

Sea Cadet Quarterly



Staff Cadets Train Next Generation

By Petty Officer 1st Class Jessica Perry, NSCC
Annapolis Division, Annapolis, Md.
Staff Cadet, Recruit Training, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

When I first started attending trainings, I looked up to the staff and respected them unconditionally. They appeared much older than me at the time, more mature, and they knew exactly what they were doing. When I became staff, I realized that all of these things I had seen as a trainee were part of a facade for someone basically the same age, maybe a little more mature, and knowing very little what exactly they needed to do.

One of the hardest things about staffing is making the right kind of first impression with your division. Recruits often have no idea what to expect from recruit training — let alone the staff — and you have not yet set expectations for them at that point. That being said, the staff does not want to appear too friendly or

too difficult. There must be a balance between being a recruit's friend and being a teacher or mentor. Staffing definitely establishes those boundaries.

The biggest thing I realized during those two weeks was that I was training the next generation of NSCC leaders. In a few years, the recruits I put through boot camp will be the petty officers and chief petty officers that are in the same shoes I am in now. This revelation gave me the determination to share everything I know about the Sea Cadets, so that in a few short years when they're in my position, they will be as good as — or better — leaders than I am.

(Read more from our staff cadets on Page 8.)

From the Field



Flying Tigers Squadron

Indiana

Cadets marched in their local fourth of July parade.



Courtesy of PO2 Rosalie D'Onofrio, NSCC

Pennsylvania

Cadets trained aboard Tall Ship Picton Castle this summer.



SA Joshua Jenkins, NSCC

Tennessee

Cadets pushed themselves at field operations training.

Welcome to Our New National Chairman

Dr. John Stegman lives in Columbus, Ohio. He was elected National Chairman of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in June 2015 after serving as National President of the USNSCC Board of Directors.

He is a former Naval Officer with billets at sea, shore and the Pentagon. He has held many offices in the Navy League of the United States: President of the Greater Columbus Council, the Ohio Area President, and the Liberty Region President. He has been a Navy League national director for many years. More than 20 years ago, when he joined the Greater Columbus Council, his first job was as adopt-a-ship chairman where he led in the commissioning of the USS *Columbus*.

After his Navy years, he entered business and industry serving in General Management and Marketing Management positions. He then earned a Ph.D. and taught MBA candidates. He is retired from The Ohio State University.

His naval awards received after his active service include: Superior Public Service Award from the Secretary of the Navy; Scroll of Honor from the National Chairman of the U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps; and Distinguished Service Award from the President of the Navy League.



Courtesy of Band of the West

Dr. Stegman (right) greets the crowd at the Band of the West's performance in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Our Community is Growing

Please join us in welcoming our new units!

Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron (Yuma, Ariz.)
Saratoga (CV-60) Squadron (Eaton Rapids, Mich.)
TS David A. Enright (Locust Grove, Ga.)
Viking Division (Purcellville, Va.)
Matthew Axelson Division (Yuba City, Calif.)

Dante Mattioni Division (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Yellowstone Battalion (Billings, Mont.)
Orion Squadron (Altamonte Springs, Fla.)
TS Robert M. Wicklund (Petaluma, Calif.)
Seminole Battalion (Altamonte Springs, Fla.)

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 Barbara Donnelly, or Barb, our administrative assistant extraordinaire. Hailing from Saginaw, Mich., Barb likes to start the day off with a strong cup of coffee and enjoys reading spy thrillers and caring for her cats. She has been with headquarters for about 13 years. Her favorite part about what she does? She loves to read feedback from the cadets as they progress through the program, and later on, as they start their adult lives by going on to college or entering the military. Barb, you're the best!



Barb helping out with a marketing mailing for our units.



Texas

A cadet pushes himself through an obstacle course at Recruit Training.

Camp Maxey Photojournalism



Iowa

Cadets work hard during a tug-of-war match at Recruit Training.

Courtesy of Central Iowa Division



Maine

A cadet practices his land navigation skills during advanced training.

Courtesy of Coast Guard Group Portland Division

A Journey Aboard *Barque Eagle*

By Chief Petty Officer Michael Nix, NSCC

Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.

Shipboard Training, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Barque Eagle*

“HEAVE! HO! HEAVE! HO! ...” Forty swabs heave three lines in a space as wide as a car, bumping into each other as the boat responds to the waves. There is no working by yourself or for yourself, there is only your team and your mission to heave your line. The *Barque Eagle* acts as a training ship for the new freshmen joining the Coast Guard Academy. College freshmen recently out of high school, some not even 18 yet, have been enduring their “Swab Summer” for the past four weeks before they made it to the *Eagle*. Six Sea Cadets are allowed to join the Swabs to work right alongside them and the crew. I was fortunate enough to be picked with some of the best Sea Cadets in the program. We boarded in New York City and were immediately split into different divisions. The first day we helped with public tours and the second we had shore leave in New York City.

On the third day we set sail for Newport, R.I. Being smashed into a tiny birthing area filled with 15 grown men and sleeping in a space that is only two feet high can be frightening, but the Swabs welcomed us with open arms. The crew also was very patient with everyone and taught us as much as they could within the week. By the second day at sea we were qualified to climb up into the rigging of the sails and were now underway strictly by sail power. Seasickness took many of the Swabs and three of the Sea Cadets as they stood near the railing hoping the ordeal would end. When

walking on deck, the ship's 10 degree tilt from the sails made walking in a straight line very difficult. On the third night, there was a terrible storm with wind speeds up to 45 knots and waves up to 15 feet. The ship was at a 25 degree angle and one swab fell out of his bunk while he slept.

Working aboard the *Eagle* can be dangerous and exciting. With six miles of lines and twenty-three sails there are a lot of moving parts, which require everyone to work as a team. Teamwork is vital. If you are on a line heaving out of sync with everyone else, your heave won't help one bit because there is too much weight for just you. Sometimes only a large group of people can effectively move something but only when they are all working together. Our division was tasked with moving the yardarms of the main mast, which required eight people to move one arm effectively — and there were five yard arms. Everyone must focus on completing the task rather than focusing on themselves.

The Coast Guard Academy has a saying: “Ship, Shipmates, Self”. The *Eagle* forces you to focus on more than just yourself, but more on being aware of the needs around you. Because if you aren't, then something could go terribly wrong and your shipmates could end up getting hurt. Staying aboard the *Eagle* is a one of a kind experience which teaches everyone on board about teamwork, self-awareness and being a great shipmate.



Photos courtesy of CPO Michael Nix, NSCC

Chief's Corner: Leading By Example

By Chief Petty Officer Christian Hirsch, NSCC
Monadnock Squadron, Peterborough, N.H.

I have learned many things about leadership in the NSCC, from recruit to chief. Having been exposed to many leadership styles, I believe that “leadership by example” is the most important and effective principle of leadership. I have had various leadership positions throughout my last four years in the NSCC. I learned right away that in order to gain the respect of your subordinates you must lead by example. As a squad leader at recruit training, I led my squad in simple tasks like cleaning the barracks. At seamanship training, I was put in charge of a company of 12 cadets as a seaman. When tasked with disciplining, I knew physical punishment would not be an efficient way of effecting a change, so I volunteered our company for cleaning detail. As their leader, I did not watch them clean — I cleaned right along with them.

My most significant leadership role was as Recruit Division Commander, or RDC, at Recruit Training Command New England in July. As RDC, I took pride in being a mentor, not a bully. I disciplined my recruits, but I also built them up. I encouraged them to work as a team. This is what garnered their respect. In order to be a good leader, you must know the material better than anyone. I was on the deck with my recruits, teaching them how to make hospital corners. That was much more effective than ripping up an incorrectly made rack. My recruit division worked hard as a team and I was very proud when they were named “Honor Division” at graduation.

“Leadership by example” is the most important principle of leadership. It will serve you in every aspect of life — not only in the NSCC, but in your community, the workforce, and even as a parent one day.

Leading as ‘The Chief’

By Chief Petty Officer Edward Chartier, NSCC
Nautilus 571 Division, Groton, Conn.



I have been in this program since 2009. It has truly turned me into the person I am today and I'm very grateful for it. The biggest part of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps to me is the training opportunities. I have now completed 17 different trainings as a League Cadet and Sea Cadet including Field Operations, Medical/Fire Fighting, and Honor Guard. But this summer was different. During my 32 training days this summer, I was The

Chief. And being The Chief was no easy job, but a rewarding one.

My first stop was Florida for my Field Medical training. I learned a vast amount of knowledge from basic vitals, to care under fire, all the way to setting an emergency cricothyrotomy! But taking in the vast amount of knowledge from our lieutenant wasn't the hard part. It was when we got to the field and put in work — the long days and nights and physical stamina needed. There were points where I did not know if I could last, but I continued. For my team and because I was The Chief. And in the end it truly taught me to never quit and always work with the team because otherwise, you will fail the mission.

At my next stop I used those lessons, as well as everything else I have learned throughout my time, to be the Bravo

Recruit Division Commander at Recruit Training Command New England. I had big shoes to fill, but as The Chief I jumped right in. I started with the basics and moved forward with attention to detail, working under pressure, and most important, teamwork. My recruits learned a lot and even had our Division Color Guard present the colors at graduation. At the end of the training, Bravo Division finished towards the top and “teamwork made the dream work” during their transition from recruits to cadets.

The last stop for me this summer was being the Battalion Chief for NLCC Orientation New England. My first stop showed me precision and teamwork. My second showed me the hands-on skills of running a division and how to get from recruit to cadet. And now as The Chief, I had to lead my staff of Petty Officers to complete the mission and make the same transition from recruit to cadet. I also had to make sure operations were in tune, with any concerns quickly fixed, and even taught a couple classes. In the end, I had to step back from a hands-on position and guide my staff to build cadets, so I could take them and build the battalion. And with a 100% graduation rate I see that as a job well done for all!

Throughout my trainings as The Chief I learned so much about leadership and myself. I also had an amazing summer making tons of friends and learning some crazy things and having these amazing opportunities of a lifetime! I'm glad to spend the majority of my summer with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps building recruits into cadets, and I can't wait to see what I have in store for my senior year of high school and last year as a cadet in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps as The Chief.

An Interview: U.S. Representative Ken Calvert (R-Calif.)

The cadets of Paul Revere Division and TS Independence asked Rep. Calvert about service academies, technology and more.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Bradley Vargas, NSCC

Q: What do you think a Sea Cadet can do to increase their chances of being accepted into a service academy?

Calvert: I think any steps Sea Cadets can take to demonstrate they have a wide range of experiences will only help. Obviously, being involved with the Sea Cadets is a great start along with getting good grades. Also, it is

always positive to demonstrate leadership among your peers, such as serving in student government, being a team captain, or being named as a student of the month. Participating in team sports and community service are other ways of increasing your chances.



Chief Petty Officer
Nathan Booth, NSCC

Q: Do you take into consideration the Sea Cadet program when drafting bills or policies that might affect them?

Calvert: I certainly do every year during the appropriations process in which we fund the federal government. As part of that process Congress has provided annual funding

for the Sea Cadet program. I also like to use the Sea Cadet program as a model for other opportunities to engage young Americans.

Q: What is your favorite branch of the military?

Calvert: That is kind of like asking a parent to choose a favorite child. All of our branches perform a unique and critical role, and together they combine to make up the finest military force in the world.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Jacob McCormick,
NLCC

Q: Do you have any relatives who have served in the military?

Calvert: My father served in the Navy during World War II.



Able Cadet
Adam Niles, NLCC

Q: Due to constant changes and advancements in technology, how do you see the Sea Cadet program changing in the future?

Calvert: We have seen tremendous developments in the technology used in our daily lives, and that applies to our military as well. I fully expect those developments to transfer over to the Sea Cadet programs and training.



Seaman Apprentice
Dylan Trinh, NSCC

Q: What are some of your favorite things you get to do as a congressman?

Calvert: I have been fortunate enough to meet and visit with American service members in various locations around the world. Seeing their professionalism, sacrifice, and dedication to protecting our national security is truly inspiring. I've also been

able to fly on Air Force One with President Bush, which is an unforgettable experience.

Q: Where do you see the Sea Cadet program and other youth military programs in the future?

Calvert: The Sea Cadet program has seen tremendous growth from its first unit of 78 young men to now more than 380 units and 9,000 young men and women. I expect even more growth in the years to come as young Americans look for ways to explore the opportunities our military programs have to offer.



Seaman Recruit
Angelina Branco,
NSCC

Q: What advice would you give young men and women in the Sea Cadet program?

Calvert: As my father used to say, hope is not a planning option. So I would encourage them to figure out where they want to be in 10 or 20 years, and then develop a strategy for how they are going to achieve their goals. 🧭



Petty Officer 2nd Class
Decklan Eaden, NSCC

Alumni Spotlight: Robert Colson

World War II veteran Robert Colson was one of our program's first officers. Amazingly, the discovery of his Sea Cadet uniform in a Texas thrift store led to the unearthing of his unique story.

By Lt. Cmdr. Charles Eskew, NSCC
Region 11 Staff

September 10, 1962: A date that all Sea Cadets and adult staff should have learned upon joining the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. That is the date that Congress approved and designated the program as an approved organized program. The program had been functioning before that date and in April 1962, Robert J. Colson, then living in Bridgeton, Mo., was approached by a fellow employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was asked to join an organization called the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. As a World War II Navy veteran, he was enrolled and given the rank of ensign. His unit did not have a name, but was based at Lambert Field.

No sooner had he suited up, he was put to work as escort to new cadets attending Recruit Training Command at Naval Base, Great Lakes, Illinois. The "group" (unit) met generally as units meet today. His second escort duty was on USS *Bold*, a wooden minesweeper in Charleston, S.C., training cadets in rigging and operation of paravane gear, or basically simulated mine clearing operations.

In November 1965, his work took him to Kelley Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. It was here that he transferred from the Lambert Field group to the Sea Cadet group based in San Antonio. He was promoted to lieutenant junior grade. Shortly after arriving in the San Antonio area, he transferred to the newly formed Alamo Unit based at the Reserve Center on Fort Sam Houston. It was here in the Alamo Unit that he experienced and took advantage of many aspects of trainings and unit operations as we still know of them today. In 1991, he was placed on the retired list and ended a long and satisfying career as one of the very first Sea Cadet officers.

There is much more to the story of the life of World War II Navy veteran Robert J. Colson, leading up to his involvement with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. I am pleased to share the story of how his 1962 Sea Cadet khaki uniform came to my possession and is now on display in Marysville, Calif. This is the only privately owned military historical museum in the United States. Mr. Colson, age 92, currently lives with his beautiful wife, Mary, in New Braunsfel, Texas. Through the course of processing the uniform into the museum, Mr. Colson and I have become closely acquainted over the phone and through email with him sending me numerous articles on his time in the program as well as his personal diary regarding his time in the Navy, which dates from February 5, 1941 to March 3, 1943. This diary, entitled, "A Kid in a Man's Navy", is an exact day-to-day, place-to-place record of his time on



In August 2015, Lt. Cmdr. Eskew (left) traveled to New Braunsfels, Texas to meet Robert Colson. Eskew presented him with an NSCC alternate uniform shirt as a gift.

the USS *Enterprise*. There is no way to include all of his war and personal experiences in this article.

When Headquarters staff member Vinson Nash first approached me in January, we discussed two uniforms that had been sent to him from a Mr. David Akers in New Braunsfel, Texas. We all thought that he was the original Sea Cadet officer connected to these uniforms. While the uniforms were in transit to me here in California, I contacted Mr. Akers by mail and he responded with the information that the uniforms were those of a Mr. Robert Colson, also of New Braunsfel. That started the gathering of history of his time with the Sea Cadet program as well as his World War II Navy history. It turns out that Mr. Akers ran a thrift store where Mr. Colson had dropped off the uniforms. Mr. Akers saved the uniforms and sent them to National Headquarters.

Colson reported aboard the *Enterprise* in San Diego directly from boot camp the first week of April 1941 and was assigned to the 1st Division. These were generally Boatswain's Mates. The *Enterprise* departed for Pearl Harbor almost as soon as he was aboard. His underway duty station was steering the carrier and his battle station was a "fuse setter" on a forward starboard side 5-inch gun. He was paid \$21 a month for his service. On November 28, 1941, the *Enterprise* departed Pearl Harbor for Wake Island ferrying U.S. Marine Corp Fighter Squadron VMF-211 to bolster the defense of

Wake Island. They were one of the carriers the Japanese thought was still at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the day the war started. On the return trip to Pearl Harbor, the *Enterprise* was scheduled to arrive on December 7. Admiral "Bull" Halsey reduced the speed of the task group, which changed the arrival date to December 8, 1941.

Seaman Colson would soon become the Port Sternhook on Admiral Halsey's barge. While steering the ship, there were numerous times when Halsey interacted with the bridge staff, sometimes in casual personal conversation. This was an impression not left unnoticed by a young Sailor.

On April 8, 1942, the *Enterprise*, with Halsey in command of the carrier task group, eased out of Pearl Harbor to rendezvous with the USS *Hornet* carrying General Jimmy Doolittle and his B-25 bombers, all then proceeding for that now-famous raid on Japan.

He recalls being topside on the *Enterprise* and watching as the Doolittle Raiders took off from USS *Hornet*. The date was April 18, 1942 and we were striking back at Japan for the death and destruction at Pearl Harbor.

From the Battle of Midway in June 1942, which many have described as the turning point of the war in the Pacific, to the Battle of Santa Cruz, the Battle of the Eastern Solomons, and the Gilbert and Marshall Islands Raid, Seaman Colson and his beloved *Enterprise* fought in Pacific engagements earning Colson many citations, including the Presidential Unit Citation, U.S. Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Good Conduct Medal plus 8 Battle Stars. The "Big E", as *Enterprise* was

called, received her first major damage in the Eastern Solomons Battle on August 24, 1941, when a bomb pierced her deck just forward of the aft elevator, went through five decks and exploded. Thirty seconds later, a second bomb hit within 15-feet of the first bomb.

After a much-deserved return to Pearl Harbor for repairs, "Big E" left to support the task force in and around New Caledonia, arriving October 23, 1942. After a skirmish on November 4 with several Japanese planes, the ship secured from General Quarters. Seaman Colson was part of a deck work crew assigned to use a fire ax and cut small "plugs" out of the wooden flight deck to be used to plug machine gun holes at various places on the ship. Suddenly a straggling Japanese plane dive bombed the carrier. A bomb was dropped that missed the ship, but the concussion caused a violent movement of the ship causing Colson to fall with the fire ax crushing the four fingers on his left hand. The next morning, four of his fingers were removed. They were bandaged and he was put on light duty. Ten days later, the ship pulled in to Nourmea, New Caledonia Harbor and he was transferred to the U.S. Army Hospital Command. After several moves to various hospitals because his hand was not healing, he eventually ended up on the island of Suva where he boarded the former luxury liner, the USS *Matsonia* for a 13-day trip to Oakland, Calif. While in Oakland, his hand healed sufficiently and he was asked if he wanted to stay in the Navy on limited duty, or accept an honorable discharge. He left the Navy on March 3, 1943 and returned home to Taft, Calif.

From Taft, Calif. his life led him through many employment and military activities leading him to Kansas City, Mo. where his Sea Cadet story began.

Retired NSCC Lt.j.g. Robert J. Colson currently lives on 20 acres where he has owned horses most of his life, and he still has his enlisted uniform, which he wears occasionally for local events. 🚩

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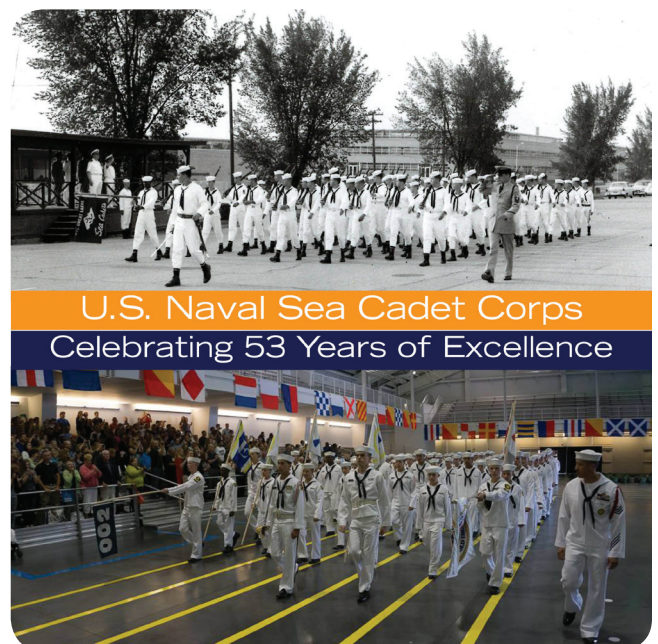
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How to Be an Effective Staff Cadet

By **Stephen Bunting**

Director of Training, National Headquarters

As a program, we talk a lot about creating leaders for tomorrow and how cadets apply leadership principles learned at our Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA). Upon completion of POLA, the ultimate test is often during the experience serving as a staff cadet. During the training, staff cadets work hard to motivate everyone in their charge in order to meet the training's established goals. Over the course of their Sea Cadet career, through trial and error, as well as determination and perseverance, the opportunities provided will help define their individual leadership style.

Creating 'Esprit de Corps' is Your Job

By **Petty Officer 2nd Class Maxwell Yonkers, NSCC**

Truxton (DDG-103) Division, Oswego, N.Y.

Staff Cadet, Recruit Training, Fort Drum, N.Y.

It is intake day, and only day one of a unforgettable two-week experience at Recruit Training. For most of the recruits, it is a long silent ride with unsure emotions onto the base in a 15-passenger van. For the staff however, it is actually the start of a training all their own.

People always love to hear about the experiences and journey of a graduating recruit, but they often forget about the staff cadet's experience. For me, and the majority of all cadre, it is a learning experience, a time to exemplify your leadership skills, but also learn from your mistakes. Saying that staffing a recruit training is a stressful task is an understatement, but saying it is just a accomplishment is as well. You can truly discover what kind of leader you are — your strengths and your weaknesses. The true mission of any RT is to end individualism and build a team, how

you conquer that, however, depicts your leadership style.

I have found that the two separate ideas of patience and motivation become tightly woven when in charge of many recruits. You must instill *esprit de corps* and encourage them to embrace the heritage and history of the Navy and Coast Guard, yet you have to let time and your leadership ability mold them into the team you have taught them to be. When you witness the moment the recruits you have taught have each others' back and they all rise and fall as a one team, the stress is all set aside and the feeling of accomplishment rests within the cadre's heart.



Staffing: An 'Unforgettable' Experience

By **Seaman Clayton Mitchell, NSCC**

Marianas Division, Santa Rita, Guam

Staff Cadet, Recruit Training, Santa Rita, Guam

Being in a position of leadership is so different from being a recruit. As a staff cadet, I got to help the instructors, give orders to the cadets, and most importantly, I was responsible. My experience as a staff cadet is unforgettable: looking out for the recruits, and the recruits looking up to me and my fellow staff cadets for our leadership examples and as role models.

We give the recruits a taste of what actual boot camp would be like if they decide the Navy would be their future career or other branches of military service as well. In boot camp, we instilled military bearing and acquainted cadets to the Navy's customs and traditions. The cadets observed the different jobs within the Navy's mission. We took tours to HSC-25 helicopter squadron, Coast Guard *Sequoia* buoy

tender, Naval Special Warfare and other great positions the Navy has to offer. We also conducted PT with the recruits twice a day, once in the morning at 0600 and then again before lights out.

This year's boot camp was a huge success, with twice the number of cadets as last year. I am so fortunate to have had the pleasure of experiencing this year's boot camp as a tremendous learning opportunity with a whole lot of fun. My experience in leadership has built a strong foundation towards future goals and a long lasting bond of camaraderie amongst fellow cadets that I will treasure for years to come.



Teaching Next Generation is an Honor

By Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Vazquez, NSCC
Boca Delray Division, Boca Raton, Fla.
Staff Cadet, Navy League Orientation, Groveland, Fla.

The inspiration that has driven me to come so far in this program is watching others aspire to succeed as I have. It is my passion to be able to share my knowledge, as well as support the goals of others and celebrate the accomplishments of each cadet.

As a petty officer first class, I am expected to staff either a League Orientation or a Recruit Training as it is a requirement to reach chief. I completed this requirement, but did not approach it as I have seen some other petty officers do. Staffing a League Orientation was one of the best weeks of my life. I cared for each of the cadets in my company and was eager to train them to the very best of my ability. Watching the young cadets grow and develop, and wanting to learn as eagerly as I wanted to teach them, gave me pride and joy. While at training, my Assistant Company Commander,

or ACC, and I generally looked out for the well-being of our cadets. When discipline was necessary, my ACC and I addressed the problem immediately and we corrected it as a team, with all cadets involved. This created a bond within my company that was stronger than others. The cadets from my company always stuck together, they always worked hard and supported each other and worked together to help other cadets from different companies. My ACC and I “drilled” actions and attitudes into them that improved the caliber of each cadet.

I firmly believe teaching the next generation is not a chore, but an honor. If we all look at it with that state of mind, we will continue to have great cadets for generations to come.



A Leader Does Not Quit

By Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Otte, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.
Staff Cadet, Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

This year, I went to Recruit Training as a staff cadet. I was selected by the Recruit Division Commanders, or RDCs, to be the Recruit Petty Officer, or RPOC, for Division 004. Although I am a petty officer first class, I soon realized that being an RPOC was going to be much tougher than what I anticipated. I'd done POLA training, learned how to lead, and now, I needed to put all I'd learned there into action.

Being an RPOC was one of the most challenging roles I've ever held. From the moment I woke up to the second I fell asleep I needed to strive for perfection. As the RPOC, I also needed to focus on ensuring the safety of the division, memorizing the plan of the day, practicing and learning cutlass movements, exceptional marching technique and movements, and above all else: time management. I quickly learned that all of these things are keys to leading my division.

It was tough to start with; I just could not pick up on anything anyone was trying to tell me. My mind panicked and ran on its own, insisting I do things my way as opposed to doing it as I was told. Doing things my way resulted in consequences that tested my physical, as well as mental ability. Everything I did seemed wrong. This alone put an unbelievable burden on my shoulders — I learned I had to really listen!

So I began to focus, taking in all the knowledge that I could. Learning that my way was not the way it was meant to be done even if it seemed correct in my mind. Knowing when to speak, knowing when listen, and absorb all the knowledge being presented to me. Understanding that no matter what I

did I was to do it with pride and my head held high, doing it the way I was told to do it, and that my mind and my body must reflect the Navy's Core Values in order to teach and lead my cadets to graduation. The moment I made that change, life became easier.

The thing I would remind myself all the time: *I'm the RPOC. The recruits need to be able to look up to me, I'm a role model, I want to be — I'm going to be — a good one.*

Were there consequences for not listening and doing things my own way? Yes, there were a few of them. But most of all, I learned that I cannot quit, a leader does not quit on himself, they do not quit on their division, they do not quit on their division officers, and may whatever higher power help the RPOC if he or she decides to quit on the RDCs! Recruits cannot follow a broken leader. If I had not mentally and physically adapted to the environment, my cadets in Division 004 would not have learned as much. I reached my wall and broke through it!

The cadet recruits responded. They came to me for help. I was leading them. Graduation arrived and standing outside the Midway Ceremonial Drill Hall, I felt accomplished. I remember thinking, “Here I am about to lead my cadets into graduation as their RPOC.”

I'm so proud that I didn't quit, but I'm even more proud of the accomplishments of every recruit in Division 004.

HOOYAH 004!

An Unexpected Journey: An Officer's First Staff Experience

By Ensign Christina Domingo, NSCC

Yorktown Division, Goose Creek, S.C.

Staff Officer, Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

“Would you consider...” is usually an opening to a request that I try to avoid at all costs. It typically requires me to step out of my comfort zone, often takes precious hours away from my family, and generally denotes feelings of shame and selfishness for not having thought of whatever might follow the opening myself.

Nonetheless, I heard this opening followed by “staffing a training, particularly a Recruit Training.” There it was, a question I had never asked myself: “Would you consider staffing a training? A recruit training?”

My response was not immediate and it really wasn't even clear. I needed time to roll this over in my mind. I needed to feel competent enough to complete the task asked of me. I needed to discuss with my family and my coworkers, as they would be required to pick up the slack in my absence were I to make the decision to go. I had many questions and concerns; I had an immediate goal that I was trying to complete before making a final decision. In the interim I asked questions of those that have more experience within the NSCC. Not only did they answer my questions, but also they each assured me that I was ready and that I had the knowledge and background to be successful in this endeavor.

I made the phone call to the CO of the Training Contingent as was requested prior to registering to escort the training. After hanging up the phone I immediately thought, “At what point did I bump my noggin? What am I thinking? I can't do this! I have a life to live right here! I can't take time off work and away from my family for 10 days in a city I don't know well! Whatever will they do without me?”

Alas, the deed was done. I had agreed to escort the training. I have never backed away from a commitment, and I wasn't going to start now. I began to feel like “they” needed me; The COTC, the staff, the cadets. They needed me and I could not let them down. I would not let them down.

I spent the next few weeks doing things that I never thought I would have to do again since completing my own military career: acquiring the necessary uniform items, having flashes sewn on, preparing my ribbon rack, shining shoes, studying the General Orders and

the CO's top six along with the Sailor's Creed and whatever else was required of the cadets. How could I lead if I was not prepared as they were expected to be? My son, a cadet himself, helped me to prepare. He even put a countdown app on my phone. Each day that I opened that app I felt more prepared but also more overwhelmed as the time drew near. I even worked on losing some common words from my vocabulary. I didn't think it would show great military bearing if I called cadets “honey” and “sweetie” and threw in a “bless yer heart” as is common in the South. Much as an actor prepares for a role, I found that I was preparing for a role as a leader among new cadets who are required to show the utmost military bearing standards.

As the final days before my departure approached, I had second thoughts. I wouldn't admit it to anyone at the time, but I was nervous. Leading approximately 80 cadets whom I had never met before was a fright to myself! How would they react to such a culture shock? Would I be able to keep them focused and encourage them to fight through whatever fears they had?

Fast forward to the training itself. Having sent my son to the same Recruit Training the summer before, I knew how I felt when it was time to drop my child off with complete strangers. I made it my mission to make the parents comfortable during drop off. I met them with a smile and directed them where to go. I told the cadets, “We are so glad you could make it, thank you for joining us.”

These 80 cadets, with the help of a few other officers, would be under my charge for the next nine days. We would begin to build bonds as a division and succeed together. The growth and commitment among these young people in such a short time was nothing short of amazing. Their willingness to help out their shipmates and guide one another through their fears, and at times their pain, was admirable. I felt honored to be present when cadets had ‘a-ha’ moments or points in time that they had to push themselves harder than they ever had before. The cadets had to dig deep, they had to place mind over matter and never quit. Were there times I wanted to reach over and give a motherly hug to one or a few at any given time when they were particularly struggling? Absolutely. Was there a time that I wanted a hug myself? You bet! Sometimes it was just an encouraging word or a smile that did the trick to get them refocused and help them realize that we were all in this together. A team. Succeeding as one.

I encourage you as parents and fellow instructors and officers to step out of your comfort zone. Give back to your unit and reach even further and volunteer your time at an NSCC training. You'll be glad you did. And if someone ever asks you “Would YOU consider...?” actually consider it.



Domingo (left) at Recruit Training Illinois (Photo courtesy of RTIL Photojournalism Training)

An Unexpected Journey, Continued: 'Encourage, Motivate and Build a Team'

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Grant Domingo, NSCC
Yorktown Division, Goose Creek, S.C.
Staff Cadet, Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

As previously stated, the phrase “Would you consider...” is normally an unfathomable subject starter; one that most of us would try to avoid. The request that follows this phrase normally takes us out of comfort zone, takes us away from our strengths and most of the time, away from our families, especially with Sea Cadets. Just as the men and women that selflessly give their lives for this country.

This opening is sometimes followed by something we haven't even begun to think about. And, sometimes, we have begun to think about it. For example, in my case, staffing a recruit training. Specifically, Recruit Training Illinois (RTIL), the one I went to the summer before, earning Honor Cadet for Division 003. While I had thought about staffing, I thought about it from a recruit's point of view. Not the point of view of a staff cadet, or even an officer. I thought about dragging first days, silent meals, head and eyes straight forward, mouths closed and ears open. Never did I stop to think of why I wanted to staff, or even what I would be doing. Nonetheless, I began my journey by signing up to staff at RTIL as soon as the option became available.

When I first arrived as a recruit in the summer of 2014, I wasn't surprised. I had watched all the videos, spoken to many previous graduates of RTIL, and done a bit of research myself. I was prepared for the quick learning and the unbelievably quick building of a strong family. I was ready to take on the big task of conquering Recruit Training.

This year, however, I was not prepared for the enormous responsibility of leading recruits that were in the same exact position I was in not more than a year before. When I reported for staffing duty at RTIL 2015, the staff cadets were all asked why we were there, most of us responding with a variation of, “Sir, I am here to help better my fellow Sea Cadets.” We were all wrong. Staff cadets are not there to better their fellow Sea Cadets. Sure, we are the example for the recruits, but it is not our job to teach the recruits. It is our job to Encourage, Motivate, and Build a Team. I began to realize that my staffing duty was going to be more difficult than my experience as a recruit.

Chosen as an RPOC the night before for Division 002, I knew the responsibility I thought I had, was just enlarged. After all of the recruits had gone through intake and were assigned their divisions, there I stood — in front of a very, very rough formation of 72 bald-headed, scared and clueless recruits. What came of this division, as well as the journey we took along the way, was quite unexpected nonetheless. Unexpected, yet, for some reason, not surprising.

As training went along, we saw quite a team becoming of this division. Team morale was high, and we were succeeding. Yet, a confidence loss is crucial, and our division

hit quite a crucial point on day two. Heads hanging, and boots dragging, something needed to be done. A few team building exercises later, the team was almost there. I decided to speak with my division, as it was my job to Encourage, Motivate and Build a Team. On the fourth night of training, we had a talk.

“Have any of you heard of the saying ‘Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond belief?’”

As this sank in, I went on to a later part of this quote: “While letting ourselves shine, we unconsciously allow those around us to shine.”

I explained this: “Allowing ourselves to shine and succeed gives those around us permission to do the same for themselves. Doing what you need to do for yourself to succeed, allows everyone to feel free to do that for themselves as well. Now I'm not saying to go and be selfish and walk all over your shipmates in order to reach your goals. I'm saying that if we aren't afraid to succeed within ourselves, and we allow others to see that, the people around us will start to form together to reach that one goal that we all want. And that is what I can see the beginnings of within each and every one of you. I want to challenge all of you to not be afraid of self-success, and to show others around you that immunity to fear, so we can ALL reach that goal together as a team. The team I know we are.”

As training went along, the team started emerging. Everyone was meshing well, team morale was higher than ever, and our goal was being accomplished, one day at a time. We were faced with difficult tasks, and overcame our obstacles as a team in the face of adversity. And while we did not always win, we still succeeded. And while our journey as a team was unexpected, it was not surprising because we all knew — staff and every single recruit — that we would succeed as a team.

So whether or not you're thinking about it before you're asked to consider something just be conscious of the fact that the journey is always going to be unexpected, along with the result. Just don't let your own fear of success stop you or those around you from succeeding — individually and as a team.



Domingo (front) leading recruits on Day 1.

Faster, Better, Stronger: Division 002!

My Five Favorite Things About RT

By LtCdr(Q) Heather Sydes, Royal Naval Reserve
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.
Staff Officer, Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

What a privilege it is to help guide and mold tomorrow's young adults. In the three years I've been a division officer at RTIL, I've learned as much as the cadets! On intake day, the parents arrive and leave their children with us. I liken this to a deployment: it's often harder for those at home wondering what is going on than it is for the cadets who just have to get on with the next task and are given little time to think. As we gather our division to head back to what will be home for the next 10 days, I always think: "How on earth are we going to get them to graduation standard with so little time?" Needless to say, it's a team approach and they are always graduation ready. Here are some of my favorite parts of that process.

#1

Watching the cadets in the combat pool



You see the nerves on some of their faces as they line up to jump. This year, there were two cadets who had a real fear of water. They worked with a Navy chief and both were able to join their shipmates for the journey to the life raft. The expression on their faces as they realized that the only limitations they have are the ones they place on themselves — priceless.

#3

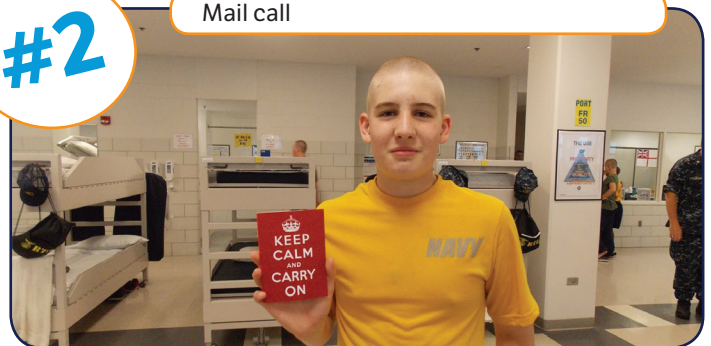
Firefighting and tradition



An excuse to get all dressed up and fight a real fire! Who needs video games when you can do it for real? There's a three-mile march to and from the firefighting facility. Tradition has it that as you travel under the bridge, you sing "Anchors Aweigh". It's such a great sound — 75 cadets singing together and following tradition.

#2

Mail call



Never underestimate the power of a funny card or stickers on an envelope! Mail is so important to a recruit. Think of Christmas morning when your child realizes that he or she has no presents under the tree, but everyone else does! An encouraging word in a letter can make the difference between your cadet going to sleep feeling like they can tackle whatever tomorrow brings or wondering if everyone back home has forgotten about them.

#4

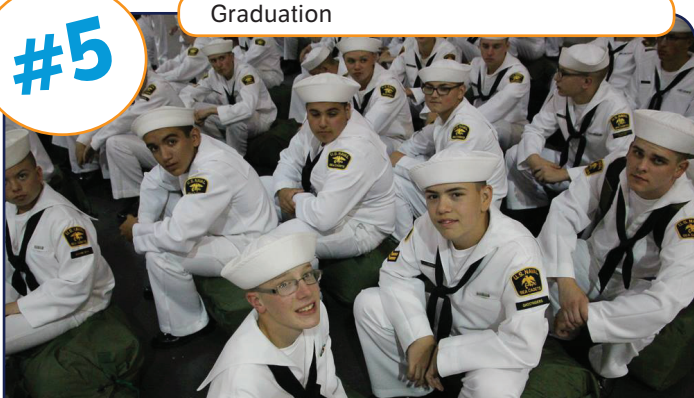
Dress whites inspection



The Navy Recruit Division Commanders are always intrigued by the number of ribbons some cadets have. Former League Cadets sometimes have four or five ribbons.

#5

Graduation



Every cadet who graduates from a recruit training has achieved so much along the way. They've learned how to take the "I can't do it" and make it "I did it." They've learned that being part of a team is an amazing thing and they've learned how it feels to win. While the cadets themselves are the proudest people at graduation, their divisional staffs are a close second. We have watched them stumble, seen the tears, worked through the homesickness, watched the determination and delighted in being part of the team that watched and helped to form these recruits into more confident, basically trained Sea Cadets. What an honor. BZ RTIL 2015 graduates. Spread your wings and fly to your next adventures.

Only One Word Describes the Experience

By Instructor William Santiago, NSCC

Yorktown Division, Goose Creek, S.C.

Staff Officer, Recruit Training, Belle Glade, Fla.

One marvels when it happens. It's enough to send shivers up anyone's spine. Those who volunteer to take part in making it possible, count themselves humbled and honored to have witnessed it — when the recruits awaken and know what's inside them — he, she is different. There is only one word that best describes the feelings conjured up at that moment.

Going to Recruit Training, or boot camp, as it's sometimes called, is no easy feat for anyone. You're up at 4 a.m. and ordered to bed by 8 p.m. In between, there is physical training (PT) and classes, 120 hours worth. It's like going to school, but the bell never rings and so, you never get to go home. Those who prepare ahead of RT tend to fare better. Some have a difficult time. In addition, you have to work, bunk, and get along with many individuals you've never met before. To top it off, the young recruits are often asked to engage in activities that make no sense to them. It is no surprise then, when we hear that someone did not make it through.

When the recruits are ordered to sound off during an exercise, it produces more than a loud sound. Initially, they do not see the logic in making so much noise. But soon they can feel how it conjures up energy from inside them. They are not imagining it; the recruits are feeling a burst of adrenaline that comes up when they shout in unison and with earnest. As it courses through their veins they feel strong, become aware of its value and how precision

and timing works in concert with that strength to make amazing things happen. They see the collective results of following orders with accuracy and commitment, and the force that they become when they work together. It is then, when they realize — it is no longer about one, but about all. Each recruit then understands that he or she not only has something to contribute, but that each one is an important part of that division — they are now a family. Suddenly, it all makes sense. From here they are unstoppable. There is a word that sums it all up well.

The days go by quickly. Near the end of the recruit training experience, the military bearing becomes tight and accurate; they function as one. The recruits wear the uniform — stand tall, chest out, shoulders back — with honor. Excellence takes the place of errors, no longer approaching activities with trepidation, they give it their all — with courage they engage each one.

They are not recruits that happened to come to the same boot camp; they are brothers and sisters who look out for one another — committed to something above self. They are not the same young men and women that reported in, what seems like months before; they are confident, disciplined and they are powerful. They are no longer just Seamen Recruits; they are graduates of one of the toughest boot camps in the country, they are the newest Sea Cadets in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The word that says it best: INSPIRING!

Training at a Glimpse



“We learned all kinds of new stuff from NASA and Homeland Security. We got to go on some boats and paddle through Lake Erie. We also marched all around Put-in-Bay Island and impressed everyone there.

We learned a lot about the War of 1812 and the history of Put-in-Bay Island. We helped out the National Park Service, which was awesome because we got to go to Commodore Oliver Perry's memorial.

We ate like the soldiers did back in 1812. We had a very helpful talk on the history of the Navy.

But the best part for me was that I made a lot of new friends who I still text and talk to today.”

Apprentice Cadet Brodrick McPhail, NLCC
Training Ship United States, Lansing, Mich.
NLCC Seamanship Training, Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Move With Purpose, Be Still at Attention

By Seaman Apprentice Adam Fluke, NSCC
Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle, Wash.
Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

My experience at Recruit Training was one that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I learned many new skills and further developed my ability to maintain discipline and military bearing. Since the first moment I walked into the door of the in-processing building, there was immediate yelling. I was being told to move with a purpose and stand still when at attention. These two pieces of advice would be the words that resonated with me for the next 10 days of training and allowed me to succeed at boot camp.

Every day we woke up at 0500 sharp and we were immediately in for a sharp awakening. The morning was met with bright white lights and yelling to stand still. Then we would be given deadlines to get dressed, get in line and get out. This was a recurring factor throughout the entire training, forcing everyone to discipline themselves at all times. Though not all

of the training was standing at attention.

We were given the opportunity to try some of the courses that the Navy Recruits get to do such as small arms marksmanship or simulation of jumping off a ship into the water. Both activities lifted our spirits and morale. The majority of the day consisted of marching. And as always, it wasn't the most fun I'd ever had, but near the end of training, our RDCs had us practice the fun side of marching. Things like double to the rear or the use of our flags as cannons to attack other divisions while marching gave our division the increased morale to push through the end of training. The skills and habits that I acquired at Recruit Training Illinois were like no other and I consider myself extremely lucky to have attended such a boot camp.

RT: 'Difficult, Exciting and Memorable'

By Seaman Apprentice Calvin Kim, NSCC
Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle, Wash.
Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

My experience at Recruit Training Illinois was a very difficult, exciting and memorable experience. As the first couple days passed, each recruit was taught to pay attention to detail and to keep their military bearing at all times. In order to represent the most outstanding division, there was a competition that involved papers called "Bravo Zulus" or "demerit chits." In order for a division to stand out from the others, they needed Bravo Zulus, which were given to cadets who were squared away, cadets that demonstrated proper military bearing, and cadets who performed above and beyond. There were many ways to earn a BZ: by talking only when told, facing the bulkhead at a 45-degree angle when waiting in the chow line, knowing your general orders, ranks and rates, "Anchors Aweigh" and Sailor's Creed.

In addition to marching in hot, humid weather, we were given the opportunity to fight live fires wearing and using the proper gear. We learned proper teamwork on using the hose to contain the fire and were taught how to hold the body of the hose so that the person spraying can control it. We also had the opportunity to learn proper handling procedures for shooting pistols. We would help each other hold it and give each other tips on improving accuracy. We participated in a "stranded out at sea" drill where we jumped off a 10-foot platform. It may have been mentally challenging for a few but we all jumped and got through it with some encouragement.



Together, we treaded water and helped each other into a lifeboat. The purpose of doing these activities was to build teamwork within our divisions so that we could be the best that we can be, to know our shipmates better and be more organized during marching.

As a personal accomplishment, I earned an expert marksmanship ribbon for shooting the M9 pistol accurately. In all of the activities we did, I demonstrated motivation, hard work and engagement, which led me to earn the title of honor cadet for Division 002. I received a plaque and a ribbon for my outstanding work and I was able to represent my home unit, Blue Angels Squadron. Boot camp was a great experience for me because I was able to test my skills and build a bond with my division. It was a great time, and all I have to say is Hooyah 002!

Rack Drills Build Camaraderie

By Seaman Apprentice Duncan King, NSCC
Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle, Wash.
Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

Before I left for recruit training I made sure to ask the more senior members of my unit what they thought made a good training. Personal interest, hands-on experience, and a good commanding officer were all common answers, among others, and while true, I found my own answer at RTC Great Lakes. A good rack mate is what made my experience at RT great. I was terrified going into RTIL, I'll be the first to admit it. This fear manifested itself as intimidation, as I brusquely told my rack mate that as sorry as I was, I was going to "have to have that bottom bunk." And yet, because of the genuine kindness my rack mate had for me in return, that facade didn't make it past morning of the second day.

As the days passed, and the rack drills became more frequent, I only came to respect and appreciate my rack mate

more and more. As the time allotted for us to complete our racks became shorter and shorter, the fear I had felt on day one only came back stronger. But that fear was put to rest as we created and practiced our drill plan; I'd pull the bottom sheet taut, he'd tuck. He'd make the 45-degree corners, I'd tuck the sides.

By the morning of our rack inspection, we were routinely done with both our racks with minutes to spare. When I was terse, he was pleasant. When I was nervous, he was collected. And when I started to lose sight of what waited for me at the end of those 10 days, he was there to remind me. I wish I could say that this worked both ways, and that I was as good a rack mate to him as he was to me, but I'm not sure I can.

Doing Something I've Never Done Before

By Seaman Apprentice Noelle Rubijono, NSCC
Alexandria Division, Alexandria, Va.
Recruit Training, Camp Pendleton, Va.

This summer will be one I may remember forever. It was the first time I woke up before the birds and the sun could greet me; the first time I did not have a room to myself and the first time I went to Recruit Training. It was an exciting experience: to do something I had never done before. I had mixed feelings, with agony, fear and some curiosity. The thought of being by myself and not near my parents for 10 whole days scared me, but the best part of Recruit Training was that we all got to bond together and support each other. The cadets in my all-female Division G were my temporary family for the next 10 days.

Each morning we had PT. It was a refreshing way to start the day. What made me really proud was when we had the Physical Readiness Test. Our division cheered on everyone there, whether it was running, the push-ups or the sit-ups. You could hear us motivating our shipmates miles away. We even used our motivating skills to cheer on our shipmates during the obstacle course! Every hurdle, every jump and every climb, once they hit the ground we were proud they could do it. The fourth of July was the best time I spent with my Division G family. We all marched to the beach, exercised in the ocean against the waves, and, when we had to do sugar cookies and pushups while linking arms, we still did them together, and did not let go.

The final day had arrived. All the days seemed long, while the weeks felt short. And, when we all said our good-byes,



Rubijono's Division G at Recruit Training

I was sad to see them go. But, I hope when I meet them in the future, they remember me and everyone else from Recruit Training. I know that even though we are all going back home all across the U.S. I will always remember my Recruit Training family. The family I woke up with before the birds and the sun could greet me, the family I didn't have a room to myself with. For that and so much more, I am thankful.

"The real lesson is that even when you are tired, beat down, or hurting, you are capable of so much more than you ever imagined."

— Lt. Cmdr. Brian Kobleur, NSCC

Orientation: PT, Learning and Shipmates

By Recruit Cadet Jaycee Johnson, NLCC
Manatee Division, Yankeetown, Fla.
Navy League Orientation, Groveland, Fla.

I was nervous. I was really, really nervous the first day of Navy League Cadet Orientation on Sunday, June 7, 2015. I had to wear my salt and peppers to report and everything itched. Every time I wear them I can count on my grandmother telling me not to touch my shirt, asking about my belt, worrying about my socks and complaining that my shoes might get scuffed. When I got there, the first thing I faced was lugging all my stuff to an area that looked like there were hundreds of people. When I finally got there, only one person was in front of me.

After check-in, we dumped our seabags and marched over to the barracks. I was introduced to my rack; it became a love-hate relationship. I had to quickly get into my utilities because my shipmates were already out front. I hurried up only to stand in formation for a long time waiting for the chief to show. Once he finally got there, we were separated into our companies and I met the great guys of Foxtrot Company.

Every morning, we did PT for a long time before we got to get changed, attend morning colors and finally, chow. It tasted amazing. The culinary cadets are the best. The rest of each day was kind of a blur. We did classroom activities. We learned about knots, aviation, ships, ranks and a whole

bunch of other stuff. After class, there was a flurry of marching drills, another meal and evening colors.

One of my favorite parts of camp, except for the PT, was the flag retirement ceremony. The only time I had ever seen flags burned was on the TV with videos of people burning and stepping on our flag in disrespect because they were mad. I remember standing at attention and feeling very solemn and humble while the commander read the ceremony about how the colors grew faded and needed to be bright and new again. She turned it over to the Master-at-Arms to complete the ceremony and he handed out flags to the company commanders. One-by-one, each company commander came up to the fire, unfolded the flag and placed it into the flames. Then they played taps. I learned that when the flag is no longer serviceable, it is like a fallen soldier and deserves the same respect.

During the final part of camp we learned about the honor cadet and the honor company. We each received an orientation certificate and ribbon. I had a great time, met some great people and learned so much. I would do it again and recommend it to others. I won't ever forget the PT, the learning and my shipmates.

Why I Love Being a League Cadet

By Apprentice Cadet Ethan Wilgocki, NLCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.
Navy League Orientation, Fort Custer, Mich.



The Navy League Cadet Corps is an amazing program for everyone, but especially for those who love the sea and for those who don't know what they want to be when they grow up, because you're introduced to many different career paths to choose from. I showed a presentation on NLCC at my school and told everyone that they didn't know what they were missing out on.

I went to Navy League Orientation (NLO) in July at Fort Custer, Mich. It was so much

fun. I learned how to become a good cadet, I made new friends and I developed my leadership skills.

Training gave me a chance to bond with League Cadets

from my division and League Cadets from all around the United States. It was fun to get to know Sea and League Cadets from the other trainings too, like from motor vehicle maintenance, marksmanship, SEALs and photojournalism.

Honestly, I can't remember if NLO was what I thought it was going to be, but I do remember I was super nervous during check-in. My favorite part was the dance. I originally thought it was going to be a slow dance, but it wasn't. It was way better and there were so many different songs. The worst part were the showers because most of the time we had 1 ½ minute showers and 1 ½ minutes to dry off and get dressed.

I'm most proud of becoming recruit petty officer, which meant I was chosen to lead my division. Receiving a challenge coin from my divisional officer at the end of the training made it even more special. The advice I would give to any League Cadet going to NLO next year is listen, don't complain and volunteer. I can't wait to go to SeaPerch training next year at Fort Custer, and I can't wait for all the opportunities to come when I become a Sea Cadet.



Camp Pendleton Photojournalism Training

Recruit Training and the Broken Wrist

By Seaman Recruit Dante Gudzinskas, NSCC
Diablo Squadron, Martinez, Calif.
Recruit Training, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

On May 2, 2015, I joined Diablo Squadron in Martinez, Calif. Two days later, I broke my wrist in two places and I was put in a full arm cast. The doctor said I would be in my cast for eight to 10 weeks. I was really upset I couldn't go to a Sea Cadet recruit training this summer and thought I would have to wait until winter. I decided I would work hard on healing. I walked, swam, still reported to drills just to volunteer and took vitamins to improve my bones and was out of my cast in five weeks.

After I was given an all clear to resume normal physical activities, I started to train for Recruit Training, when I had originally thought my summer would be over. RT was less than a month away. I was a little bit nervous and overwhelmed because I felt out of shape and was on a very tight deadline. The cadets in Diablo Squadron helped ease my fears by telling me about what it was like.

I was excited to finally leave for Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Calif. It was also special for me to go there because my grandfather went to boot camp and trained at Camp Pendleton with the Marine Corps. It wasn't anything like I initially thought it would be. At 13 years old, I was the youngest and only recruit in my group that wasn't in high school so I knew I'd have to work extra hard. As a division, we all have to make an effort separately and together because there's a big competition as to who will win Honor Company. In RTC we did lots of studying, marching and cleaning. We did PT almost every other day. It slowly became more difficult. We did many different exercises such as push-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks, runs, mountain climbs, squats and planks. As a competitive swimmer at home, my favorite day was when we marched to the pool and went swimming in our PT gear. There was a

Rank '2' Group which did six laps of backstroke, four laps of breaststroke and ten minutes of treading water. Then there was a Rank '3' group that did four laps of backstroke, two laps of breast stroke and five minutes of treading water. That wasn't even close to the amount of swimming I do with my team, but it was nice to feel like I was doing something that is a part of my regular life at home.

More than anything else during those the two weeks, we marched. We marched to chow, back to the barracks, then to get PT gear only to march to the field then do PT, and march back to change into our uniform of the day. This calculates up to about 7.25 miles of practice marching, running, and actual marching per day. During our study periods, enlisted Sailors and Marines would come to talk to us about their jobs in the military.

Near the end of RTC, we had a test about what we learned. It was 75 questions and sounds difficult, but it is all multiple choice questions and if you studied hard and paid attention, it was pretty easy. I think I did very well in RTC, considering I didn't think I was as prepared as I thought I could have been and that I was recovering from an injury that happened almost exactly eight weeks to the day before I reported to Camp Pendleton. My division won Honor Company and despite my broken wrist, I also met the Presidential Standard on my PRT.

I loved RT even though I was anxious when I first got to San Diego. If you haven't gone to RT yet, it is a great experience to have. I am eager to be able to go to other advanced trainings now. In my opinion, this is one of the best things I have done in Sea Cadets and in my life so far, with so many more experiences to come... If you are going this winter, GOOD LUCK!

STEM Training Aboard SS Lane Victory

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Alicia Dante, NLCC
Lexington Division, Aurora, Colo.
STEM Training, SS Lane Victory, San Pedro, Calif.

My experience aboard SS Lane Victory was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me because I am from Lexington Division in Colorado. During this STEM training, we had the chance to try many new and exciting things.

Since we were at STEM training, we of course explored science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For the science portion, we learned about electricity and motors. We learned about Ohm's Law and the two types of electrical currents. We also learned about the conductors of electricity. We learned how motors wouldn't be able to work without electromagnetism.

While constructing our circuit boards in our controlling modules, we learned a little bit about technology by understanding the components we were soldering onto the board. To observe the engineering portion, we constructed our SeaPerches. We had to cut the PVC pipes,

waterproof and work with wires, work with our motors and test the buoyancy of our SeaPerches.

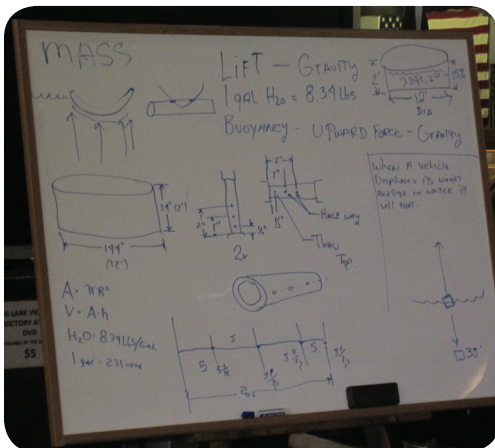
In order to correctly learn about the science and engineering concepts, we had to use mathematics. We learned many equations including volume, weight and, circumference. We also had to memorize the weight of fresh water and the average weight of seawater.

Although this training was meant to be about STEM, we also had a lot of fun along the way. We had the opportunity to enjoy a ride on a port police boat, go aboard USS Iowa, and explore the SS Lane Victory.

In the end, this was a great training that I hope many people have a chance to attend. If you ever get a chance to do STEM training on SS Lane Victory, seize the opportunity as soon as you possibly can; it can, and should, give you a great experience that will change your way of thinking forever.



Photos courtesy of PO2 Alicia Dante, NLCC



The First NSCC Cyber Defense Training

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Regina Wen, NSCC
Band of the West, Redwood City, Calif.
Cyber Defense Training, Dublin, Calif.

Turn on any news station today and you will hear countless stories of viruses, hackers and cyber attacks penetrating secure web servers. The technological revolution of the past 50 years has sparked a new kind of weapon, one that cannot be destroyed through tangible means: cyber threats. In the true spirit of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps' adapt and overcome mantra, Region 12's Cyber Defense Training broke new ground in educating cadets against modern, digital-age threats. This week-long course explored the world of cybersecurity, including tracking hidden malware, configuring secure computer settings, and preventing hackers from gaining control over operating systems. Hosted in Dublin, Calif., cadets of all skill levels graduated with sufficient knowledge in securing networks and preventing cyber attacks.

Commanding Officer Ensign Bobby Wen founded this training after coaching his home unit through the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot Competition, a national competition geared towards educating young people in cyber defense.

Says Ensign Wen, "Computer security is the future, and there are many careers in this field that I would like to introduce cadets to."

No good training succeeds without the help of an experienced and enthusiastic staff. The Cyber Training staff comprised of three officers and two staff cadets, including Chief Peter Steffey. Chief Steffey, a coder and two-year CyberPatriot Competition participant, comes from a considerable cybersecurity background.

Chief Steffey says, "I wanted to join this training in order to get more cadets interested in cybersecurity and the CyberPatriot program. I am very committed to the importance of online security and privacy, especially considering what I know is out there."

The curriculum for Cyber Training included defense techniques in Windows 7, Windows Server, Ubuntu and Cisco iOS operating systems. Although the cadets attending this training entered the course with various backgrounds and skill-levels, the officers and staff cadets devised a system to incorporate the strengths of each attendee.

Ensign Wen says, "We had groups and rotated them everyday so that everyone had a chance to work and learn from each other. This system let everyone have a chance to contribute to the learning process. Everyone was a valuable member of the team."

Each group practiced their cyber defense skills on virtual machines which simulated real-life cyber threats and situations. Each officer specialized in a different operating system or topic to maximize the depth of understanding.

Chief Steffey says, "The curriculum did a good job of appealing to different skill levels, though I know that separating the cadets by skill level at some point might have fostered better understanding. I think the schedule and content worked well, as did the variety of instructional types that was presented by the three instructors." At the end of the week, the cadets participated in a final competition to test their new skills in cybersecurity.

The pinnacle of the Cyber Defense Training was the field trip to Facebook Headquarters. Cadets received a tour of the offices and an inside look at cybersecurity careers by a member of Facebook's cybersecurity team.

Says Ensign Wen, "We learned about the Facebook culture of innovation and how they want people to take risks and not be afraid to fail. I think the saying was 'fail faster.' I think that's an important lesson to teach the cadets because the only way we are going to make progress in this field is to try new things. Some of them may not work, but you only need one breakthrough to change the world."

In this ever-evolving technological age, cybersecurity is becoming more and more relevant. Cyber Defense Training fosters this already tech-savvy generation of cadets to defend and combat cyber threats.

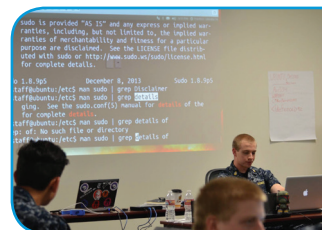
Chief Steffey says, "I learned so much personally from this training, because going in I knew little about the details of Windows security and penetration testing. I have so many stories from the final competition that I will be sharing this year, and I learned a lot from that experience as to how much people learned."

Left and below: Cadets tour Facebook Headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

Right: Cadets learn about the world of cybersecurity.



Photos courtesy of INST Teresa Wen, NSCC



A Privilege to Live Like a Midshipman

By **Seaman Apprentice Srinidhi Nagireddy**, NSCC
Alexandria Division, Alexandria, Va.
Summer STEM Program, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

The day I was informed by the Naval Academy's STEM program that I was selected to participate as a rising ninth grader, I was excited beyond belief — I would get to stay in Bancroft Hall, eat in King Hall and study in the same labs and classrooms that midshipmen would! I could not wait for June to arrive!

The STEM Program was one of the best experiences I have ever had. It was a privilege to live on the academy grounds and to be led by midshipmen who served as squad leaders, platoon commanders and instructors at STEM. Every one of them was extremely helpful, friendly, funny and enthusiastic!

Every day at approximately 0715, all of the platoons walked down to King Hall hungry, and ready for the day's learning. At 0800, our first module/class began. Each class was about an hour, and focused on subjects ranging from biology to naval architecture. I met many professors and midshipmen, all of whom were excited and enthusiastic to teach us.

We froze marshmallows with liquid nitrogen, dissected a sheep's heart, programmed robots, built circuits and did so

many other cool STEM activities! Equally memorable were all the extracurricular activities: the talent show, the snow cone night and the barbeque for a departing NASS session to which we were invited.

Each day, we had a free choice period where we could pick activities ranging from a flight simulator to a scavenger hunt at the Naval Academy Museum. One of the coolest things was riding the USNA buses for a field trip to the Natural History Museum in D.C. On the final day of the camp we presented our projects to our families and had a graduation ceremony where we received our certificates for successfully completing the camp.

The STEM camp at USNA not only exposed me to many areas of science, technology, engineering and math, but also taught me how to work together with others and solve problems creatively, just as we do in our military. This was truly a great experience for me as an aspiring naval officer, and as a Sea Cadet — I am looking forward to returning next year and to further my knowledge of STEM and the Navy.

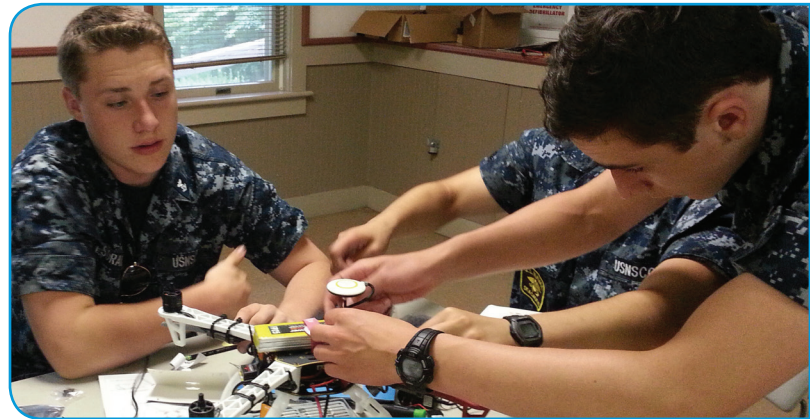
My UAV Training

By **Petty Officer 3rd Class William Lesoravage**, NSCC
Dealey Division, Stamford, Conn.
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Newmanstown, Pa.

For one week this summer, I embarked on an adventure unlike any other I had experienced before with the Sea Cadet program. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Training, or UAV training, allowed me to get hands-on experience building a remotely operated vehicle.

The training wasn't just about building quadcopters, or as we called them, drones. It was about understanding and finding applications for automated vehicles in our contemporary world. We were taught some of the many applications UAVs are being used for, from surveying and filming sports events, to use in natural disaster sites, and for military response. We learned about FAA regulations in regards to the vehicles. The best part personally, was to fly something I helped create, and to see it work in full capacity. It was one of the most fulfilling moments of my summer.

But the training didn't end there. We managed to go on several hikes around the scout reservation where the training was held, reaching the highest point in the valley at one point. We also went out to Fort Indiantown Gap and learned about the Shadow drones the National Guard currently uses both at home and abroad. We were briefed on their capabilities, and even managed to fly them in a simulation out of one of their mobile command centers.



One of the personal highlights of the training for me was the zip line course we participated in. I have never been a true fan of heights, so hanging from a single line frightened me at first. However, I set my fears aside and took a leap of faith — quite literally. I enjoyed it more than I ever could have imagined, and it taught me that one should never let mental barriers keep one from doing something extraordinary.

The last day of the training, the Boy Scouts asked us to do a demonstration of the quadcopters, as many scouts, leaders, and parents were interested in what we were doing. We planned and executed the flag ceremony, with the quadcopters flying in and accompanying the lowering of the American flag, hovering while the flag was folded and then flying out again. After dinner, we demonstrated the quadcopters and talked to the scouts and parents and answered questions about our training and the Sea Cadet program. This was an amazing experience I'll never forget.

The Common Tie Between RT and STEM

By Seaman Apprentice Nicholas Molineaux, NSCC

Mason (DDG-87) Division, Philadelphia, Pa.

Summer STEM Program, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. and Recruit Training, Camp Pendleton, Va.

I wake up to the sunlight in my eyes. I look at my watch — 0630, plenty of time. I sit up, rub my eyes, and see my two roommates, Charlie and Ben, still asleep. Once I'm ready for the day, I calmly say: "Wake up, guys! Time for another great day!" Charlie hops out of bed, and works his way over to the sink to brush his teeth. Still half-asleep, Ben mumbles, "Five more minutes, mom." Once Charlie is finished, I work my way over to Ben's bed, and wake him up. We're all dressed and working our way outside where we see the rest of our platoons coming together to walk over to breakfast in King Hall.

This is a regular morning for a student attending the U.S. Naval Academy's Summer STEM Program. The program is a week-long in length, designed for students nationwide to come to the academy and have the experience of a lifetime.

We started on Tuesday by traveling to Washington D.C. and visiting the Natural History Museum and the Air and Space Museum. From the ocean deep, to the planning of D-Day, we saw everything. The rest of the camp was daily STEM-related modules ranging from Bioterrorism, to Oceanering, taught by very informative and subject-passionate instructors. During every module, we would be taught the lesson portion, and then we'd apply the lesson in some project getting the whole platoon involved and thinking.

Each student in the seven platoons had their own unique background. We came to USNA from southern La., all the way to Anchorage, Alaska. Getting to know everyone and everyone's individual story, stuff they do for fun back home, why they were at the camp, if they want to attend USNA etc. was my favorite part. I remember one moment before dinner: I walked out of Bancroft Hall over to my platoon, sat next to a girl from Texas who I met earlier in the day, and we just talked for 20 minutes about ourselves, our families, sports we played and our intentions involving coming to the academy. That conversation outside Bancroft Hall, overlooking the beautiful Chesapeake Bay, talking to a stranger who I found to be an amazing person, was the best time I had during the whole camp.

The directors at USNA put you in a week-long situation where you don't know anybody, but they knew we all could

work together, and each of us could become a better person by learning how to interact with all sorts of people. They wanted you to learn to become a leader, and the kind of person everyone wants to be around. I'm still in contact with the students, and couldn't be happier to have met them.

"BRAVO ON YOUR FEET! GET ON THE TOE-LINE!" I wake up as quickly as I fell asleep. I shoot out of bed and sprint over to the toe-line. "You have 10 seconds to fall into PT gear." Everyone rushes to put their PT gear on. Clever me slept in it to avoid this panic. I wait patiently, eyes set forward, half open from four hours of sleep. The petty officer calls the next command: "You have 15 seconds to get outside in formation." We sprint out of the barracks and fall into formation in the cool morning, ready to walk off to PT at Recruit Training Camp Pendleton, Va.

At boot camp you do five things, nothing more, nothing less: march, PT, class, chow, hygiene. Nothing like STEM, right? Well yes, STEM was more enjoyable than boot camp, but even though the two seem different physically, when you look at the mental aspect, you can't tell them apart.

Bootcamp stressed teamwork. If you couldn't get along with your shipmates, you either learned to do so, or failed. You would watch out for your shipmates by motivating them, making sure their racks were proper, their uniform was perfect, they knew their General Orders, etc. For my division, we made a best-friend bond that was unbreakable. Of course we had some bumps in the road, but we addressed and fixed them immediately.

That sounds a lot like STEM, doesn't it? Working together to achieve a common goal with strangers. This is what the Navy looks for in officers: those who can put the well-being of the people they're working with first, and themselves second; those who challenge themselves and take the harder route, because they know how much more rewarding it will be. These values aren't essential for success just in the Navy or other branches of the armed forces, but essential for life. Whether you want to be a doctor, a Marine Corps infantryman, or whatever, you need to be a leader. And at both of these trainings, the instructors made us the best leaders, and people we can be.



Left: "The modules we got to partake in were super cool. We programmed robots, discovered why the sky is blue, explored how helicopters were able to fly. The whole camp was an amazing experience, and I would recommend it to anybody who wants to have the experience of a lifetime."

Right: "Every module came with a project we did with our platoon mates. These were some of the nicest people you ever could have met, and doing different projects with them was a great way to get to know them."



Push Yourself Further

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Cameron Scruggs, NSCC
Point Divide Division, Riverside, Calif.
Aviation Rescue Swimmer, Camp Pendleton, Calif.



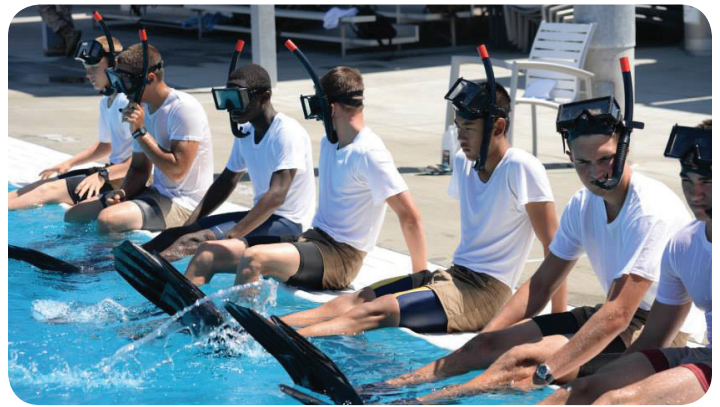
Aviation Rescue Swimmer Training was a great training that is certainly not for the weak at heart. Before anyone comes to this training, I strongly recommend that they are in top physical condition and mentally disciplined. I found it absolutely necessary to prepare for this training for at least two months prior to testing.

While I was at the training, the other cadets and I formed strong bonds in order to support and encourage one another during our challenging daily routines. I feel like I could not have made it through the training without them. Even when one of us wanted to give up we encouraged one another to keep going. This training taught me what I would go through if I was an actual Aviation Rescue Swimmer and what's expected of me as an individual and team member. The training taught us how to deal with real world scenarios such as how to disentangle a parachute, how to tow an injured victim through different water and land conditions and how to assist individuals utilizing CPR. This training

taught me and my fellow cadets to push ourselves beyond our own expectations both physically and mentally. I learned to work through physical discomfort while also encouraging my peers. I learned what was enough yesterday will not be enough tomorrow and that it is always necessary to push yourself further, stay alert and expect constant change. I'm a stronger and more mature Sea Cadet as a result of this training.

We were led by some of the best disciplined, dedicated and tough trainers. We had a retired Navy Aviation Swimmer as an instructor, a retired Air Force Pararescuer, active duty Marines from similar and different disciplines, as well as committed NSCC staff. Our safety and their commitment was the one constant in this training.

I am grateful and better as a result of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps providing this training opportunity. It is with enthusiasm and caution of discipline that I recommend this training for other Sea Cadets in the future.



Intense Training Worth the Challenge

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Huynh, NSCC
Hancock Squadron, Hayward, Calif.
Aviation Rescue Swimmer, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Aviation Rescue Swimmers. Wow, it just sounded absolutely fantastic to me when the training was posted. At the time I was thinking, "Why not? I know how to swim so it can't be that hard." Boy, was I wrong. The intensity of this training was 100 times harder than what I thought it to be. Definitely not for the faint of heart, I got what I came for and much more.

With early mornings, intense physical training sessions, and unique experiences I would recommend this training to those looking to make lasting memories. Once you pass the preliminary SEAL PRT, you are provided with scuba gear for use during the time you are

there. You experience unique opportunities such as visiting weapon schools, practicing mock search and rescue jumps wearing scuba gear and watching live rescue swimmers perform. The PT is rigorous and some have dropped from the training due to it. This is called a D.O.R. or drop-on request, where they inform an instructor and ring a bell, similar to that of BUD/S training to become a SEAL. There is also a Hell Day that can't be put into words; you'll just have to experience that yourselves.

So, why not try it next summer? Don't miss out on an experience of your lifetime. Every training has surprises and this one is no exception. What's the worst that can happen?

A Week on the West Coast

By Seaman Emily LoVece, NSCC
Manatee Division, Yankeetown, Fla.
Petty Officer Leadership Academy, Alameda, Calif.

I'll admit I was a little apprehensive about flying across the country to California to spend a week being inundated with paperwork and studying alongside 25 other cadets I had never met. Thankfully, even though there was a lot of PowerPoint, my POLA training turned out to be way more fun than I could have imagined and I certainly wasn't the only one from far away places. Cadets from North Carolina, Utah, Minnesota and several other states made the long trek to the west coast for this training. I would say it was very worthwhile trip for everyone.

Originally scheduled for the Coast Guard Station in Alameda, a last minute change put us aboard the USS *Hornet*. What an amazing opportunity! Aboard ship we stayed in chief's berthing and ate in the same mess hall as the sailors did while the ship was commissioned.

During the day cadets would carry out the POD as instructed by the COTC and take turns in the LPO and ALPO positions. This was an excellent way for us to get hands-on experience in leadership roles. It was exciting, as well as challenging, since many of us had no previous experience being in command of a company. The day I was squad leader, our entire POLA class took a field trip out to San Francisco on the ferry. We spent the day touring the USS *Pampanito* and exploring the city.

This unique experience is a great example of the perspective you gain by being a Sea Cadet. I also enjoyed the informational tour of our host ship and the group classroom activities. So whether we were exploring the city or practicing our leadership skills, I would definitely say that my POLA journey was AMAZING.



Cadet Gains Veterinary Experience

By Petty Officer 1st Class Laura Clingenpeel, NSCC
Roanoke Division, Roanoke, Va.
Veterinary Medicine, Branford, Fla.

From milking a goat to watching a calf pulling, Veterinary Medicine training was full of knowledge and hands-on experiences. This training helped me figure out my career choice, and it helped me get a headstart on the experience I need to start that career. Although Veterinary Medicine doesn't have much to do with the Navy, Chief Tracy Robinson did an outstanding job putting together a training that was exciting, educational and memorable.

One of the most memorable events from this training was when we got to watch a calf pulling. We were at a dairy farm, and one of the cows was having trouble delivering her calf. The men that worked at the dairy farm helped the cow by pulling the calf by its legs, being very careful not to hurt the mother in the process. They got the calf out safely, and both the calf and its mother were healthy! I never expected to see the birth of a calf while at this training.

We had plenty of classroom time at this training as well. I am glad we had the classroom time because I got to learn more than what meets the eye. Near the end of the training, we each got to teach a class. Since we're not



allowed to use computers at training, we had to do all the research in books. I feel that this helped me take in more knowledge. I enjoyed teaching the other three cadets what I had learned from my research, and I also enjoyed hearing about their topics! The Veterinary Medicine training in Branford, Fla. is by far the best training I have been to. If you are planning on having a career as a veterinarian, this training is one of the best places to get more experience, but you better be ready to work on the farm!

Field Med: ‘A Huge Challenge’

By Seaman Apprentice Claire Jolicoeur, NSCC
Liberty Division, Lake City, Fla.
Field Medical, Branford, Fla.

This summer, I attended Field Med/C3 in Branford, Fla. I expected it to be a huge challenge and was not disappointed. This year, two females were allowed to attend this rigorous training and their performance would determine if others would be allowed in the future. As one of those females, that could have been daunting, but instead it pushed me when I felt that I couldn't go any farther. This was an awesome experience and I couldn't throw it away for myself and others by quitting. Additionally, I was part of a team and I couldn't let my teammates down.

This training heavily emphasized teamwork and how everyone needs to give 110%. I had to constantly push myself, knowing that we couldn't afford any slack. We needed each other in order to succeed. I enjoyed the comradery, being among fellow cadets who were highly motivated and wanted to be there. Their determination and support inspired me to keep going despite the abundant pressures enticing me to quit. Our operations were demanding and stressful, I lost track of how many “smoke sessions” we had and our classwork contained intensive medical knowledge and application. Our training was made as realistic as possible; we were taught medical care for injuries ranging from burns to severed arteries to closed airways, as well as how to insert IVs, perform cricothyrotomies, and how to take, read, and use vital signs. I got a sound glimpse into a corpsman's life, leaving me with a profound respect for what they do.

This training provided me with insight and experiences I'll live with for the rest of my life. I was given the honor of receiving my C3 patch and caduceus, the privilege of being a member of a motivated team, and a deep sense of accomplishment.



Left and center:
Jolicoeur and Santiago
practice C3 under
pressure.

Right: Jolicoeur and
Santiago learn how
to apply their medi-
cal techniques while
under a mock chemical
attack.



Testing My Limits at Field Med Training

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Angelica Santiago, NSCC
American Veterans Division, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Field Medical, Branford, Fla.

“Test your limits” is a command that I have heard often in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, but hadn't truly fulfilled until I awoke to the sound of explosions outside of my barracks at 0200 the first morning of my training. It was then that our journey began, one that we, the class of Combat Casualty Care (C3) 003, would never forget.

Subsequently we experienced failure, and were faced with the temptation of quitting on a regular basis. There were times where we struggled to maintain calm and focus on the medical knowledge we had acquired despite the sirens, voices, and “blood” being sprayed in our faces. Physical challenges were reoccurring but the security of our team and the health of our patients became the ultimate priority. With time, we began to rely on each other. As we got to know each other on a personal level, we were able to begin effectively working together as a team developing a unique sense of comradery. We utilized field tactics to “survive” attacks from the enemy, including those of a chemical nature through long days and grueling nights. The class of 003 learned to care for and carry out the wounded thanks to the wealth of knowledge afforded to us by Lt. Williams and Senior Airman Brodeur, whom through their many months of preparation made this training a truly unforgettable experience. I think I speak for the entire class of C3 003, when I say I am truly appreciative of everything they sacrifice not just for the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, but our country as well.

Thanks to the staff and class of C3 003, I walked away with a greater knowledge as well as appreciation for the U.S military's medical personnel and look forward to caring for my shipmates as a corpsman in the USNSCC.



‘The Storm’ Aboard Barque Eagle

By Chief Petty Officer Curtis McDonnell, NSCC
RADM Charles W. Parks Battalion, Dublin, Calif.
Shipboard Training, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Barque Eagle*

I was among the six privileged cadets that were honored with the opportunity to train aboard the USCG *Barque Eagle* this summer, and this is my story of “The Storm”.

On the second night at sea, part of my division, a group of three Coast Guard Swabs (freshmen at the academy) and myself, were tasked with lookout watch from 0200 to 0400. We stood lookout for about 30 minutes when it began to rain. Out of nowhere, the winds picked up from a gentle breeze to forty knot gusts. The rain came in from all sides and lightening was everywhere. We were called into the middle of the bow where the enlisted crew member told us to move to the fore-mast. We ran over to the fore, and then were given the order to get our harnesses and life jackets on. The harnesses

go around both thighs, your waist and over your shoulders to hook back into the waistband. The last person to have worn my harness must have been half a foot shorter than me and they put a huge knot in it which prevented me from securing my harness! It is at this point I realized that my uniform was all blue! They won't see me if I fall in! This is real! I finally got my harness on and slung on the orange life jacket and “clipped in.” The crew called us back to the mess deck where we sat drenched from cover to boots. They then pulled us back up to the fore-mast where we rode out the rest of the storm. The storm was so severe that it ripped one sail and broke off a part of the ship's pin-rail. This was truly an amazing experience that I will never forget.

The Meaning of ‘Shipmate’

By Seaman Timothy Nam, NSCC
Alexandria Division, Alexandria, Va.
Shipboard Training, USS *New Jersey*

This summer, I had the opportunity to attend a shipboard training in Camden, NJ. In this training, I lived on the battleship USS *New Jersey* for a week and have experienced a shipboard life with other shipmates.

Throughout the training, the concept that all the instructors focused on was “Shipmate.” The dictionary definition for shipmate is, “a person who serves with another on the same vessel,” but I found out that has a deeper meaning to it.

We learned that a shipmate is someone you can trust your life to and rely on them. And if something happens, I will save you no matter the consequences. It is a deep level of friendship and companionship. If the relationships you have with your shipmates are not good and beneficial, the ship may break the crew's unity and the ship will not function.

Because of this summer training, I have learned a lot of important life lessons. I have created such lifelong great friendships, and I'm honored to be able to call them my shipmates.



Maritime Operations: A Favorite Training

By Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Kowalski, NSCC
Gulf Eagle Division, Punta Gorda, Fla.
Merchant Marine Operations, Galveston, Texas



Early this summer, I attended the first Merchant Marine Operations training at Texas A&M's Galveston campus. With all of the interesting events and locations we visited, I would certainly recommend this to anyone who has even the slightest interest in such a field of work. Some of the week's highlights included using several in-depth and very high-tech ship simulators, touring various ships that operate in the region and, my personal favorite, getting to ride and drive the Maritime Safety and Security Teams' patrol boats around the port of Galveston. And these are just a few of the many things that we did throughout the eight days!

Among these fun activities, we also had several chances to learn about different skills and jobs that are very important to the maritime industry. This included classes on radar and navigation, and trips to many locations where we could interact with people who work at places like the Vessel Traffic Service

and a few other companies that provide unique services to vessels coming in and out of a port.

Overall, this training has come to be one of my favorites out of the many that I've attended and, like I said above, I would definitely recommend it. Seeing how successful it was in just the first year, I know that the next ones can only be better.

EOD Techs Make Training Exceptional

By Petty Officer 1st Class Connor McDonald, NSCC
John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.
Naval Special Warfare Orientation Courses, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Panama City, Fla.

It's 0600 and I am covered in salt water and sand. I look around me, but am blinded by the barrage of sand being kicked up while our class does countless burpees. "48... 49... 50..." the team chants as they return to their feet. "Hit the surf!", an instructor screams as we wade out into the Gulf of Mexico's warm waters. As I look around me again, I see a group of 23 driven individuals who are pushing themselves past the fact that we have been beaten down since 2200. We try to forget that there are another 16 hours to go in "Hell Day."



I am Petty Officer 1st Class Connor McDonald and this is the combined Naval Special Warfare Orientation Courses (NSWOC): EOD, SEAL and SWCC.

I was part of the EOD team with NSWOC. As a graduate of Urban Counter Insurgency (UCOIN), I wanted to test the rivalry between the two highly revered trainings. I ended up doing a lot more than just

experiencing what it was like to be an EOD Technician in the Navy. My class was taught underwater navigation with "Nav" boards and scuba tanks by a commander in the Navy SEALs who taught at the third phase of BUD/s. This was followed by a class on physical fitness by a Master Chief Navy SEAL. We underwent numerous hands-on demonstrations including IED walkthroughs where the ground was littered with hidden training IEDs and we had to navigate through them safely using techniques we were taught.

We also had the chance to prime and detonate explosives such as C4, sheet, dynamite, semtex, and helix under the supervision of real Navy EOD technicians.

However, my favorite part was simply interacting with and learning from the real EOD techs of all service branches. They gave us a real look at the life of an EOD tech and weren't shy about letting us use their equipment. Our class experienced everything from the bomb suits and three types of robots that defuse bombs, to driving a Humvee and riding in a MAP-V. The EOD techs gave us the full experience and made the training exceptional.

I would highly recommend this training and the other special warfare training to anyone who wants to learn about Naval Special Warfare and get pushed far beyond what they thought was possible.



Photos courtesy of Band of the West

The Top 10 of Advanced Music Training

Cadets from around the country joined California-based Band of the West for a week of music and adventure in Washington, D.C. They shared their top ten moments with us.

#10 Taking “selfies” in the White House.

#9 Becoming better musicians by playing our music with THE BEST OF THE BEST: the United States Navy Band and the U.S. Naval Academy Band. *(Top right)*



#8 Meeting Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations; receiving his challenge coin; and sitting second row, behind all the dignitaries, for the Chief of Naval Operations Arrival Ceremony at Washington Navy Yard. *(Top left)*

#7 Performing as a unit at the U.S. Navy Memorial, Armed Forces Retirement Home and the National World War II Memorial; especially playing “Victory at Sea” in honor of our World War II veterans.



#6 Talking with the veterans after our performances and learning from their life experiences, encouraging me to be more like them and help my community in the smallest and biggest ways possible. *(Middle right)*

#5 Laughing and joking with former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Vincent Patton, and receiving his challenge coin. *(Bottom left)*



#4 Watching the Marine One helicopter coming and going every day and wondering who was on it.



#3 Running in my dress whites in 100 degree heat with instruments and gear down the Washington Mall to get to our World War II memorial performance on time. (Traffic was bad!)

#2 After a long day, eating easy mac and ravioli while chilling with the cadets from California. We are family! *(Bottom right)*



#1 Making Chief laugh.

'The Adventure of a Lifetime' With IEP

Whether you're staffing our inbound exchange in Newport, R.I., or traveling abroad, the International Exchange Program will expand your world. Are you thinking about applying in 2016? We asked this year's participants to give you some advice. Their resounding response: 'DO IT!'



Hong Kong

Chief Petty Officer Frederick LaCombe (Hong Kong): Jump in and experience everything that is offered! It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity so don't waste it by sticking with what you know.

Chief Petty Officer Dominick Khuat (Japan): Be open to new foods and ideas. Make friends with everyone when you get there. You will be best buddies by the time day two ends. It's amazing how quickly I became friends with these people. They really helped make the trip.



Japan

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tatianna Capko (Japan): If you wish to participate in the International Exchange Program, make sure you keep an open mind. Don't immediately judge something just because it's different. In order to immerse yourself in new culture, you need to be willing to try new foods, and new customs, and you need to accept cultural differences that may make you feel uncomfortable at first. You must be willing to delve into which ever culture surrounding the country you hope to visit before you go. When you are prepared, people might respect you a little more instead of regarding you as a dumb foreigner. Sometimes you need to lean into discomfort when trying new things. Also, get involved! Whether it be in your community or in your school, on a sports team, wherever. You need to stand out to the committee of the IEP in some way in order to be chosen. Rank up when eligible, work hard in everything you do, and you might get chosen for the adventure of a lifetime!



Canada

Chief Petty Officer Daniel Browne (Canada): Do it. Before you know it, you'll graduate and you'll be so mad you didn't do more.



United States

Petty Officer 2nd Class Vivian Dees (Newport, R.I.): The IEP is a two-lane road. I chose to accept the privilege of staffing the inbound International Exchange Program in Newport, Rhode Island. I was honored to represent the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in hosting more than 40 Sea Cadets and staff officers from seven countries around the world. You'll make life-long friends, and you'll learn that although we have different cultures and languages, we all share the pride of being a Sea Cadet.



Sweden

Petty Officer 2nd Class David Almeida (Sweden): One major piece of advice I would give to cadets who want to go to another country is: learn as much as possible of their native language. Learn personal pronouns, interrogatives, conjunctions, sentence structure and prepositions. That, along with some basic phrases and words, and the people there will think very highly of you. It means so much to them to see a foreigner appreciate their language and culture.



Canada

Petty Officer 1st Class Seth Thompson (Canada): I would encourage them to apply because the International Exchange Program was a really fun and rewarding experience. It is a completely different experience from any other Advanced Training, and this training was, by far, the best training I've ever been on.

Chief Petty Officer Joshua Churchill (United Kingdom): I would advise reading up on culture and make sure you have at least one other language under your belt. Most all other countries are bilingual and even if they don't speak English, you may still be able to communicate.



United Kingdom

Petty Officer 1st Class Noah Dahm (United Kingdom): Learn a language. Even though it might seem pointless, it benefits you in the long run. Love your country. Represent the United States in all that you do.



Bermuda

Chief Petty Officer Cameron Brewer (Bermuda): Always keep an open mind. Your way of doing things isn't always the right way. Always keep asking questions. Never stay content with what you know — strive for better.

LCDR Todd Dunn (Japan): Work hard at becoming known as a team player who can work well with others and be relied upon. You are pretty much on your own

when you are the escort officer overseas and you have to be able to work out problems, be patient, stick to NSCC core values and be able to think on your feet. Being an escort officer is immensely rewarding! We work with, and lead, some of the top cadets in the U.S. Seeing them be rewarded for their efforts is gratifying. Exposing our cadets to other cadets and customs from around the world, while learning about another country is exciting to see. We uplift the world-view of the U.S. and we open a whole new world of possibilities for our cadets. If you have the cultural sensitivity, time and dedication to be an IEP escort officer, I would strongly recommend applying.



Japan

Petty Officer 2nd Class Hanh-Bao Phan (Bermuda): We are the cream of the crop. You are going to meet other people who will become great leaders of other great nations. Let the relationships you foster on the international exchange be an example of the global, united relationships we will have in the future.

Chief Petty Officer Kimberly Vickers (Sweden): The IEP is probably the most amazing training in Sea Cadets! Everyone who qualifies should apply!



Sweden

It's never too early to start preparing for the 2016 International Exchange Program.

Visit iep.seacadets.org for application procedures.

Two Weeks in Scotland



By Petty Officer 2nd Class Madison Kranis, NSCC
NWS Earle Division, Leonardo, N.J.
International Exchange, Scotland

Our excitement grew as we flew to our destination. We were a select group of 14 cadets and two escort officers from California, Arizona, Michigan, New Jersey and all points in between chosen to participate in a Scotland exchange. The views we had from the airplane were so beautiful and green that we immediately fell in love with the Scottish countryside. We gathered at the Edinburgh Airport and started getting to know one another. From the beginning, I knew we would be a special group. None of us really knew what to expect, and some of us had never even been on a plane before! The trip was beyond anything we could possibly imagine. From sailing to powerboating and windsurfing, and even Thursday night karaoke. The instructors were very patient, knowledgeable and easy-going.

While powerboating, Petty Officer Allison Aitken, Seaman Monica Ford, Instructor Richard and I spotted two seals in the distance. As we approached, we were able to see each and every spot on their bodies as they lounged on a buoy. The next two days of instruction at Port Edgar, we split into two groups. One group went windsurfing and the other went sailing. Windsurfing seemed so natural for the cadets in my group. Every part of wind surfing was enjoyable. We helped each other and laughed almost the whole day.

However, out of the two weeks at our base at Rosyth, MOD Caledonia, my favorite was the firefighting training in Dundee. We went into the third floor of a building via

their ladder truck. Our masks were taped over to simulate the zero visibility of a fully engulfed building. We had to follow a rope all the way to the bottom level where we retrieved the casualties. It is extremely difficult to trust yourself without your sight and if you weren't in the lead position, you had to put all your trust in the person who was. Through a lot of communication, Petty Officer Nick Graves and I were able to crawl through the tunnels in full gear and successfully rescue the casualty in under 20 minutes. The communication between us needed to be loud and clear and, luckily for us, loud is my only volume. After completion of the rescue, all the cadets were lined up cheering each other on.

The following week we went to many castles, monuments and historic landmarks including Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Wallace Monument. We travelled up to see Scotland's famous Highland Cows and got to meet a black one named Hamish, and a golden one named Honey. We climbed up a very steep hill and filled our now empty water bottles with fresh mountain water directly from a crystal clear, cold stream. We then took many pictures next to Campbell Castle which is considered one of the late King and Queen's favorite vacation spots.

All of us are very thankful to have had the opportunity and to leave Scotland with everlasting memories and friends. We are grateful to Lt.j.g. Stewart and Senior Chief Wiener for making this experience the highlight of our summer.

Rewarding Experience for Sole Female

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Erin R. Cross-Kaplan, NSCC
Pyro Division, Petaluma, Calif.
Riverine Operations, Norfolk, Va.

When I was on the plane to Norfolk, just before it took off, I checked the website for my training, Riverine Operations. I knew I was the only female attending, and I saw that I was to spend two weeks with 15 male cadets. It was interesting, all the thoughts that ran through my head as I finally realized that that was the inescapable truth. And I was a bit nervous, truth be told.

As it turned out, I had nothing to be nervous about. Those two weeks are two weeks I constantly wish I were still living. We did everything from beach PT to TCCC training, from setting up and maintaining ECPs to breaching and searching rooms and eventually, the floor we were staying on. We learned the history of the Navy's Riverine forces, and worked with Coastal Riverine Squadron Two.

I don't think I have ever learned more in such a short period of time. Probably the most important thing I learned is that everyone in a group plays a vital role and that removing even one person can make operating very difficult or impossible. Once our group got close and trusted each other, we each played our parts and things ran relatively smoothly. The bonds between the cadets were remarkable, and we kept each other going when things got hard. Once we accepted each other, we overcame every challenge we faced.

It was a challenge for me to walk into that training as the only female. Even so, by the beginning of the second day, I was, to quote our chief, "one of the guys." And that sort of bond never felt better.



Ahhhh, Summertime

By Chief Petty Officer Blaine Bradley, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

It's great spending your time on a boat with friends, but this summer my boat was a bit different: a bit longer (the size of the Empire State Building), a bit more powerful (two nuclear reactors generating 260,000 horsepower) and my boat seated a few more friends (about 6000). In addition, my boat could carry a few more necessities (90 combat, electronic warfare, and early warning aircraft as well as several different types of helicopters).

Yep, I spent a part of my summer on the most powerful, most renowned aircraft carrier in the world, CVN 76, the flagship of the U.S. Navy, *USS Ronald Reagan*!

Being at sea, launching and recovering aircraft, being in the Combat Direction Center, on the bridge, in the carrier air traffic control center, talking "business" with specialists from every area of the boat was something I have dreamed about for as long as I can remember and the reality of it was even better than my dreams.

While on board, not only did I make huge leaps in the pursuit of my dreams, but my shipmates and I furthered the mission of my unit as well as the mission of the First Class Petty Officer's Association on board the Reagan by establishing new relationships, and strengthening existing ones with the Reagan's crew. We laid down the groundwork for future Wolverine missions on board the *Reagan* in the years to come.

And if all that wasn't enough, after years of work and sacrifice, I was privileged enough to be pinned chief petty officer on the boat by one of the most amazing people I have ever met. The thought of this event goes even beyond my dreams. I'm 16! A pilot wannabe! I'm on an aircraft carrier! At sea! And being promoted to the highest rank possible in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps! By my friend and role model, a first class petty officer herself!

While we were in California, our experiences extended beyond the glory of the flagship of the Navy. One hot, sunny, California morning (that we didn't spend aboard the carrier or at the base) we woke up, got changed into our NWUs, and drove out to a World War II hangar bay that we were to restore. One of the people working with us to restore the hangar bay was a pilot who had a Cessna and took us for a fly over of *USS Ronald Reagan* and *USS Midway*. Not only did we fly over two aircraft carriers, I was also surprised with a flight opportunity. Having told the pilot that I flew Cessnas myself on our way onto the runway, he knew that I was working on getting my pilot's license and offered me control of the aircraft for a while. After we left the airport, my shipmates told me how well I did flying.

One long car trip later, we arrived someplace very different from San Diego — Los Angeles! Having arrived, my shipmates and I were amazed at the glamorous hotel we found out we would be staying at for that night. (We later learned that the hotel was partly paid for by our host for the evening. He wanted us to experience staying in the same hotel that Ronald Reagan used when he visited Los Angeles.) At our next

destination, we got a taste of the Hollywood lifestyle... literally! We spent the rest of the day visiting with Mr. Mike Gleason.

Mr. Gleason is an Honorary Founder of the Reagan library and serves on the Board of Directors for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. Our tour included the "private quarters" of President and Mrs. Reagan, not open to the public. He invited us to his house in the Hollywood hills. As we all enjoyed a delicious meal we talked about everything from stocks to politics and current issues in our world.

The next morning was our biggest surprise, a private tour of the Reagan library. The tour included areas not seen by the general public. The library was filled with a wealth of information covering Reagan's life from early childhood right through his presidency on up to his death. Seeing first-hand what motivated him and guided his philosophies through such a pivotal time in world history was an awesome experience! What also made the experience so memorable was having the honor of being there in uniform. To be there, standing in uniform, with all that history, the fall of the U.S.S.R., the end of the Cold War and be surrounded by the effects of the man who was in large part responsible for it all, filled me with awe and respect. The tour included standing next to a piece of the Berlin wall. There was an enormous feeling of pride knowing that the man who was responsible for taking that wall down was resting just a few feet away. I can't imagine a better place for such a monument. Lastly and most importantly, one of the greatest moments of my time at library was at President Reagan's final resting place where we saluted him. There's no way I will ever be able to adequately describe how I felt at that moment, but there's also no way I will ever forget it.

Because of the tremendous amount of effort put into making this week happen by Lt. Cmdr. Stoyanovich, Captain Sydes, Lt. Cmdr. Sydes, Instructor Otte and Petty Officer 1st Class Mezei, this has been by far the most rewarding, fulfilling and reaffirming experience of my life. And I am proud and blessed to have had the opportunity to represent my division — Wolverine Division — on such an important mission.

Hoooooyahhh Reagan! Peace through strength!



Photos courtesy of INST David Otte, NSCC



Rep. Kaptur Administers Oath to New Cadets

By Lt. Cmdr. James Lukasiewicz, NSCC Regional Director, Region 4-1

On a bright and sunny July morning, 19 new cadets were "sworn in" by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio). Kaptur was with the newest cadets from Region 4-1 on the fourth of July as part of a naturalization ceremony for new U.S. citizens, held at the Perry Victory and Peace Memorial on Put-in-Bay in Ohio.

Annually, on the fourth of July, cadets from Region 4-1 participated in this naturalization ceremony by providing color guards, and other support activities.

This year, I requested that Rep. Kaptur make this an even more momentous occasion for these new cadets by administering their oath.

Imagine being a new League or Sea Cadet and having your oath administered, not only in front of parents and friends, but in front of a large, distinguished group of people — and then to have an actual congresswoman do it personally! Not many cadets can start their NSCC service with such a highlight.



Units Team Together for Water Survival Training

By Lt.jg. Todd Johnson, NSCC Commanding Officer, Knoxville Anchor Division, Knoxville, Tenn.

On June 5, Knoxville Anchor Division joined forces with Signal Mountain and Hurricane Divisions for an East Tennessee water survival adventure on the Ocoee River! Through communication and prior planning, both Lt.jg. Todd Johnson and Lt. Stacy Kehoe led their groups and enjoyed a day on the river, filling eight rafts full of cadets to survive class three and four rapids with Wildwater Adventure rafting guides.

More than 25 cadets, three chiefs and a handful of adult leaders were challenged by cold water, jagged rocks and tumultuous waterfalls. Each boat crew demonstrated excellent teamwork and leadership throughout the adventure. The rafting guides were true professionals and appreciated the seamanship demonstrated by each cadet.

Knoxville Anchor Division had previously learned swift water training and high angle rescues, but regrettably did not get the chance to utilize their skills!

Following the afternoon's adventure both groups enjoyed a healthy meal and fantastic fellowship where stories were shared and the wisdom of Lt. Kehoe was imparted to all. Cadets were able to get to know each other and share stories from their previous trainings and experiences. It was truly a success to interact with other units in East Tennessee, building lasting relationships.

I would encourage all units to break the barriers and get to know others in the vicinity.



Courtesy of LTJG Todd Johnson, NSCC

Our New York Fleet Week Experience

Three cadets from John T. Dempster, Jr. Division share their experiences aboard USS *San Antonio*.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Delle Grotti, NSCC: “Fourteen cadets and I were given the privilege to experience life aboard the USS *San Antonio*. The USS *San Antonio* is the lead ship of her class of amphibious transport dock or landing platform dock ships. Our first adventure started with a roadtrip from Lawrenceville, New Jersey to Norfolk, Virginia. When the cadets arrived at the port, we were amazed of how much bigger the ship is up close than it is in a picture. Applying the naval customs of the quarterdeck, bells and watch-standing were second nature to us when we entered the USS *San Antonio* because of the great Sea Cadet instructors and officers who had taught us well. Getting around on the ship is extremely different than getting around on a base, where most Sea Cadet divisions drill. The cadets learned how to move on a cramped ladder, through a hatch or passageway. The least commodious space was the berthing. There were six cadets to just one small room, where only one person could fit the width. The best part of the training was interacting with the ship and the crew. We watched as we anchored, engulfed six feet of water and docked several amphibious landing craft and L-CACs, or landing craft air cushion. The cadets also wore the heavyweight suits of a firefighter, used a firefighters’ hose, repaired a simulated pipe and for the first time, be just feet away from a V-22 Osprey.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Neely Campbell, NSCC: “My time underway was an amazing experience. We had the opportunity to observe and participate in many of the daily operations including maintenance, communications, and fire safety. Seeing the V-22 Osprey land on the deck was incredible. This would be an eye-opening experience for anyone. However, it was vital in my life because it gave me the opportunity to actually see first-hand what my life will be like serving my country and to see a glimpse of what my future holds. It confirmed my desire in life to serve my country. The USNSCC provides a structured environment that places a high standard of excellence and leadership and teaches youth how to succeed in the military and in life. I have been held to a higher standard as a U.S. Naval Sea Cadet and it has been very rewarding for me. My time underway on the USS *San Antonio* is an experience that I will carry with me forever.”



Photos courtesy of PO3 Neely Campbell, NSCC

Chief Petty Officer Monica Treacy, NSCC: “On our third and last day aboard USS *San Antonio*, we began to make our way into New York Harbor and learned we had been extended the privilege of ‘manning the rails.’ Manning the rails was on my bucket list and it was amazing to finally experience it, but I will always remember three things: it was cold, windy and amazing! After three hours of manning the rails, we left our fleet week adventure behind us, but we came away with what my family calls ‘stories to tell the grandkids!’”

Leading Through Tragedy

By Lt.j.g. Patrick Abercrombie, NSCC

Commanding Officer, Chattanooga Division, Chattanooga, Tenn.

The morning of July 16, 2015 began as many others. Messages to be answered, voice mails that needed attention and my normal morning appointments. I had just left a very nice, secluded home, when my phone rang. I took the call from a familiar number and heard a frantic voice saying, "Sir, there is an active shooter at the NOSC!" Thinking that I had not heard correctly, I asked, "What did you say? Could you say that again?" "There is an active shooter at the Navy Operational Support Center on Amnicola Highway! You need to get to a television!" When I asked if there was any other information that he could give me, he said that reports were "multiple fatalities and some casualties." The time was 11:01 a.m.

My mind immediately went to the Navy and Marine staff who I know and work with there on a regular basis. Were they safe? Shortly after the local media was beginning to report what I already knew about the NOSC. They were showing raw footage of the police blocking traffic on Amnicola Highway. They were also reporting of another incident that happened prior to that event at a recruiting office on Lee Highway. There were a lot of conflicting reports concerning the two events. Some were saying that the shooter was still at large, while others were saying that he was not.

My attention then turned to nearby Latimer Scout Camp where some 300 cadets and staff were training. What needs to be done there to ensure their safety? Upon reaching our NHQ Representative, Captain Baker, I assured him that there were no Sea Cadet personnel in or near the facility and that everyone was accounted for. I voiced my concerns about the safety of the personnel at Latimer. He told me that he would

check in with them and determine what could and should be done. During my conversation with him, my phone kept beeping with calls and texts.

I knew that we, as a Sea Cadet family, needed to be together. We needed to talk about our feelings as a group. I needed to help my cadets and their families process what they were hearing and try to assure them that it was okay to be mad and to grieve, and to ask questions. Over the next couple of days, we began hearing about arrangements for burials. Seeing the images of patriotic Americans lining the highway, crying and waving flags as the bodies of the fallen were transported was very emotional.

After several other conversations with my staff, parents, and some of the Navy staff from the NOSC, I finally realized how to lead cadets in a time like this: return to normal as much as possible and as soon as possible! After the funeral of LS2 Smith (with whom many of my cadets had played backyard hoops), I hit the ground running. It was time to reinforce what we had been doing. I began to encourage our petty officers to lead and teach classes. We would drill at our back-up facility on the same day as our Navy counterparts, which was exactly one month after the tragedy. The drill weekend would be somewhat normal, with one exception. There were quite a few visitors. The parents credited it to our leadership team. Our hearts are still beating — broken — but beating. We have a renewed resolve and commitment to protect each other and to be aware of our surroundings, and my officers and instructors and I will lead and empower our cadets to do the same. After all, isn't that what we are about?

Unit Holds Inaugural Golf Tournament

By CTRC(SW) John Moon, USN (Ret.)

Commanding Officer, Annapolis Division, Annapolis, Md.

Imagine, if you can, a semi-cloudy day in Annapolis on a Friday afternoon. If you can, then you were there when Annapolis Division held its inaugural golf tournament at Eisenhower Golf Course in Crownsville, Md.

The fundraiser was pulled together with the help of parents and cadets who beat the streets and pounded doors for sponsorship and golfers. In all, we managed to bring in 23 sponsors and 40 golfers. The end result was more than \$5,000 raised to offset unit expenses and help with upcoming summer travel expenses for cadets.

The fundraiser was highlighted by Executive Director, retired Navy Captain James Monahan, Stephen Bunting and Kate McIlvaine, from National Headquarters, making appearances and supporting the troops!



Executive Director James Monahan (top row, fifth from right) spent time with the cadets of Annapolis Division following their successful golf tournament.



CFO Logan Glantz, NSCC

“This training has been the highlight of my Sea Cadet career so far. Sailing on the *Barque Eagle* allowed me to experience setting sails, climbing the rigging, learning all aspects of the ship, and becoming close to what I call my ‘shipmates.’”
— Chief Petty Officer Logan Glantz, NSCC, Trident Patrol 65 Squadron



ENS Alex Dale, NSCC

Photo of the Quarter



Key Largo, Fla. — Advanced SCUBA cadets descend the mooring line to the wreck of *USS Spiegel Grove*.

Important Reminders

Ready for winter training?
Once published, the schedule will be available here:
magellan.seacadets.org/public/training.asp

The deadline for the next issue of *Sea Cadet Quarterly* is 16 November. Submission guidelines can be found at www.seacadets.org/scq. Send submissions to pao@seacadets.org.

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Pearl Harbor is currently the last major Navy port without a Lone Sailor statue. The proposed site is at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, at the embark location for the USS Arizona Memorial. From this locale, the Lone Sailor will keep watch over the USS Arizona and USS Missouri and all sailors who sail from this port.

If you would like to support this project, please visit our website.
navymemorial.org

The Navy Log The U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation
Washington, D.C.

JONATHAN WILLIAM GREENERT



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- DEPUTY COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET * COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES, MARIANAS
- COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON 11 * USS FLYING FISH SSN-673
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- DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS DIVISION, NAVY COMPTROLLER *CHIEF OF STAFF, COMSEVENTHFLT
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SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

- NAVY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (6)
- DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL
- LEGION OF MERIT (4)
- MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (2)
- NAVY MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL (4)
- NAVY MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL (3)

NAVY LOG

The goal of the Navy Log is to create a lasting legacy of honor that reaches across generations and tells the story of our Sea Service veterans. We must remind and educate Americans of the true cost of these freedoms, so they will always respect those who fought to protect them.

Registry in the Navy Log is free, but we encourage everyone to join The United States Navy Memorial to show your support of our brave men and women in uniform.

navylog.navymemorial.org