separate countries and cultures, they had become one inseparable unit — bonded together by the experiences they shared during their trip to Australia. Truly, the Adventure of a Lifetime.



Chief Zack Berry, Canada



Sea Cadets Visit ‘The Land Down Under’

Ever wonder what it’s like to go on an international exchange trip with cadets from around the world? We caught up with our three members as they recounted their two weeks in Australia.



Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Weggen
America Division
North Chesterfield, Va.



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



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

How excited were you when you found out that you were selected to go to Australia? Were you surprised?

Weggen: I was thrilled to find out I was selected to go to Australia. I had actually taken a semester off from graduate school in hopes of being selected, so I was very relieved to know I was chosen.

Robinson: When I found out that I had been accepted to attend this IEP, I was ecstatic. I’ve always wanted to go to Australia so, for me, being selected was a dream come true! Honestly, after having been in the Sea Cadets for eight years, I felt that I had the qualifications required for the exchange, and I certainly hoped that my hard work would pay off. Therefore, I wasn’t as surprised as just extremely grateful!

Was there anything that surprised you about Australia?

Weggen: Probably what surprised me the most was the crazy weather! During the second week, we were hit by a cyclonic superstorm lasting more than three days. I had never seen so much rain for so long! Then, on the last day, we got a hail storm that blanketed the streets of Sydney like snow. But somehow, despite the chaotic weather, our hosts made us feel safe and still pretty much kept to the scheduled program.

Robinson: Honestly, the amount of greenery and farmland really surprised me, since I had always thought of Australia as a really dry place. Another thing that surprised me was how different the “ordinary” things like food were. When we went to the grocery store, I hardly knew what any of the food was!

Treacy, Weggen and Robinson pose in front of the Sydney Opera House.

Treacy: The landscape in Australia is totally different from North America. I was surprised to learn how many poisonous and venomous creatures live in Australia.



Weggen braves the elements at the helm of a ship in Sydney’s Darling Harbour.

What was it like hanging out with Sea Cadets from all over the world? How was the language barrier? Any funny stories about trying to communicate with one another?

Weggen: Because we all spoke English as a first language, we didn't have difficulty communicating. It was fun to learn new phrases and slang. I truly enjoyed the company of the adult leaders and feel I have made life-long friends. We have so many similarities, but we could learn a lot from each other.

Robinson: Hanging out with the other Sea Cadets was one of the brightest highlights of my trip! It was fantastic learning about their different countries, but it was also fascinating just listening to them talk and deciphering their accents! One cadet from Liverpool was unanimously voted as "cadet with the best accent," and it took almost everyone the full two weeks to understand what he was trying to say.



Robinson and Weggen pose with a new friend.

What types of activities did you participate in while you were in Australia? Any favorites? Craziest new food you tried?

Robinson: I was able to take part in so many new activities that it would be nearly impossible to list them all! A few of my favorites, however, were towing a submarine, body-boarding at Manly Beach, and taking a boat ride to TS Sydney. The craziest thing I ate during the two weeks was grilled kangaroo. Honestly, I didn't like it, but I'm so glad that I had the chance to give it a try!

Treacy: The main event that all the international cadets participated in was the Anzac Day parade, which was an absolutely incredible experience. We challenged ourselves on the HMAS *Creswell* above-water obstacle course. One of my favorite memories will be singing at the Sydney Opera House! Marching in the Anzac Day parade was by far my favorite part of the trip. Now, although marching was my favorite activity, my most favorite experience was making the new and awesome friends I have today. I did eat kangaroo, which was delicious.



Robinson explores Kiama, New South Wales.

What advice would you give to Sea Cadets who are interested in going abroad with our international exchange program?

Robinson: If I were to give advice to other cadets traveling abroad, I would say: Remember that you are a guest in a foreign country. Show your hosts gratitude by participating in all activities with zeal. Remember that you are representing your country — whether you leave a good or bad impression is up to you! Forge bonds with other cadets. Don't be afraid to branch out and meet new people. Have fun. Loosen up and have a good time on your "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity! Try new things. Since you've been given this awesome opportunity, don't miss out on a moment of it! If you're in Australia and someone says "color," then they probably mean "collar." If you hear "source," then they're likely saying "sauce." Appreciate others' accents and compare them with your own — it always makes for a good laugh!

Treacy: Always remember where you come from, where you are and who you are. A trip like this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip, so it's important to remember that and make the most of it. I would also say to take at least a thousand pictures. I took 865 photos, and I wish I had taken more!



Robinson and Treacy marching in the Anzac Day parade.

With Hard Work and Determination Anything is Possible

By Seaman Apprentice Ryan Bezeau, Petty Officer 2nd Class Ian Fruchey and Chief Petty Officer Logan Novak
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

As we graduate from the Sea Cadets, each of us had many different experiences that have helped define us as an individual. Sea Cadets has taught each of us many great skills that have helped us decide which path to take as we move to the next phase of our lives.

All three of us have different views on the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. To the average person, they are just words; to us, they are everything.

Honor to us is holding yourself to a higher standard than everyone else. Working together toward a goal for self-improvement and honoring the uniform that we are wearing. It is not something that we take lightly; it is the uniform of the United States Navy and we consider it a great privilege to be able to wear this uniform.

Courage in our eyes is the willingness to stand up for what is right for ourselves and our cadets. To be able to lead them from the front without fear, instead of trying to lead from behind, which looks more like a boss telling the cadets what to do without having the guts to do it ourselves. We hope that our peers will notice the courage that we have, and that they will continue it when we leave.

Commitment to us is the ground work. Being committed not only to the program, but our country is harder than it looks. To us, it means giving 100 percent at all times, and when you feel like you can't do one more push-up during PT, pushing yourself further, driving yourself to find the strength to do it. It's not just being committed to the program though. We think it's also the commitment from each and every one of our Shipmates that gives cadets this unbreakable bond and brotherhood that makes Sea Cadets such a great program.

Throughout our years in the program, the guidance from our Shipmates and our staff has helped to model us into the cadets that we are today. The career paths that we have chosen have been influenced by the guidance of our staff who really cares about each and every one of us.

Seaman Apprentice Ryan Bezeau states: "I've always wanted to be in the military I just never really knew what job I wanted to do! One day the XO sat down with me and we talked about my strengths and weaknesses. This really helped me decide that

the right service for me is the U.S. Navy and that I really want to be a Seabee. I need to wait until I'm 18 (next month) before I can sign for myself to enlist, and I'm really excited to be following my dream of becoming a civil engineer. Without the XO's guidance and belief in me I wouldn't be where I am today."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ian Fruchey talks about his goals: "My dream when I first entered the program was to be a Marine. My officer and my parents challenged me to pursue a career that I could transfer into the civilian world. With this input I changed direction — I leave to start my journey as a nuclear engineer in the U.S. Navy in August."

Chief Petty Officer Logan Novak states: "For me, my dream since I was little was to be a doctor. I first entered the program as a League Cadet at the age of 11. Throughout the years, moving up as a League Cadet to petty officer first class, starting over as a Sea Cadet and promoting all the way through to chief, all the time with the guidance of my officers. They have helped me all the way and I'm truly grateful for all the wisdom that each and every one of them has given me over the time that I have been in the program. As I leave to pursue that dream of becoming a medical doctor, I know that there is more hard work ahead of me. I'm prepared. I can do it. It's just another challenge. I've faced many of those as a Sea Cadet; from recruit training, coursework, advancement tests, becoming a squad leader, and then command chief. Challenges are what I do best!"

Now that we are graduating from this fine program we hope to pass on our legacy that, with hard work and determination, anything is possible. It's not about how you leave; it's about how you are remembered.

“All three of us have different views on the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. To the average person, they are just words; to us, they are everything.”



From left: Bezeau, Fruchey and Novak during a Wolverine Division drill weekend.

Semper Fi: My Personal Quest for the Eagle, Globe and Anchor

By Petty Officer 1st Class Taylor Allen, NSCC
Henry E. Mooberry Division, Washington, D.C.



All of my life I have dreamed of joining the military. It all began when I was a young girl, watching the hit movie “Top Gun” with my dad, a former Marine. The respect and dignity that comes with being a service member is what I desperately wanted. I began watching military movies, and discovered that this was my destiny. I would envision myself in those

roles and think of how I would handle each situation. I knew from about the age of 8 that I would be a leader in the United States military. As I got older and began to become aware of politics, I realized that this country has given me opportunities that others will never have. Many people travel to the United States to experience “The American Dream,” and being an American citizen. I feel it is only right to give back to the country that has given me so much.

As an E-3, or a Seaman, in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, I was given the responsibility of leading new recruits. I was to instruct them on all of the fundamentals of the Navy and Sea Cadets, including important information needed for the program. At times my chain of command questioned my effectiveness as a leader, due to my calm and nurturing leadership style, which was carefully and thoughtfully developed to complement my personality.

My composed, but effective attitude assists people in feeling more comfortable and helps me appeal to anyone I encounter. In the end, my senior leadership recognized the power of my approach, and I had the highest graduation rate of recruits in the unit’s documented history and was awarded a citation ribbon for my positive contributions to the unit.

I knew that I did not want to stand back and let things happen, I wanted to make a difference. I knew that being a commissioned officer was the right choice for me. I had doubts on whether I wanted to attend a four-year college with Naval ROTC or become a midshipman at the Naval Academy. After visiting the Academy on multiple occasions; for Swabbie weekends, the STEM program, and most recently, Summer Seminar, I have come to realize that I will have the same high sense of duty and honor, as a newly commissioned second lieutenant, no matter which route I choose.

The challenge that comes from an ROTC program, both mentally and physically, is one that I have prepared for and am ready to take on. The camaraderie among cadets, the nonstop challenge, and the duty to serve my country upon graduation made me understand that this is what I’ve worked for all of my life.

“Many people travel to the United States to experience “The American Dream,” and being an American citizen. I feel it is only right to give back to the country that has given me so much.”

Inspired to Strive for Greatness

By Seaman Apprentice Brandon Smith, NSCC
Nautilus (SSN-571) Division, Groton, Conn.

I’m a senior at Bolton High School in Connecticut. Although I have only been a member of the Nautilus (SSN-571) Division for eight months, I have learned many things. The most important thing I’ve learned is respect for myself and, more importantly, respect for others. Learning respect not only goes a long way in the military, but will benefit me throughout my life. I also have learned the importance of uniformity and the art of perfection. Other skills I have acquired during the Sea Cadet program are learning to be more efficient and how to work well as a team. I also have learned the Sailors Creed, the 11 General Orders of the Sentry, military drill, and so much more. The Sea Cadet program has had a great impact on my life and has inspired me to strive for greatness.



A Sense of Accomplishment

By Seaman Jeremy Zukosky, NSCC
NWS Earle Division, Leonardo, N.J.

Competing at the CyberPatriot National Finals was one of my biggest accomplishments I ever achieved. It started with a feeling of redemption to make it to the national finals because last year we were just a couple points short of making it. Me and Luke, my teammate, were both seniors and we both gave it 110 percent effort to make it because we knew we would never have another chance. After hearing that we made it we were both ecstatic as well as our teammates, John and Alex.

We would have never done it without the guidance of our mentors, Jack Lopez and Jon Linn. CyberPatriot is a program that everyone should participate in. I am so proud that I had the opportunity to compete in it!



Photos courtesy of Air Force Association

Zukosky working through one of the challenges at the competition.

CyberPatriot Finals ‘Unlike Any Other’

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Lopez, NSCC
NWS Earle Division, Leonardo, N.J.

Going to the CyberPatriot finals was an experience unlike any other. It was probably the most fun I could ever imagine when developing a foundation for myself for a future career in cyber security. The crowds we attracted both in and out of the competition hall were astounding: five-star generals and admirals, as well as representatives from big-time Internet-based companies like Facebook and Cisco, made their presence known by talking to competitors from different teams. I felt like I was a five-star high school athlete attending a combine where the nation’s top college sports programs go to offer scholarship money to the nation’s very best, only instead of running a 40-yard dash I ran anti-malware programs and blocked Trojan horse attacks instead of a blitz.

The biggest highlight of my trip to Washington, D.C., was sharing it with fellow Sea Cadets, so we have great stories and adventures to reflect upon and share with the rest of our unit. With the positive experience the four of us received through CyberPatriot, I think we’ve attracted enough cadets from our home unit to field several teams for next season and return to the finals.



Team Alpha from NWS Earle Division competing in the Cisco Networking Challenge.



Left: Team Left Coast from Fort Fisher Division receives Third Place Overall in the All-Service Division. Right: Team Alpha from NWS Earle Division explores the competition area upon arrival at the Gaylord National Hotel in National Harbor, Md.



ENS Jack Lopez, NSCC

My First Time Building a SeaPerch

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Kristin Blaedow, NSCC
Vollrath Division, Cascade, Wis.

The process of building the SeaPerch posed a challenge right off the bat due to the fact that not only were the team members in two separate divisions, but we also lived quite far from each other. However, we overcame this hurdle surprisingly well because we sent the SeaPerch through the mail along with all of the parts we still needed to build. When Petty Officer Kulow and I received the SeaPerch, we discovered that we were tasked with assembling the motor to the robot. At first, I was discouraged simply because I barely knew how to use my phone; how was I supposed to build a motor for an underwater robot? However, after looking at the directions, watching a few tutorials, and making a trip to Home Depot, I finally got the hang of assembling the motor, and it was surprisingly easy.

We then had to test out how our robot performed when submerged in water. So we met up with members from the VADM James H. Flatley, Jr. Division of Green Bay, Wis. at the YMCA in Sheboygan. After setting up the obstacle course, which consisted of numerous hoops that the SeaPerch had to navigate its way through, we were finally ready to see what our beloved robot could really do. The controls posed a slight problem, due to the fact that the remote was wired wrong. It did the opposite of what it was supposed to do. For example, when we would push the lever to go forward it would go backwards; this was irritating but eventually we could drive it around with no problem. After we got the hang of using the uniquely wired remote, we were finally able to drive through the hoops with relative ease, however, the robot was hard to navigate and the wires would often get stuck on the hoops in the course.

At the same time we were testing out the robot, we were also trying to create a wireless SeaPerch that could drive through the water without a long and obnoxious chord. However, the wireless transmitter would not read a signal once it was underwater, and therefore, the experiment did not work. This took some time to fix.

Finally, the day of the competition arrived! It was on this

day that we would see if the SeaPerch could really perform in the obstacles given to us. The competition began with an introduction of instructions. Basically, there were two tasks to complete: one was the obstacle course, like the one we had practiced on at the YMCA, and the other task was retrieving rings using a hook on the SeaPerch.

Cadets Kulow, Elizondo and I were the first team up. But of course before we could start, our wires shorted and our remote literally melted on us! Actually they melted on Cadet Kulow. This rendered it useless. However, by some miracle, we were able to obtain a back-up remote. This was great news, except that the new one was wired correctly, which meant it was now opposite of what we had originally practiced with, and I was the one driving through the obstacle course. Let's just say the obstacle course did not go as smoothly as I had planned, due to the fact that I kept turning left when I wanted to go right and I kept going back when I wanted to go forward. If hitting the hoops were my task, we would have gotten first, however we were supposed to go through them and not ram into them.

The second task was retrieving hoops from the bottom of the pool and putting them in a basket also located at the bottom of the pool with a hook that was attached to the front of our sea perch. Cadet Kulow was driving this time, and we managed to get two rings in the basket. The other team managed to get eight rings so it was a pretty close score. We then presented to the judges on how we tried to build a wireless SeaPerch.

After a long day of competing, we finally received our awards, which were medals. Our team ended up getting second, out of the two teams that competed. Overall, this was an enriching experience that I would do. I honestly loved making bonds with new people and being part of something so educational. Even with the few mishaps we had and the short timeframe to prepare for the competition, I would still strongly recommend this experience to anyone who loves science, water, and is willing to put in the work!



Photos courtesy of Lexington Division

Lexington Division of Aurora, Colo. recently visited the Challenger Learning Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The unit learned about the moons of Mars, the vestibular system and the future of space travel.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Aaron Gose (left) reflected on the excursion: "Learning about the amount of time and planning that goes into a NASA project was the most interesting and exciting part of the mission. Before the mission, I did not know how important the process of clear and concise communication is... to ensure a smooth mission."



An Adventure to Detroit Metro Airport

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Grant Bruley, NLCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

Recently, the League Cadets of Wolverine Division were offered a tour of Detroit's Metropolitan Airport. Our adventure began with a road trip to the airport. Once there, we were tasked to find the two pilots who would be our tour guides. Once we found Senior Captain Ronald Milon and his colleague from Delta Airlines, we were off through security ... boots off, blousing straps off, belts off — at last we all made it though.

Next we caught the train! I never thought that I'd be on a train at the airport. Off the train, down the escalator and off to the radar room, which is also Air Traffic Control, the ground control tower and a Boeing 757 airplane. All these areas are off limits to the general public. That makes this visit quite special and a privilege.

The air traffic control room/radar room is not the big tower overlooking the airport. It is actually a dimly lit room under the tower. Air traffic personnel have the hardest job because one error can cost the lives of many passengers on the incoming planes. There are not very many people in the tower at one time. They try to have a small number of people to make it quiet so controllers can hear the pilots and ground control speaking. We saw the radar screen, which showed us where all the planes are in the air at any time; the sky is a really busy place.

During our walk through the airport, we met two U.S. Navy Ratings; they were on their way from Recruit Training to their first duty station. They let us take a picture with them, which was very cool. We also saw the Freedom Center,

it's like the USO, where military veterans and their families can go and relax. While we were in the Freedom Center, we ran into our Navy Ratings again, one of them stayed up, talking on his phone and the other, well he saw a bed and said, "Finally, a bed!" He just climbed on in and went to sleep. We hope to go back and help there again and earn community service hours towards our ribbon.

My favorite part of the tour was the Boeing 757 aircraft. It was my favorite part because I enjoy looking at all the different types of planes and other aircraft. Our Delta Airlines pilot guides allowed us all to sit in the cockpit. We were allowed to make announcements over the cabin speaker system and explore the whole plane. The Boeing 757 is the brother to the Boeing 747. This aircraft is able to carry 180 people. It has enough medical supplies for a doctor to use if someone was hurt. We took a nap in the 24 business class seats at the front of the plane — they were very comfy! Soon it was time to head back to our Division for evening colors. Being a League Cadet is so much fun, I can't wait for our next adventure.



How Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Applies to Leadership in Our Units

By Recruit Cadet Martin Pickard, NLCC
Manatee Division, Yankeetown, Fla.



We learned that in order to be an effective leader your followers must respect you. People will behave in ways that will most likely satisfy their needs. If a leader does not satisfy the followers' needs, the followers won't do their job as well, because they will be too busy figuring out how to meet their needs. If a leader does satisfy the followers' needs, they will see that the leader is capable, they know what they are doing, and that they care enough about them to satisfy their followers needs. They will trust the leader, making the leader and the team more effective.

Leaders in Sea Cadets do the same thing. They make sure that our needs are satisfied, which makes us more likely to respect them, making them more effective leaders. An example is how Manatee Division went to the Florida Sheriff's Caruth Camp, where they made us get out of our comfort zone challenging us physically and mentally. Somehow, Lt. Cmdr. Todd Dunn managed to get us warm showers, warm food and warm cabins, because it was really cold outside. That made all of us happy and respect Lt. Cmdr. Dunn even more, so we were able to listen to our leader and conquer our fears.

Annual Inspection Brings Unit Together

By Able Cadet Jeremy Murray, NLCC

John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.

The Sea Cadet Annual Inspection is an important time of year for our unit. We spend a lot of time getting our uniforms ready for the big day. The most interesting thing that I find about the annual inspection is that the time spent to prepare the unit for inspection is a time for the new cadets to learn. Being new to the Sea Cadets, I didn't know much about the uniforms, how to keep them tidy, shining your shoes, and lots of other important things for the inspection. During the preparation, I continuously asked my shipmates for tips and tricks on how to keep things tidy, and they all worked. During the time for preparation, I learned a new way to shine my shoes, and how to tie a tie. I ended up giving my shipmates some tips too. The annual inspection is a special time for the unit, and I think it's a time of learning.

Another thing that the annual inspection does for the unit is that it brings us together as a team, and tightens the

bonds between shipmates. During the time for preparation, my shipmates and I were constantly discussing inspection, and how nervous we were, or if the division would do well. The whole time we were preparing, the unit was just having a good time checking over our uniforms, and shining our shoes. During the inspection I was so nervous someone would get something wrong, but then I would tell myself that my shipmates wouldn't get something wrong, because they worked too hard. We worked so hard for the inspection, so I believed in my shipmates, and it went pretty good.

When it was all done we were our normal selves again, laughing, having a good time, and discussing what happened. When I first came to the unit I was nervous as can be, but by the time inspection had ended, I felt like a part of the unit. Like I said, annual inspection is a time of introduction for new cadets, and I think it should stay that way.

Cadet Attends AUSN Event

By Seaman Apprentice John Evered, NSCC

John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.



Evered meets Totushek at the AUSN luncheon. (Photo: Danny Camp)

The Navy Memorial had never been of interest to me until I was about 12 years old. By that time, my section of our family's house was overflowing with military manuals, an encyclopedia of the United States Marines, etc. I joined the Naval Sea Cadet Corps this past September, as a proud cadet in the John T. Dempster Jr Division in Lawrenceville, N.J. Every monthly meeting, I am taught by very smart individuals I know, whether

they are staff member or juniors and seniors in high school. ROTC and JROTC programs express an attitude I admire. One quotation I will never forget is: "Attitude resembles leadership," from "Remember the Titans." This quotation from the movie helped me shape my good character.

Upon arrival to Washington D.C., my father and I were invited by the prestigious, well-known Association of the United States Navy staff to a luncheon, which included a talk by "Superman," Rear Adm. Gumataotao. We were pleasantly greeted by Danielle Capecchi, who led us to our seats for the luncheon. After two filling courses,

it was mentioned that Rear Adm. Gumataotao had been detained in Norfolk because of snow. Therefore, we would have to conduct the talk via Skype. Although I did not physically meet Rear Adm. Gumataotao, he offered everyone in attendance excellent advice about careers in the armed forces, status of the fleet and more.

As the interview was about to close out, I was stunned when retired Navy Vice Adm. Totushek, AUSN executive director, mentioned there was a Sea Cadet in the audience. My father and I were honored. We had been graciously invited to this talk; however, never in a million years did we expect either one of us to be spoken to directly by the admiral himself. I will never forget what Rear Adm. Gumataotao said next. He referred to Theodore Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech, citing my own experience specifically, paying me the highest compliment. That I, even as a young man, was putting myself "in the arena." He continued: "In your generation, John Evered, you have so many options, this tells me that by choosing this course [the military] for yourself at such a young age, you get it, you know what the future means." Throughout the session with the admiral, I rigorously took notes, notes that I felt were crucial information that the majority of my generation should learn.

The environment and presence of the event was outstanding! In all, I had an extraordinary visit to the Navy Memorial for the outstanding luncheon and talk by Rear Adm. Gumataotao.

The Day I Learned About Teamwork

By **Recruit Cadet Ben Seguin, NLCC**
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

When I first joined Wolverine Division as a League Cadet I was nervous and didn't know what was going on. I was very shy the first day. I am the youngest in the division and struggle to keep up in PT sometimes. But nobody gives up on me! When I am falling behind, the older cadets come back for me and help and encourage me. They make me feel like we're a family.

During my mile run I was really struggling. I could feel my heart pounding and my legs felt wobbly. Halfway through I thought I'd fall over from exhaustion, but then, just when I thought I couldn't make it, some older fellow cadets came to run with me. They cheered me on and pushed me past my limit and I finished the run!

When the other cadets came back for me it taught me that you never let your teammates down! I learned something new about teamwork; the word "teamwork" means that if there is a problem too big to handle yourself, the team will step up. Your team will push you harder, they may let you bend, but they'll never let you break!

Being a League Cadet has helped me grow and I am learning so much. It is not just about yourself, it's about fighting for the buddy next to you too. I am a very proud United States Navy League Cadet, hooya!



Courtesy of Wolverine Division

Seguin finishes his mile-run with encouragement from his Wolverine Division teammates.

Sea Cadets Volunteer at MS Walk

By **Petty Officer 2nd Class Isabelle Kulow, NSCC**
Vollrath Division, Cascade, Wis.

On April 26, the annual Multiple Sclerosis (MS) walk took place at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Wis. Three USNSCC cadets from Vollrath Division — Petty Officer Second Class Isabelle Kulow, Seaman Alexander Turner, and Seaman Benjamin Turner — volunteered at the walk for the third year in a row. The cadets placed motivational signs around the 5K walking course, welcomed visitors, and acted as crossing guards for the walkers.

They also got to meet a lot of new people that had so much hope and motivation. There was a woman who was living with MS who was very determined to finish the walk. She had finished it the previous year, but she wanted to complete the course again. She was very inspiring to the cadets; not only did she turn down the MS transportation van, she kept going despite the difficulty her leg was giving her. She finished the walk again this year and was so happy to complete her goal. People like her make volunteering a wonderful experience. Meeting new people in the community, making a difference, and making a positive impact in the lives of others — that's what it means to be a Sea Cadet.



Courtesy of Vollrath Division



LTJG Adam Glaysher, NSCC

Start Preparing Now for Summer Training

By Lt. Cmdr. Brian Kobleur, NSCC
Commanding Officer, Recruit Training III.

Summer training is fast approaching, and with it comes a fresh group of Cadet Recruits! New cadets and parents, welcome to Team Family! It's perfectly normal to be apprehensive about the unknown, so here are some tips that will hopefully set your minds at ease and set you up for success, no matter where you receive your Recruit Training (RT).

READ THE WELCOME LETTER, more than once, and earlier than just a couple days before the training starts. If there is a training website or Facebook page, join it and check it frequently. I highly recommend that you and your parents sit together and review the information, which should alleviate any concerns your parents might have about Facebook or social media. If you don't take advantage of the information that is made available, you are going to be way behind the power curve.

If you have questions, such as how to obtain uniforms, name tapes, raincoats, etc., ask your local chain of command. Keep your unit informed, and give them a chance to contribute to your success by letting them do their jobs in this process. They can't help you if they don't know you need help.

Good quality footgear is essential. Buy good boots and break them in early. You will march upwards of five miles a day; good quality footgear is the most essential piece of equipment you have. You are less likely to make it through if your boots aren't worn in prior to the start of training.

A culture of fitness starts long before the training. You think you know, but you have no idea what the pace of RT is like. Your days start at 0500, and end at 2200, and there is literally not one moment of downtime between the two. Wean yourself from caffeine, energy drinks and sugary treats now, because you won't have any of that; start hydrating now as it takes your body a while to adjust to withdrawal from caffeine.

Now is a great time to get in shape, if you aren't already. Even just walking every day between now and the start of training will have a positive effect on your body and endurance.

Finally, ignore the cadet grapevine to a large extent. If your source of information about what to expect comes primarily from older cadets whose tales of their RT make it sound like a horrible experience, ignore them. Nothing saddens me more than to hear a Cadet Recruit is quitting the program because of fears about RT they heard through the rumor mill. Parents: remember, no news is good news once the training starts!

Every officer associated with RT works long hours throughout the year and especially once the training begins to prepare an exceptional and safe experience for you. Our mission is to teach you the foundation and return you to your units as basically trained Sea Cadets; we are committed to your success. We do this willingly because we believe in you! No one comes to Recruit Training to fail. If you give us 100 percent effort, show us your motivation, and make a determined effort to learn and follow instructions, I promise you will return home changed for the better. You have yet to experience the confidence that comes from learning you are capable of so much more than you think you are, but you will. Come to training with a great attitude, ready to learn, and leave the drama at home, because we won't tolerate it. I expect and demand your very best, because that is what I and each of my officers and staff cadets will give to you. We are three- to four-times your age; all we ask is that you keep up with us! Hooyah Cadets! We can't wait to train with you this summer!

CHART YOUR COURSE

What's In Your Wallet?

By Instructor Michelle Golding
TS Kit Carson, Escondido, Calif.

Our family spent spring break in New York and Boston this year. On the first day of our trip our friends took us to an iconic burger place on Long Island called American Burger. My littlest one had to use the restroom and the burger place did not have one so we had to run across a very busy multiple lane road to the Starbucks across the street. It wasn't until we had returned home that I realized my wallet that I had in my jacket pocket was not there. We notified all the major credit card companies and went to the police station to fill out a police report. Regrettably, as we are from the state of California, you cannot have a new driver's license mailed to you; you must go into a DMV office, which caused a problem as airport security requires a photo ID and my driver's license was my only photo ID.

We continued to enjoy our vacation sightseeing in Boston, Connecticut and Manhattan. Two days prior to our return home we were just about to board the Staten Island Ferry when our cell phone rang. It was the USNSCC Headquarters in Arlington, Va. "Michelle Golding, we have your wallet here." WHAT?! WOW?! "We are calling to confirm your home address to return it to you." I said "Oh that is so kind of you but instead of sending it to my home in San Diego, can you overnight it to where we are staying in New York so I have my photo ID that is required at the airport?" "Yes ma'am." I provided the address and the next morning before we even left the house my wallet had arrived!

I am profoundly indebted to the kindness of the individual who found my wallet. I suspect they are somehow related to the USNSCC, which is why they thought to send it to HQ and I am grateful to HQ for sending it to me in New York instead of my home in California which would have led to an unpleasant experience with airport security to get home. Just another example that kindness and goodness really do exist in our crazy world!

Visiting Our Namesake, USS *Mason*

By Chief Petty Officer Madison McGonigle, NSCC
Mason (DDG-87) Division, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Mason Division was honored to have the opportunity to visit their namesake for the first time. This past month, they took the long journey to Norfolk, Va. with excitement. To have a once in a lifetime chance in a first hand experience with the USS *Mason* (DDG 87), was an exciting idea to the cadets. Having only heard about the notorious journey taken by the original *Mason* (DE 529) and the endeavors the crew faced, it only felt more distinguishing to allow the presence of the unit be known to the *Mason* crew.

Holding high respects for the work of one of the first Naval ships (TS *Mason* DE 529) to be manned by a largely African American crew, the Mason Division was overwhelmed with anticipation to meet the crew of the *Mason* DDG 87, who served in honor of the brave men before them.

The *Mason* DDG 87 welcomed the unit with a hot chow, an eventful tour of the destroyer, and the chance to interact with some of the crew. For some of the cadets it was

the their first experience on a naval vessel, while for the crew of the *Mason*, it was the first time they had ever heard of the USNSCC let alone a unit commissioned with their name.

They happily showed the unit around their home, allowing them to interact and ask questions about technology of the ship and the crew's experiences. The crew even tested the cadets and were surprised by the in-depth knowledge they had on naval terminology and technology. They seemed to enjoy the cadets and their spirit so much that they allowed them to test out their fire gear and compete in a race with their Fire Control Technician to see who was the fastest in gearing up.

The experiences the Mason Division gained on their trip to their namesake will never be forgotten. There are many hopes to have the ability to visit again, but for the time being the Mason Division proudly serves their Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment.



Courtesy of CPO McGonigle, NSCC



Photos courtesy of Katy Division

A Visit to the Pacific War Museum

By Seaman R.J. Stiles III, NSCC
Katy Division, Katy, Texas

On April 11, Sea Cadets and League Cadets from Katy, Texas, departed from their normal drill location to go on an exciting trip to Fredericksburg, Texas, the home of the National Pacific War Museum and the birthplace of Admiral Chester Nimitz. The museum was very interesting and the cadets learned much about naval history in the Pacific and the heroism of many, even in the face of certain death. One example of this gallantry is the USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (DE-413). USS *Roberts* was a pint-sized vessel with a small crew that charged into battle without any regard for themselves to face a large group of Japanese warships. The crew fought so hard that it was named “The Destroyer Escort That Fought like a Battleship.”

Stories like these inspired the cadets and officers as they toured the museum. The Pacific War Museum had more than just stories though. They had many large items on exhibit, such as a full-sized nuclear bomb, a Japanese Mini-Submarine, an admiral’s barge and many different varieties of aircraft. The division then moved on to the hotel portion that was run by Admiral Nimitz’s parents. It has been converted to part of the museum and is dedicated to the life of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Katy Division then settled into the American Legion Post 244 for the evening. Once there, the Sea Cadets conducted a class on World War II and everybody shared a story about a service member that they had learned about that day. The day ended with conversation on what they had learned and what they would learn the next day.

The cadets woke up on Sunday morning excited for the next portion of the trip. The division loaded up the vans and traveled over to the museum reenactment site for a show featuring the use of an assortment of weapons in a live Marine beach landing. It was a very educational and highly entertaining show. When it was finished, the cadets got the opportunity to meet a few World War II veterans and hear their stories. When it was all said and done, Katy Division learned a lot about the Pacific War Campaign and when they got home, had many stories of their own to share with their families.



Top: The unit pauses for a photo with a Marine invasion reenactor, who is also a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, following the island invasion reenactment. Bottom Left: SA Blake Clifton reads plaques telling the stories of both men and ships in the memorial garden outside of the museum. Bottom Right: SA Justin Johnson shares a brief laugh and handshake with a World War II Army Air Corps veteran.

Cadets Honor Vietnam Veterans

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Hunter Ferrell, NSCC
233rd Seabee Battalion, Loganville, Ga.

On May 7, the Vietnam Moving Wall came to Conyers, Ga. The “Wall,” a replica of Washington, D.C.’s wall, which travels around the country spreading awareness of our country’s sacrifice in the Vietnam War, arrived in time to mark the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

My unit had the chance to experience it. On May 8, my fellow cadets and I dressed in our whites and traveled to the memorial. We met many veterans, including Colonel Wayne Waddell, a prisoner of war in Vietnam for five years and five months. Hearing his story broke my heart, but made me even more proud to be an American and to be in uniform. We met and talked to veterans from every branch of the service.

After taking part in a POW/MIA ceremony, we had the chance to explore. We were all instantly drawn to the wall.

Thousands of names were etched across the black wall. Some of us even found family names. The atmosphere around us — crying women, children asking who the person was — it was all amazing, in a morose way.

On May 9, we had the chance to escort widows, cousins, daughters, sons and parents to the wall. We helped them locate their fallen loved ones’ name. We made sure our uniforms were squared away as to respect the deceased, veterans, POWs and family members visiting. They were very pleased that we were there to listen to their stories of their family never coming home, and how much this wall meant to them.

In the end, I believe my unit gained a greater respect for the sacrifice that our country and its defenders have made.



Courtesy of 233rd Seabee Battalion

SA Presley Rowe and PO2 Ferrell read the names on the Wall.

BZ to the Unit Award Winners for 2014

John J. Bergen Trophy for Most Outstanding NSCC Unit

Alamo Battalion, Commanded by INST Julio Salazar, Sponsored by San Antonio NLUS

Morgan L. Fitch Trophy for Most Outstanding NLCC Unit

TS Reina Mercedes, Commanded by LCDR Catherine Coble, Sponsored by Annapolis NLUS

George S. Halas Trophy for Most Outstanding NSCC Unit/NLCC Training Ship

Sacramento Division and Training Ship California, Commanded by LCDR Curtis Gant, Sponsored by Placer County NLUS

Navy League Of Canada Challenge Trophy for Most Improved Unit Finishing in the Top Ten

San Joaquin Division, Commanded by LT John McGinnis, Sponsored by Stockton NLUS

Anthony H. Murray, Sr., Seaman Award for NSCC Unit Effecting the Most Cadet Advancements to E-3

Central Iowa Division, Commanded by LCDR Eric Goslinga, Sponsored by Marshalltown Police Department



“Performing our music helps bridge a gap between their generation and mine. They can see that we really care. Our generations have found a connection because we honor and respect each other.” — Chief Petty Officer Jared Zygarzewicz, NSCC
Each year, the Band of the West performs on Armed Forces Day for the friends and family of the storied World War II 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The Buddhist ceremony takes place in a beautiful grove of redwood trees in Oakland.



Photo of the Quarter

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. — Cadets are all smiles during the Southern California Regional Flagship Competition.

Important Reminders

Want to have your unit featured on Facebook? Email us at pao@seacadets.org with your unit's history and logo. Thanks to all of the units who have already participated and a big thank you to Instructor David Sheets of John T. Dempster, Jr. Division who came up with the idea!

Did you know that we have a travel rewards program? Many airlines will provide mileage point credits to the USNSCC without impacting the points earned by the traveler. In turn, this enables us to provide tickets for cadets who would not normally be able to afford to travel to training.

More info:

<http://homeport.seacadets.org/display/TRAV/Travel+Home>

Sea Cadet Quarterly

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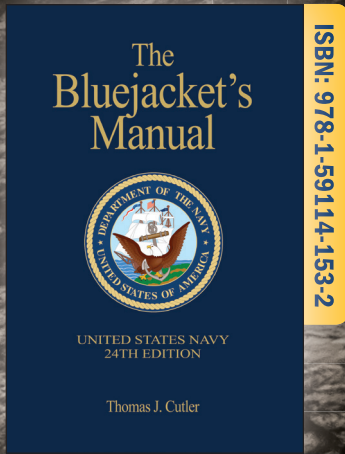


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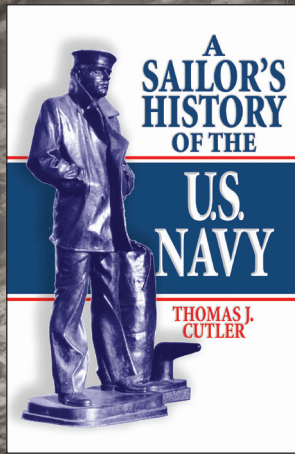


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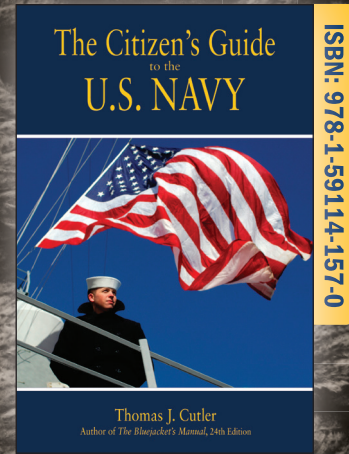
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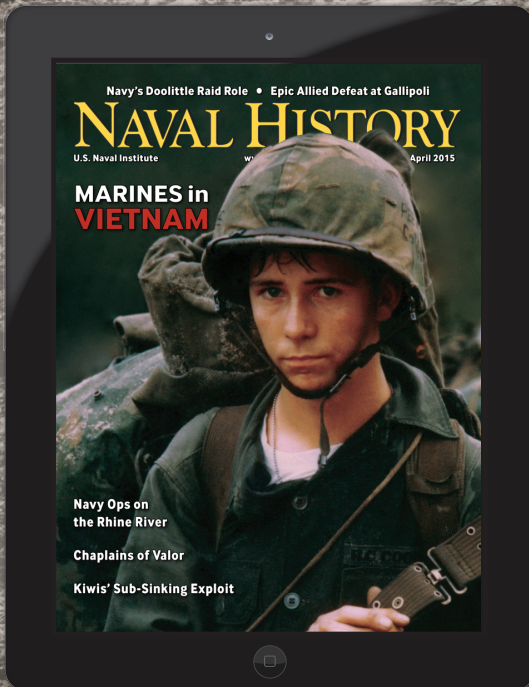
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