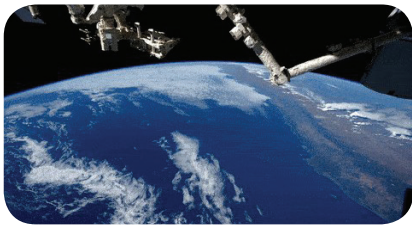


What's Inside



Sea Cadets
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Reagan

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U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

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WO David Sheets

From the Field



Courtesy of Valor Division

Alabama

A cadet takes his first class swim test.



Courtesy of Escondido Battalion

California

Cadets participate in a spring break sailing training.



Courtesy of Wolverine Division

Michigan

Cadets give it their all during the Michigan Regional Flagship competition.



Courtesy of LCDR Michael Campbell, NSCC

Connecticut

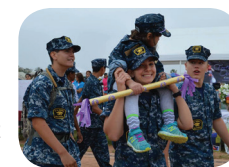
Volunteers attend the International Officer Leadership Academy.



CyberPatriot

Maryland

Fort Fisher Division competes at the CyberPatriot National Finals.



Courtesy of Desert Storm Division

California

Cadets participate in Relay for Life with child cancer survivor, Violet Rose.

Letter From Our Executive Director

I am pleased to announce the selection of Lt. Cmdr. David Hull, NSCC, as the next deputy director of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. I have worked closely with Dave over many years on many issues, and we are delighted to have him join the Sea Cadet leadership team. He brings both program expertise and administrative skill to the job, as well as keen insights from serving as a leader in the field. He is expected to begin this new position in June.

Dave joined Sea Cadets in 1994 and attained the rank of chief petty officer at Marathon Division in Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts. He stayed in service throughout college and graduate school, holding numerous billets in Marathon Division and Freedom Division. He served as the commanding officer of Freedom Division in Canton, Massachusetts from 2002 to 2005. He held various posts on Regional Staff for Region 1-2 from 2005 to 2007 and worked for the NSCC Internet Development Group from 2007 to 2011. In June 2011, he was appointed Regional Director of Region 1-3, covering Vermont, New Hampshire, and northeastern Massachusetts.

Dave has served on staff at 48 Sea Cadet trainings, including 38 as commanding officer. He created the POLA, JAG, MAA, and EMS trainings that have operated at Naval Station Newport since 2002, and took over Recruit Training Command New England in 2014.

Dave earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University, a master's in Education from Boston College, and a law degree from Boston College Law School. During his schooling, he worked or interned for many criminal justice agencies, including the Barnstable, Massachusetts Police Department, the Boston Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. After serving as New England's Director of Graduate Programs for The Princeton Review for several years, he pursued further graduate studies in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland. For the past seven years, he has worked as a professor of Criminal Justice at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

His demonstrated leadership and commitment to the Sea Cadet program make him an exceptional choice for the position of the Deputy Director at the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. I am delighted to have him bring his expertise to our program. Please join me in welcoming Dave to the Sea Cadet leadership team and offering him your full support.

V/R,
CAPT Henry J. Nyland, USN (Ret)
Executive Director, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps



Our new deputy director,
Lt. Cmdr. David Hull, NSCC

It's Our Mission

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Theodore Yuan, NSCC
San Antonio (LPD-17) Division, Philadelphia, Pa.

Three months ago, I traveled to Haiti. I had been selected in September to be a part of my high school's first buildOn trek team, whose primary purpose was to construct a school in a third world country. After six months of fundraising and planning, my trek team journeyed to Haiti, excited with this rare opportunity and ready to make a positive impact for those in need.



When I first got off the 4WD in our assigned village, Astruc, I thought the trek team's sole mission was to build a school for underprivileged children. I quickly learned this experience was going to be so much more than that. For the duration of our mission, we lived with our host families in their makeshift homes. The houses did not have running water or electricity and were no more durable than tin cans. To make it through the two weeks in the village, I had to assimilate into the villagers' culture, daily routine, and way of life. I learned to shower with a bucket, pump water from underground wells, and most dreadfully, use the "latrines." My trek to Haiti was the first time I experienced a third world setting, and it was eye-opening to see how the majority of the world lives.

Despite the poverty that the villagers faced, they were all very kind and welcoming. One touching moment for me was when Mackenzie, a child in the village, gave me an elastic band. I first met Mackenzie as I was walking from the worksite back to my house when he grabbed my hand and wanted me to walk with him. Even though he was a complete stranger, I saw nothing but kindness and love in this simple action, and it was the start of a great friendship. Mackenzie did not have parents and was by far one of the poorest in the village. Despite facing daily adversity and having close to nothing, he was generous and loving enough to show his appreciation for my efforts by giving something of great value to him. Through my experiences, my trek to Haiti made me realize that even though people are from different parts of the world, look different, or have different cultures, people are fundamentally the same, with the same traits as you and me.



After reflecting on my trek to Haiti, I realized that in addition to building a school to provide education for children who do not have it, the mission was to increase awareness of how the rest of the world lives. To fulfill this duty, I want to share my story with the Sea Cadet community and inspire cadets to participate in humanitarian treks to continue making the world a better place for everyone. Not only will your actions benefit those in need, but the experience will allow you to become more globally-minded, a necessary trait for anyone looking to serve in our nation's armed forces.



"I want to share my story with the Sea Cadet community and inspire cadets to participate in humanitarian treks to continue making the world a better place for everyone. Not only will your actions benefit those in need, but the experience will allow you to become more globally-minded, a necessary trait for anyone looking to serve in our nation's armed forces."

Sea Cadet Quarterly is the official publication of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Written primarily by cadets, it covers a wide range of topics, including stories about training and leadership experiences.

Website:
www.seacadets.org
Policy and Reference:
homeport.seacadets.org
Online Unit Management:
magellan.seacadets.org
National Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/usnscc
National Twitter page:
www.twitter.com/seacadets
International Exchange Program:
iep.seacadets.org

Meet NHQ

Everyone meet Kate McIlvaine. She is responsible for the spectrum of our communications efforts, including print materials like the Sea Cadet Quarterly and the annual report, our social media accounts, and our website, seacadets.org. She joined NHQ in November 2013.

Originally from Waterbury, Vermont, she likes spending time with her husband and two young kids, preferably on a trip to somewhere she's never been before. Her favorite part of her job is working with our dedicated volunteers and NHQ staff to spread the word about the Sea Cadet program. She feels very proud to contribute — even in small ways — to the greatness that is the USNSCC.



Chief's Corner: The Path of a Leader in the NSCC

By Chief Petty Officer Sierra Marcoux, NSCC
El Toro Battalion, Irvine, Calif.
Intends to Enlist in the U.S. Navy

The USNSCC was designed to be a youth program that reflects, and gives a favorable image of the Navy. Along with the multitude of amazing opportunities the NSCC offers, I believe the most privileged experience we have is the ability to achieve the rate of chief petty officer. In the military, there is no equivalent to that of a chief. It is an esteemed community of highly trained individuals who are charged with being technically and tactically proficient in everything they do, and who have the responsibility of molding junior sailors and officers. To be quite honest, that definition barely scratches the surface as to the weight those anchors carry. It's not something that should be easily handed out, which is why I feel it's amazing to have the opportunity to earn such an esteemed rate. There are many people who join this program in order to earn their E-3 for enlistment in the Navy or Coast Guard. The question that I propose to my cadets is "Why stop there?" If we can only earn transferable pay-grades up to an E-3, why did the founders of this program allow us to earn rate beyond that, even all the way up to chief? I believe it is because this program was intended to do more than just give a taste of what the Navy is like to those who are interested in enlistment. The NSCC is a way for teens to develop themselves personally, to grow in ways they never thought existed, to reach out to their shipmates and help them flourish, and to provide a means of unmatched leadership training and opportunities.

One of the most pivotal things I learned as an LPO is once you've earned a leadership position, it's not about you. It's about the cadets in your charge. They are always your number one priority. They look up to you and watch everything you do, which means you have to set the bar high and be the best example. You can't expect your cadets to meet a certain standard until you meet and exceed it yourself. However, setting

an example doesn't go quite far enough. Being a true leader doesn't stop when the drill day is over, or when you come home from training. Your job is to do everything in your power to make sure your cadets have everything they need to excel in the NSCC, and most importantly, to ignite a spark within them to always strive towards greatness. Without that spark, there's no motivation to make something with the tools you've given them. Inspiration and motivation can be the difference between a cadet who just meets the baseline, and one who always looks to surpass it. The NSCC has so much to offer for those who are motivated enough to dig deep and work for it.

The Sea Cadets has instilled in me, an overwhelming love for the Navy, and a strong desire to give back by serving my country. I plan on enlisting in the Navy as an MAA, and striving to at least make chief petty officer. Having the incredible privilege of being trained by retired Navy Master Chief David Dickey has shown me what it means to be an outstanding chief. It is my goal to take everything he's taught me and put it towards my own path to chief.



TAKE A LOOK AT LAST YEAR

For more of our 2015 facts and figures, go to 2015.seacadets.org.

Membership in 2015

5.5%

We ended 2015 with a 5.5% increase in total enrollments over 2014, with April 2015 achieving the highest number of enrollments ever.

13,222

total members in 2015

9,647

total cadets

3,575

total adults

2015 Notable Numbers

7,440

courses were completed via correspondence by our cadets. Here's the breakdown of what they learned:

Chief Petty Officer 206	Petty Officer First Class 272
Seaman 1,269	Petty Officer Third Class 698
Fireman 23	Airman 148
Seabee Vol. 1 6	Instructional Theory 14
Tools 12	Seabee Vol. 2 6
Math 2	Sound Power Phone 37
NLCC Syllabus 1,527	Basic Military Requirements 2,388

53

Sea Cadets were selected to attend the competitive summer programs offered by the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and West Point.

Alumni Spotlight: Joshua Maye

Former cadet gives back to the program as a volunteer.

By Ensign Joshua Maye, NSCC
Henry E. Mooberry Division, Washington, D.C.

In October 1999, as an 11-year-old League Cadet, I entered into the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps at the historic Washington Navy Yard. I had no idea that after spending seven years in the program as a cadet, I would someday be back as an officer. Having achieved the rank of chief petty officer, it was time to prepare to leave the program and start college in fall 2006.

While I enjoyed the new adventures of college, in 2008, I re-entered the program to give back to the unit that poured so much into me. It was then that I reentered into the program as the operations officer. While that was fun, in 2012, I became the unit chaplain, since everyone knew I was in seminary and had aspirations to become a military chaplain. Now I am a recruiting officer and it couldn't be a better fit.

Recruiting for me is not about adding names to the unit roster, but ensuring that both parents and cadets, feel comfortable joining the unit. There have been times when I have suggested prospects look at other units before deciding to join. To me, giving cadets a profound experience is better than just having bodies. Looking back, I could not be more privileged to call the Sea Cadets my family.



Our volunteers make it happen. Ensign Joshua Maye, NSCC, of Henry E. Mooberry Division manned a Sea Cadet table at last year's Navy Mile event in Washington, D.C.

My Approach to Advancement Exams

By Seaman Apprentice Rachel Griffith, NSCC
George Washington (CVN-73) Division, Bronx, N.Y.



There are three advancement exams required for promotion beyond seaman. The three exams are on the PO3, PO2 and PO1 military requirements correspondence courses (each has its own exam). Do not be discouraged by these exams. After all, I passed these exams on my first attempt and did so within eight months of becoming a cadet.

In case you were not aware, you do not have to wait until you are close to promotion to take each exam. You can attempt an advancement exam once you have completed the required coursework. Some cadets take these exams and fail due to lack of studying. Others simply do not attempt these exams.

My strategy to study for these exams was to carefully go through the manual and make an outline containing all of the important details. Using my outline, I then determined what I did not know. Then, I made flashcards for the information I did not know well. I used these flashcards to repeatedly test myself. For the information that I had a hard time remembering, I wrote it over and over by hand so I would remember it better. I also made it a point to get ample sleep (more than eight hours) and eat a good, healthy meal shortly before each exam.

You will be happier with your time as a cadet if you complete all of the exams (and their respective courses) as quickly as possible instead of trying to delay it or avoid it. With the correspondence courses and exam requirements met, you will be able to spend your time and efforts focused on advanced training, drill sessions and remaining physically fit.

Let's Talk: Cadets Ask NASA

You asked and NASA answered. Here are your questions about space travel, aliens and more.



Apprentice Cadet
Tallulah Bobby, NLCC

Q: I have always been interested in space travel and always had a great passion for it. I've been yearning for future space travel to Mars. What is my competition, and what are the requirements and steps to get where I want to be?

NASA: NASA recently received over 18,000 applications to our Astronaut Candidate program indicating the competition is strong. Candidate requirements can be found at <http://astronauts.nasa.gov/>. It's important to do well in school, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) areas. Astronaut training doesn't start once you've been selected... it starts for you today!

Q: I am in sixth grade now. If I want to go to Mars someday, what should I be doing now to prepare?

NASA: We're glad to know you're also interested in joining us on our Journey to Mars. We encourage you to study hard and build the foundation in your STEM courses. Continue to challenge yourself and never give up on your dream!



Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nicholas Mayes, NLCC

Q: How do you go to the bathroom in space?

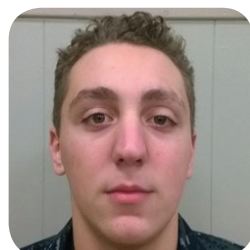
NASA: Because of microgravity, the Space Station toilet is more complex than what people use on Earth. The astronauts have to position themselves on the toilet seat using leg restraints. The toilet basically works like a vacuum cleaner with fans that suck air and waste into the commode. Each

astronaut has a personal urinal funnel that has to be attached to the hose adapter. Fans suck air and urine through the funnel and the hose into the wastewater tank.

(<http://go.nasa.gov/1QGrcf9>)

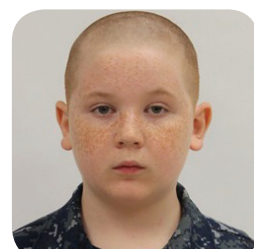
Q: How hard would it be to colonize a planet similar to Earth?

NASA: This is a hard question to answer, since we have yet to find a planet we know for certain can sustain life as we know it. The recent planet discovery of Kepler 452b, the



Seaman Tyler Gross,
NSCC

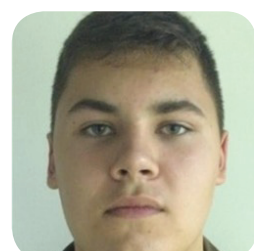
first near-Earth-size planet in the "habitable zone" around a sun-like star, <http://go.nasa.gov/1MKxzNo>, is 1400 light years away, which is too far for us to get to with our current technology. If we are able to find a "second Earth" that we can travel to, many other factors (environmental concerns, sustainability, etc.) would also weigh into whether colonization is a good option.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Benjamin Seguin,
NLCC

Q: How does oxygen get to the space station? If you can't bring tanks, how is there enough to breathe? I also wonder what things astronaut Scott Kelly did to keep from being bored. Did he play with water drops often like in the movies? I'd be afraid they would float onto something important.

NASA: Oxygen on the ISS is generated from a process called "electrolysis," which uses electricity from the solar panels to split water into oxygen (O₂) and hydrogen (H₂) gas. While that method is very effective, we also have backup methods to provide oxygen, including pressurized oxygen storage tanks that are stored onboard. Being bored on the ISS is not an issue. The astronauts have a very full schedule filled with performing science, doing maintenance, research, and a strict exercise routine. But yes, they do have personal time to relax where they can read books, watch a movie, or talk with their family. On Scott's mission, he did many interesting science experiments, including one that involved water bubbles and Alka-Seltzer tablets. But don't worry, the astronauts ensure nothing floats into some place it shouldn't.



Chief Petty Officer
Alex Kania, NSCC

Q: How have recent studies on-board the International Space Station affected NASA's plans for its future exploration missions?

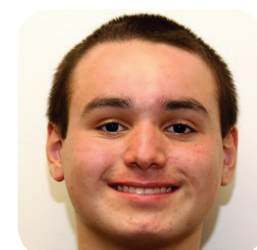
NASA: The science and operations lessons we learn from the ISS are very important towards our journey to Mars and other exploration missions. We are gaining hands-on experience in areas such as manufacturing parts, growing food, psychological impacts, and other impacts of long-duration missions. For more on this topic, check out <http://go.nasa.gov/1FfU9OH>.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
William Christianson,
NSCC

Q: What was the most interesting course you took in college? How many years of college does it take to work at NASA?

NASA: Kevin Metrocavage, former International Space Station (ISS) Flight Controller/Instructor in NASA Mission Control noted that he found Orbital Mechanics as his most interesting course. He notes, "It was an intriguing blend of physics, mathematics, and real-world problem solving associated with a variety of spacecrafts." The years a student spends in college varies based on the type of degree. However, an Engineering degree is typically four to five years.



Seaman Recruit
Michael Cary, NSCC

Q: If we find a place similar to Earth, with oxygen, carbon dioxide, plants and an atmosphere, how will we supply the correct provisions to regrow our population? How will we build shelters and modes of transportation? How do you think we would survive and grow the population once again?

NASA: NASA is challenged with learning more about the other planets, dwarf planets, moons, and asteroids in our solar system. Some of those might be future places for humans to explore. In order for humans to explore safely throughout our solar system, we would first have to gather as much scientific data as possible. We're doing that with robotic landers and orbiters like Mars Curiosity, Cassini and the Juno mission which arrives at Jupiter this year. And we're creating the technology and practices we'll need to support human exploration, like 3-D printing habitats using the raw material of another planet, growing food in space, and building better solar cells to power future spacecraft.



Petty Officer 1st Class
Kevin Kadur, NSCC

Q: Will there be a mission to Jupiter's moon Europa? If so, what would be the mission objectives?

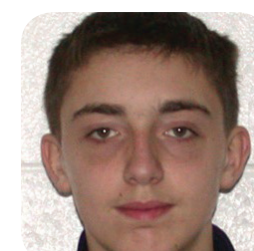
NASA: NASA is planning for a mission to launch a spacecraft to Jupiter's moon Europa in the 2020s. The mission will conduct a detailed survey of the moon and investigate its habitability. There will be a variety of science instruments which we hope leads to exciting new discoveries. More information on the mission can be found at <http://www.nasa.gov/europa>.



Seaman Apprentice
Angelmarie Wells,
NSCC

Q: How will the recent discovery of and ability to observe gravitational waves impact the science of astronomy?

NASA: The detection of gravitational waves is a very exciting development in space science! The National Science Foundation has a pair of two ground observatories in Washington state and Louisiana, called the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO, that is sensitive to gravitational waves within the range of 10 to 1,000 cycles per second (10 to 1,000 Hz) and was essential to this discovery. The LIGO detections represent a much-awaited first step toward opening a whole new branch of astrophysics. Nearly everything we know about the universe comes from detecting and analyzing light in all its forms across the electromagnetic spectrum — radio, infrared, visible, ultraviolet, X-rays and gamma rays. The study of gravitational waves opens a new window on the universe, one that scientists expect will provide key information that will complement what we can learn through electromagnetic radiation. Astronomers hope to utilize both ground-based and space-based observatories as they continue to research this scientific find. A space-based system would be able to detect waves at much lower frequencies, from 0.0001 to 0.1 Hz, and detect different types of sources. This effort is one that will certainly expand the knowledge of the universe and will include the effort of several agencies across the world!



Seaman Apprentice
Christopher Marshall,
NSCC

Q: Does NASA think there are alien life forms out there and if so, would they be able to understand us?

NASA: Many scientists believe we are not alone in the universe. It's probable, they say, that life could have arisen on at least some of the billions of planets thought to exist in our galaxy alone — just as it did here on planet Earth. This basic question about our place in the universe is one that may be answered by scientific investigations. This NASA article will provide more details on the effort of life beyond Earth's reach: <http://go.nasa.gov/20U1CsH>. In terms of whether or not they would be able to understand us, we must first understand the nature of what these other life forms are. Hence, the importance of the scientific investigations in order to ascertain what may be out there. ☪



CyberPatriot

Team Captain Surprised By, Proud of Win

By Chief Petty Officer Peter Steffey, NSCC
Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.
Attending University of Central Florida

I would like to say that I saw it coming, but our win this year surprised me more than anyone else on our team. As captain of the Centurion Battalion Netrunners for three years, I have seen my team progress by leaps and bounds in their capabilities, while facing many obstacles.

My role as CPO in the USNSCC for the past few years has helped me develop my leadership skills. Gaining authority and responsibility as a petty officer and then determining the best way to transfer those functions as one becomes chief is a process, requiring delegation to manage one's subordinates correctly. It takes a level of trust to believe that your superior knows what they are doing well enough to carry out the task at hand; it takes even more trust to believe that a shipmate with less experience will successfully carry out an order you are responsible for, especially one that is not yours. Suddenly, micromanagement seems tempting as the realization hits that the responsibility ultimately falls on you.

So how does this relate to my experience in the CyberPatriot program? This year revealed that what makes a team successful is not always their level of preparation, practice, and individual knowledge, but the mutual trust of each team member towards the others. It is especially the trust of the leader in his team's capabilities that can bring out the best when it counts, even if the team is not optimally prepared. During each round of competition, as the pressure mounted, it was only trusting that my team could handle themselves in the cyber security world that allowed me to focus on the task at hand, and with this focus came confidence; and with confidence, peace. The competition is rigged in such a way that your worst enemy is never the Red team, but the pent-up anxiety and worry that results from the lack of peace with the current situation. I will be the first to admit that our team had its tense moments; however, this was far outweighed by the focus and determination they exhibited.

For new teams getting started in CyberPatriot, I will say this: very rarely are there competitive opportunities where a different set of teams win every year, and thus the chance for younger teams to perform with excellence is so great. As a member of the Sea Cadets, you have the greatest odds of qualifying for nationals as a new team. It takes determination, hard work, persistent practice, and teamwork, but I believe that the USNSCC teams can be an unstoppable force in the CyberPatriot program.

More specifically, throughout my three years in the CyberPatriot program, I've found the best way to learn is by raw experience. Two years ago, when I became a chief, I started working on a simple software utility to help me manage our unit. NSCC Manager (www.nscmanager.com) evolved into a full-fledged service that I pursued because of its educational value for myself as well as its utility to others. Through the process of setting up a secure website, PHP backend, email server, and database server on a Linux (Debian) image, I became very familiar with the Linux OS, how it manages processes and services, and how to use the command line to expedite tasks. Simply being familiar with Linux helped me feel comfortable working in the competitions, spot malware and backdoors. Also, interfacing my iOS app to the backend server taught me a lot about how network requests work; skills that transferred to Cisco device setup and management.

Before leaving for Baltimore, my commanding officer gave me one final order: win. Despite a mutual understanding that this was more of an encouragement than a command, I was thrilled to return having carried out that order successfully. As I move on to becoming a mentor for my team and a CCDC competitor at the University of Central Florida, who has won the national championship three consecutive years, I look forward to supporting the growth of our future Navy into one that is at the forefront of cyber defense.

Individualism Not an Option

By Seaman Monica Vogel, NSCC
Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.

When I first joined CyberPatriot as a middle schooler, I knew nothing about computers. I knew that hackers were bad and that I did not want viruses on my computer — that was it. Now, I have the knowledge and capability of protecting versions of Windows and Linux that I did not even know existed before CyberPatriot. I have learned how to configure hardware like routers and switches that I probably would have broken before if I had gone anywhere near them. But on top of the computer and IT skills that I have acquired through CyberPatriot, I have learned many life skills — critical thinking skills, staying calm in high-stress situations, making a timely decision even if it is not the best decision, paying attention to detail, and most of all, working as a team. During CyberPatriot competitions, individualism is not an option.

This year was undoubtedly the most pivotal for my interest in CyberPatriot and cyber as a field of expertise. Being exposed to more than strict computer security was fun, exciting, and utterly terrifying at the same time. My favorite competition this year was probably the Facebook Challenge, where we had to investigate a crime scene and fill out a report on it. It was a first for CyberPatriot. We had to analyze a hacked computer and figure out what happened. I really enjoyed working with my shipmates and putting our critical thinking skills to the test. Overall, I loved the entire year of CyberPatriot and can't wait to come back next year for more!



CyberPatriot

My Experience as a Champion

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Leilani S. Morales, NSCC
Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.

I once looked at my life in a negative way, but I now look at my life with a positive view. Thanks to Team Netrunners and CyberPatriot, I now have something to be proud of.

CyberPatriot has helped me in many ways and can help me with my future. It can open many doors leading to great career opportunities. Knowing this motivates me to continue this path and pursue an amazing career. It also looks good for me to be one of the first females in the all-service division to win something like this.

Winning the CyberPatriot VIII National competition was one of the most thrilling experiences I could imagine having. The hard work and dedication that Team Netrunners put into our practices paid off. Some of us believed that we wouldn't even make it to the top three, but we fought hard and look at the result — first place winners! Winning this competition was amazing and the best thing that has ever happened in my life. This is a victory and an incredible memory that I will never forget.

I want to thank Centurion Battalion for providing this opportunity and for giving me a chance to do something new, that I now enjoy and plan to chase a new career with. With this new knowledge I have, I can teach the middle schoolers and the upcoming high schoolers, prepare for the challenges ahead, and future competitions.

Team Netrunners is a name that will be never forgotten. It will stick with me until the end of my CyberPatriot years and beyond. Making it to Nationals next year and the year after that, is my goal.



"This program taught me not only about physically securing systems, but how to get into the field. CyberPatriot has allowed me to make connections that I otherwise would have never found. It presented the ability to converse with engineers, researchers, and executives from companies such as Black and Veatch, Facebook, and Cisco. The contacts I made will no doubt prove to help me in my application for internships, and at some points, my job applications. Overall, I found this program to be invaluable to my continued pursuit of knowledge and achieving my goals." - CPO Nolen Johnson, NSCC



CyberPatriot

What's Next for the Class of 2016



By **Kate McIlvaine**, Director of Communications, National Headquarters

It is no surprise that Sea Cadets aspire for greatness. Following years of testing their limits through training focused on progress and advancement, it's only natural that our cadets dedicate themselves to the next step after graduation. Whether that's enlisting in the armed services, joining the workforce, attending college, or pursuing a commission through ROTC or a service academy, Sea Cadets strive to excel. There is not one path that is better than another; what unifies our cadets is their drive to do more, learn more, and be more. That drive is instilled in cadets from the first days of Recruit Training through the final days of their cadet careers.

One place where this determination is abundantly evident is within the John T. Dempster, Jr. Division. Based in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, the cadets train hard all year, participating in local activities, national training events, and even international opportunities. A 2015 graduate, Paul Treacy, was selected to train with Sea Cadets from around the world during a two-week international exchange to Australia. Calling this trip the "experience of a lifetime," he enlisted in the Navy in late 2015 and is pursuing his goals in the field of Information Technology. As a direct result of his involvement with Sea Cadets, he was promoted to seaman after successfully completing the Navy's Recruit Training.

While cadets are not required to join the armed services upon graduation, they do so at very high rates. Our units report that every year a growing number of cadets choose to either enlist or pursue officer commissioning programs such as the service academies or ROTC. In 2015, our units reported 655 of our graduating seniors either enlisted in the armed forces or entered a commissioning program. According to former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gary Roughead, each cadet who enlists saves the Navy more than \$14,000 in life-cycle training costs.

The achievements of this year's graduating cadets from Dempster Division are impressive against any measure. Boasting two cadets entering West Point and two entering the Naval Academy, Dempster Division is also sending four cadets to ROTC programs, and six cadets will be pursuing two- and four-year degrees at schools around the country.

Elizabeth Herington, 18, will attend Harvard University on a full-ride Naval ROTC scholarship. Although she joined the Sea Cadet program later in her high school career, she believes it changed the course of her life. "It has taught me how much I love hard work, discipline, a military lifestyle, serving my country and leading others. As a result of everything I learned about myself as a part of the USNSCC, I applied for and received an NROTC scholarship to Harvard University."

The Sea Cadet program provides opportunities in all of the Navy's career fields, many of which also translate to the civilian workforce. As a junior in high school, Neely Campbell attended Marine Mammal Research training in California. She credits this training for shaping her ambitions. Next fall, she will take the next step toward achieving her goals as she begins her studies in Marine Biology at Eckerd College.

The drive for improvement in all areas, but especially in the field of leadership, is encouraged from the time a recruit joins to the day they staff their last training. The only way to create leaders is to provide opportunities for them to them lead. Leadership is valuable in classrooms, boardrooms, and battlefields around the world. Bennett Mirabito, 18, feels the value of that experience. "Having accepted my appointment to the United States Military Academy, I am now facing the prospect of being trusted to lead America's sons and daughters, potentially in a combat situation, as little as four years from now. I can honestly say that because of my experiences as a Sea Cadet, both as a leader and as a follower, I will be far ahead of my classmates regarding my readiness to lead."

The Sea Cadet program challenges every participant. Accomplishing something you thought as impossible is a confidence booster.

Gretchen Mario, a senior who will be attending the Naval Academy, puts it this way: "Anyone who knew me five years ago can attest to the impact that the Sea Cadet program has had on me. When I first joined Sea Cadets at the age of 12, I was quiet, self-conscious, and terrified that I was not strong enough or a good enough leader to achieve my goal of attending the Naval Academy and serving in the Navy. As a member of the Dempster Division, however, I found my voice."

As a program, we use phrases like "test your limits" and "chart your course" to inspire and motivate our cadets. What we really mean is: do that thing you thought you couldn't, reach for something that seems just out of range, have a vision for what you want to achieve — and then pursue it, doggedly.

On June 30, 2016, the Naval Academy's Induction Day, Mario, along with her Dempster shipmate Jenna Kugel and more than one hundred other former Sea Cadets from around the country, will begin their journeys as Naval Academy Midshipmen. A few days before, Mirabito and fellow Dempster Cadet Connor McDonald, will report to West Point. Around the country, hundreds of former Sea Cadets will begin their "next thing." Whatever their aspirations, we know that former Sea Cadets will continue to strive to do more, learn more, and be more. 🌟

USNSCC Opened Doors for Cadet

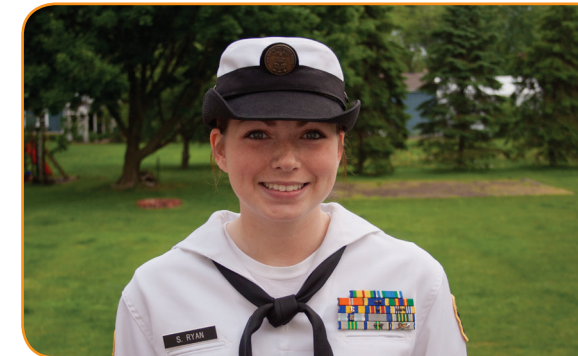
By **Petty Officer 1st Class Sarah Ryan, NSCC**
The Sullivan's Division, Buffalo, N.Y.
Attending U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has impacted my life in ways no other extracurricular activity has. The program has opened a door to many different possibilities through its trainings and educational activities. I detested Sea Cadets my first year, not because I was a recruit but because I believed the program was not meant for me. A few months before boot camp, I spoke with my parents about quitting. They advised me to attend recruit training at Fort Drum, and then decide if I want to quit or not. After listening to their advice and graduating boot camp, I discovered I was meant to be in this program.

Throughout my Sea Cadet career, I have been given many exciting possibilities. The first training I attended was Petty Officer Leadership Academy in the fall of 2013. Then, I participated in two winter survival trainings and combat medical training at Fort Drum, where I was able to go through the course that the U.S. Army goes through. I shared my knowledge with league cadets by staffing two league cadet boot camps at the Naval Park in Buffalo, New York. I have also staffed a Sea Cadet boot camp at Fort Indiantown Gap and a winter survival training.

I have loved the structure behind this program and the ability to advance in rank. The only way to achieve anything in this program is if you put forth effort. I have been given many leadership positions through this program that have taught me how to lead by example and how to abide by the core values: honor, courage, and commitment.

At the beginning of my junior year, I had to start thinking about my future. After experiencing this program, I knew I wanted to enlist in the military. I looked at the service academies and realized I wanted to attend one. I worked harder in school, did more volunteer work, and continued my sports activities. The application process was strenuous but I had help from many amazing people. The officers in my unit and the Navy League helped me, specifically by writing letters of recommendation and encouraging me. I received a congressional appointment to the Merchant Marine Academy in February of my senior year and was later accepted to this service academy in March of my senior year. I am extremely thankful for the opportunities given and the doors that have opened through this program.



My True Potential Unlocked

By **Chief Petty Officer Ruby Stith, NSCC**
Trident Patrol 65 Squadron, Point Mugu, Calif.
Attending California State University Maritime Academy

Since joining the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps almost five years ago, I have grown tremendously. When I first enrolled, I was a homeschooled, awkward child with no knowledge about the military. Throughout the years, I quickly climbed up through the ranks, from a new recruit to the senior chief petty officer in charge of my unit, Trident Patrol Squadron 65. I continued to mature unlike other teenagers, by earning my Search and Rescue, Advanced Open Water SCUBA, and HAM Radio licenses. I've learned what it means to be a leader and what it means to be a follower, and the significance of both. I used to have a difficult time speaking due to my shyness, but through this program I've evolved and become a public speaker and a skilled communicator. In addition, I've helped plan large events and have made tough decisions for my unit. Because of this, our unit has earned nothing less than podium placement at the annual Region 11 Flagship competition for the last five years. I've transformed from being the kid in the corner whom nobody wanted to talk to into someone people look up to and admire. I have friends who were former cadets through trainings that I've attended and staffed who have called me for assistance or if they just wanted someone to talk to.

Through this program, I have learned valuable lessons that I will apply to my future. Because I plan on becoming a Foreign Affairs Officer or an Intelligence Officer in a Navy career after graduating from the California Maritime Academy with a major in Global Studies and Maritime Affairs, I will speak in front of packed lecture halls full of influential officials and policy makers. I'll use my leadership skills to direct policy plans and make professional calls for what is effective and what is not. With the social skills I've acquired, I'll be able to better communicate and work with my peers, fellow classmates and future employers. Through the morals and values I have acquired through the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, which are honor, courage, and commitment, as well as pride and patriotism, I'll know how to decide between right and wrong. Thanks to this program, a formerly shy and awkward girl is going to help change the world. I will always be grateful for this program and its coordinators for showing me my true potential and giving me the skills I need to succeed.



Guam Cadet Headed for Stanford

By Seaman Tomoya Tisdale, NSCC
Peredo Battalion, Apra Heights, Guam
Naval ROTC at Stanford University

Getting accepted into Stanford University on an NROTC Scholarship was no easy task. I had a lot of help, mostly from my Sea Cadet unit on Guam, to get me to where I am now. The unit introduced me to the Navy recruiters here on the island through the advanced training program. From there, I built a connection with the recruiters which ultimately made applying for the NROTC scholarship as well as the Naval Academy a lot easier. I was also able to participate in many memorable events with the unit from which I wrote many of my college essays about. The unit leadership also gave very valuable advice on future plans.

However, the most important thing the Sea Cadets did for me was showing me the Navy was right for me. By boarding carriers and submarines, getting medical training at the Naval Hospital, going on helicopter visits, and participating in many other events and trips, I realized that joining the Navy is how I want to serve this country. At Stanford, I plan on studying either Chemistry or Chemical Engineering and becoming a nuclear propulsion officer in the Navy after graduating.



My Journey as a Sea Cadet

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Shyan Fisher, NSCC
Truxtun (DDG-103) Division, Oswego, N.Y.
Intends to Enlist in the U.S. Navy

It all began when I was ten years old; my cousin Ashli started in the USNSCC Discovery Division in Kissimmee, Florida. We went to visit family and Ashli was getting ready to go to a training. As I observed her packing her seabag, I turned to my mom and asked if she could find something like this in New York. Ashli is my inspiration as a self-driven woman. I am so proud to be her cousin as she is an HM3. I want to be just like her.

We returned to New York and searched the internet. We found the Crisafulli Division, which is now the Truxtun (DDG-103) Division. We observed the unit and that is when I knew I wanted to be just like Ashli.

I joined as a League Cadet at the age of 10. That August, I went to Buffalo Naval Park and completed the League Orientation, which was an amazing experience! I knew this program was for me, so I went on completing NLCC Advanced Orientation, to completing my BMR, to completing the vigorous NSCC boot camp. I have had the most pleasure doing medical training in Rhode Island, to advanced medical training in New York, Coast Guard training, and POLA in Buffalo.

The USNSCC has taught me to have Honor, Courage, and Commitment. I learned the meaning of team, leadership and attention to detail. I have had the pleasure of meeting new shipmates from different units, with whom I am still in contact. I encourage all young men and women to get involved in this wonderful program, especially if enlisting in the military. The dynamics of the unit have been an outstanding memory.

Now that it is my time to graduate, I would like to thank my CO Andrew Roth and XO Patty Wood for giving me the opportunity to show my potential as a petty officer second class. Thank you for pushing me to be the best petty officer I can be and showing me that I have the ability to learn and adapt to situations that were out of my control. I will always remember my shipmates from the Truxtun (DDG-103) Division, and I will remember with pride the memories I have made as a Sea Cadet.

My plans after graduation were to go to college, however the trip to Norfolk Naval Base convinced me to enlist in the Navy as a nurse. I will have graduated Madison-Oneida Boces with my CNA Certificate. It has been a long journey but I couldn't have done it without the guidance of my parents, who made this happen for me. I just knew what I wanted out of my life and my country! Thank you very much for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, USNSCC.

Character Counts

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Grant Levy, NSCC
Langley Division, Calabasas, Calif.
Attending U.S. Naval Academy



“Character counts” was the ubiquitous motto displayed throughout the corridors of my middle school campus. Initially, I did not pay attention to those words or truly understand the meaning. Perhaps, my epiphany occurred as I departed an Israeli parachute base near Jerusalem during my 2010 bar mitzvah celebration. I was captivated by a brotherhood of soldiers and officers who treated a shy 12-year-old with patience and respect. By the end of my visit, I started to understand what character meant. It was the courage, commitment, and solidarity that the soldiers displayed in their daily struggle to ensure the security of their homeland.

Upon returning to the United States, I found myself inspired to emulate the demeanor of the soldiers and officers I had met. Those men and women possessed what my heart desired, although I had self-doubt about my ability to lead. As a quiet and introspective kid, I did not often assert myself, whether in the classroom or on the ball field. Tall for my age, mature looking, and athletic, people treated me as if I was older. Whereas my room boasted my many academic achievements and home run balls, I never felt comfortable with the associated spotlight and expectations. That all changed when my heart coaxed me out of my comfort zone, and I found myself proudly wearing the uniform of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Over the four years that I have served in the Sea Cadets, I have begun to understand what it takes to lead and be led. I have grown from an uncertain seaman to a more confident petty officer, now instructing recruits in my division on naval customs, courtesies, and drills. I have grown in many aspects of my personal life as well, taking on leadership roles in school, sports, and in my community. Through the Sea Cadets, I was able to earn my HAM radio license and served on my city's emergency response team for the past year.

The phrase “character counts” has helped me define how I want to live my life, by devoting myself to the service of others. In Israel, I learned from the officers the concept of “Tikkun Olam:” to repair the world. What I saw was not just an understanding of Tikkun Olam, but men and women who were living this concept in their daily lives by serving a cause greater than themselves: the defense and protection of their country. The values I have learned also resonate with the core values of the United States Navy: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. As lead petty officer of the Langley Division, I realize that to gain the respect of my unit, I must earn it every day. This means demonstrating integrity and honor as well as treating others fairly: qualities fundamental to the success of any leadership position.

Although my leadership skills are still developing, I want to continue to grow in responsibility, undertake more challenging tasks, and live a life that is both meaningful and productive to our nation. This fall, I will be attending the United States Naval Academy and owe many of my achievements to my involvement with the Sea Cadets. It is a remarkable program, and I feel fortunate to have been a part of it for all these years. I truly appreciate the dedication, patience, and guidance of Lt. Cmdr. Pamela Silver, and the rest of the Sea Cadet personnel. Thank you, and go Navy, beat Army!

Sea Cadets: My Path Toward Action



By Petty Officer 3rd Class Beau Fairless, NSCC
Van Voorhis Memorial Squadron, Las Vegas, Nev.
Attending University of California, Los Angeles

“Never confuse movement with action.” I admire what this quote by Ernest Hemingway suggests and through choices I make in life, I hope to become someone who is not seen as simply running here and there, thinking about doing things, talking about ideas, giving opinions yet never consciously putting anything into action. The choices I have made in life are ones I hope can help propel the world forward, making it a better place, encouraging more and more people to find their volunteer calling. My choice to become a Sea Cadet, along with my venture into community service volunteer work, has given me a direction, a path if you will, toward action. The Sea Cadets has taught me how to become a leader,

tested my limits, opened my gateway into the world of community service, and has given me insight into the true meaning behind caring for others. Through the Sea Cadets, I have been able to put action into play by befriending veterans, picking up trash, participating in “Wreaths Across America” helping with the Veterans Olympics, placing flags on fallen heroes headstones for Memorial Day, and serving in numerous color guards for retirement ceremonies.

As one chapter of my life closes, I venture into a new one. I am currently preparing for my high school graduation with high honors and as valedictorian. I have been accepted into my dream school, UCLA, and will be attending in the fall. I plan to continue my community service efforts through college and into my professional career. It has truly been an honor to be a part of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Next Stop: Navy Recruit Training

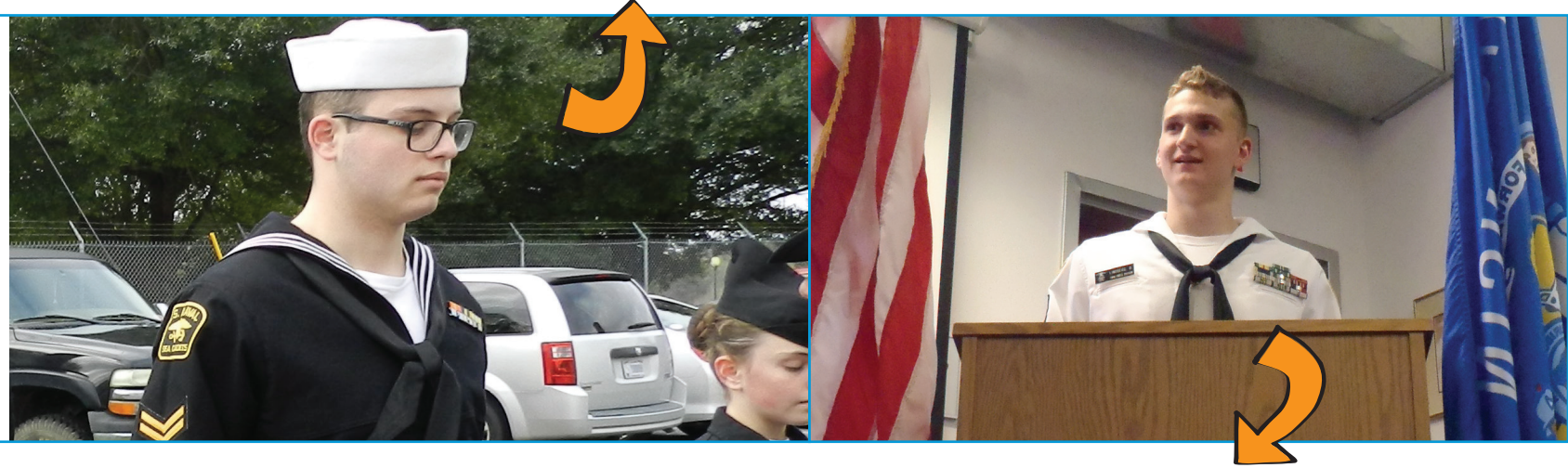
By Seaman Kyle Sweet, NSCC
Edward C. Benfold Division, Crystal Lake, Ill.
Enlisted in the U.S. Navy

As a junior in high school, I came aboard the crew of the Columbus Ironclad Division in Georgia. My only regret was that I didn't join sooner. One of the greatest adventures in my young life was being a Sea Cadet; I would never take these opportunities for granted. I always tell younger cadets to stay in, get farther than me, and enjoy it.

When I went to RT, I made fantastic memories and met great shipmates. During my RT, I got the national physical fitness ribbon, an award I never thought I could earn as I am on the bigger side. Earning that ribbon, as petty as it sounds, made me realize I could achieve anything. That is an amazing feeling, when you prove yourself wrong for the better.

Throughout my cadet career back in my home division of Columbus Ironclad, I had many more memorable adventures with my shipmates; one of these shipmates is Jacob Benton. Benton and I enlisted in the Navy together, and we are going to boot camp together. I'm ready and looking forward to it!

This past winter, I went to the Benfold Division. (Shout out to all you guys!) There, I learned many skills to make me a better leader, follower, citizen, and Sailor. Now as the tide shifts, I have enlisted in the Navy. If all goes according to plan, I will be a corpsman. I would personally like to thank all those who inspired me to join the Navy through the Sea Cadets. Thank you to Lt.j.g. Allred, Lt.j.g. Glaysher, and Ensign Roberts.



Cadet Intends to Join Army, Serve Country

By Seaman Apprentice-Temporary Fionna Osborne, NSCC
Twin Ports Division, Duluth, Minn.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Devin Lindberg of Twin Ports Division graduates this year from Superior High School, and he will have a little less than two months until he joins his fellow soldiers in the U.S. Army. Lindberg has already signed up to serve in the Army as a 68W Health Care Specialist, commonly known as a combat medic.

Following a tradition of family serving in the armed forces, from his father completing a career to his grandparents also serving long-term, his road to serving as a combat medic has been supported and encouraged through his involvement with Twin Ports Division.

"Twin Ports Division has given me an incredible opportunity and amazing hands-on experience, only fueling my passion for the armed services, specifically medicine," said Lindberg. "Nowhere else than our unit in USNSCC would I have had the chance to be as involved and get this level of training in the medical services."

Twin Ports Division has been like a family to Lindberg. While he feels a sense of sadness graduating and leaving the unit, he also feels it is time to move and further his education and experience to pay it forward. Lindberg is looking forward to meeting his new brothers and sisters in the Army. He continues to physically train hard in preparation for Basic Training at Fort Sill, and then Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Sam Houston.

Lindberg works to instill leadership and responsibility in his fellow NSCC Cadets, and he plans to continue serving as a leader in the Army. He intends on applying to Airborne School once completing AIT, and eventually joining Special Forces after maturing and training as a combat medic. Ultimately, his goal is to serve a full career in the armed forces, complete medical school, and become a trauma or emergency room doctor to continue serving his country.

What USNSCC Has Done for Me

By Petty Officer 1st Class Emalee Hughes, NSCC
Jake Garn Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah
Intends to Join the Army National Guard and Pursue a Nursing Degree



Recently in my life, I encountered several people wanting to know what I feel the Sea Cadets has done for me. It's not surprising that this is a very easy question for me to answer. I joined the Sea Cadets when I turned 13-years-old and have been extremely active in the program going on four years.

I attended basic training the summer after I joined the Sea Cadets. When I arrived to my first training, I was afraid and didn't know what to expect from the experience. I was nervous for a lot of reasons including being left in a strange place without my parents, and meeting new people. At the end of that two weeks I had not only faced my fears, but I learned that I had the ability to push myself farther than I ever knew was possible. Boot camp was an amazing experience where I learned so much and gained many new skills. I have benefitted the most from leadership.

Being a leader is a huge responsibility and I take it very seriously. I can admit that it was a lot of hard work to go from being a new recruit to where I am now, having just passed my petty officer first class test. As a leader, I have learned that no one else is going to do your work for you. For example, it is your job and responsibility to complete your course work and be prepared to pass your tests. One thing that has really stood out to me as a leader is I can only be as good of a

leader as my junior leaders. I have a lot of responsibilities and without them I wouldn't be able to do everything that I need to do. The heart of a good leadership team in Sea Cadets is the junior leadership team.

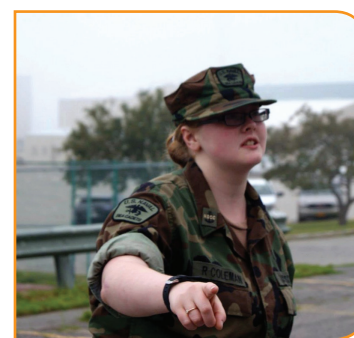
Being in Sea Cadets over the last four years, I have been lucky enough to experience many different things and visit many different places. Just this past summer, I was selected to go aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Barque Eagle*.

While on the ship, we sailed from New York to Newport, Rhode Island. It was a weeklong cruise in which I got to sail with some of the most accomplished Sea Cadets in the country. In addition to Sea Cadets, there were several cadets from the Coast Guard Academy aboard. That experience helped me gain so much knowledge about not only the military options I had, but also the types of jobs I can do.

I'm getting older now and as I am approaching my adult life, I have come to realize that I wouldn't be who I'm today without the Sea Cadet program. I wouldn't have the drive or motivation to go into the military and to help people as a nurse. I don't feel I would have even found the right path to work towards my goals without the Sea Cadets. I have been privileged enough to meet some amazing people along the way who have helped me reach my goals by giving me incredible advice.

As your CLPO, I hope the Sea Cadet program does the same for you that it has for me. It can be hard at times but remember, you will get out of it what you put into it and your hard work will pay off in so many ways.

Applying Sea Cadet Lessons to Life



By Chief Petty Officer Riley Coleman, NSCC
NCB 39 Battalion, Madison, Maine
Attending University of Maine at Orono

I found out about Sea Cadets through my older sister, McKenzie. She was planning to join the Navy, and a recruiter recommended she look into the USNSCC. When McKenzie went to boot camp, she encouraged my older sister and me to come with her. I was hesitant at first, but as soon as I got there, I was hooked. When I joined, I was thirteen; five years and seven ranks later, I am finishing up my last year as a cadet.

I have gotten so much out of this program. Right away, I went through the mandatory trainings to rank up like boot camp, POLA and staffing a boot camp. Each of these taught me valuable lessons. Boot camp teaches us how to push ourselves, which is one of the greatest lessons. POLA, of course, teaches leadership, and when you staff any training, it teaches you how to put those lessons to use.

The other training I attended was a Small Arms and Squad Tactics training. The last training I took part in was a FEMA training. This was interesting because it showed us how to problem solve and organize during emergencies. One of the greatest trainings I was a part of was when I helped host the International Exchange Program in Rhode Island. We had cadets coming from all around the globe. I encourage everyone to try to be a part of the program in some way.

Now I am moving on and will be going to the University of Maine in Orono to participate in the nursing program to become a registered nurse. I will always apply the lessons that Sea Cadets has taught me in my day-to-day life — hopefully setting an example of honor, courage, and commitment.

Pursuing My Goals at VMI

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Abigail Zyk, NSCC
Battleship Missouri Division, Bridgeton, Mo.
Attending Virginia Military Institute

Throughout my years in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, I have discovered a great admiration for all things military. Every experience in the trainings I have attended thus far have fortified my goal to be in the U.S. Armed Forces, but more specifically, the U.S. Marine Corps. These goals of mine branch from my adventures and life-long lessons taught to me throughout my Sea Cadet trainings. Whether I was diving past 112 feet to repair ships at Scuba; breaching buildings to clear a hostile environment at Field Ops; learning the techniques to protect and defend the Construction Battalion at Seabees; or surviving a frigid, hostile environment at Winter Survival, my passion to not only learn more, but to grow more as a leader has only increased. I adore and look forward to the daily formations, the constant structure, and the honor of wearing the uniform. I cannot imagine myself living my life another way.

My career goals are to attend the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia to obtain my bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and to pursue a U.S. Marine Corps commissioning contract.

Post-graduation, I will serve in the Marine Corps as either an infantry officer or aviation combat officer, and I plan to continue my service past retirement. None of this would've been possible without the experiences and challenges I faced and overcame while serving the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.



Cadet Earns Four-Year NROTC Scholarship

By Seaman Leia Pepper, NSCC
Lorain Division, Lorain, Ohio
Naval ROTC at Rochester Institute of Technology

As I stood at attention on the quarterdeck for Recruit Training in Great Lakes, Illinois, I felt overwhelmed with pride for my shipmates, for my country and for myself. It was an amazing end to a 10-day journey which challenged me both mentally and physically and taught me how to adapt and overcome. Although my self-discovery process started several years earlier, it was this moment that confirmed my desire to serve as an officer in the United States Navy.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was my first exposure to the military. I joined to experience first hand an introduction to the Navy and discovered the program instilled strong leadership skills, teamwork and discipline. Through my Sea Cadet experiences, I learned my two strongest qualities are leadership and motivation. An important aspect of being a leader is being able to build strong teams and know how to work with all types of personalities. I am very passionate about my role as the assistant lead petty officer of my U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps division of 26 cadets and I believe you cannot lead well without motivation. In my mind, motivation is seeking out challenges and doing whatever it takes to get the job done in the best way possible and encouraging others to be their best.

The skills I learned as a Sea Cadet have positioned me well as I leave high school and begin a new chapter in my life. This fall I will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology to study biomedical engineering as a step to realizing my ultimate goal of being a physician in the Navy. I have been awarded a four-year NROTC scholarship and I will be a midshipman at the cross-town affiliate University of Rochester. In addition, I aspire to continue in the Sea Cadet program as a midshipman at a local unit to give-back to the program that changed my life.

"Not only has Sea Cadets provided me with great opportunities, but I also have a second family with my home unit, Desert Storm Division. Sea Cadets has made me mentally and physically stronger and has taught me to have outstanding military bearing and immense discipline. I plan to continue with Sea Cadets after graduation and give back to Desert Storm as a midshipman."

- CPO Christina Davis, NSCC
Desert Storm Division
Attending Riverside City College



Senior Polaris Battalion Cadets Give Us Their Post-Graduation Plans

"During my junior year of high school the stark reality of growing up struck me. I was left wondering what I would do with my life and where I would take it. At the time, I was presented with many different options to decide how I would embark on my journey. I was introduced to the USNSCC during this time, which offered me a glimpse into one of my potential career options.

Sea Cadets taught me military ways and manners, and specifically, Navy values. Throughout the months I attended Sea Cadets, I witnessed a flash of Navy life and what an opportunity I was offered through the Navy. Due to Sea Cadets, I was able to take advantage of the opportunities the Navy was presenting me. I enlisted in the U.S. Navy a year after I joined Sea Cadets.

This coming February, I will be traveling back to Great Lakes, Illinois for Recruit Training. Then, I will be head to Pensacola, Florida for aircrew candidate school. Coming out of Recruit Training, I will be a rank higher than I would have been due to my time in the Sea Cadets.

Thanks to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps I was able to piece together the little parts of my future that are in my control."

- Austin Hiljus
Enlisted in the U.S. Navy

"Next year I plan on going to Augsburg College and returning as a Midshipman. I'll be majoring in Biology and be working my way into the University of Minnesota Medical School. What really helped me solidify my decision of working toward medical school is Instructor Angie Gregerson and ENS Mike Kallberg. They gave me real world applications of the medical field."

- PO3 Marco Hartkopf, NSCC
Attending Augsburg College

"Last year, I completed a Precision Machinists Certificate. My current plan is to use this certificate to earn money and earn two two-year degrees: Cyber Security and Network Administration. After this, I plan to get a job based on these two fields of study. To my shipmates: Stay with the program. You will discover who you truly are and who you can become. You will evolve into a much stronger person than you are today. Programs like the USNSCC are one of the sharpest chisels in the sculptor's set.

All you need to do is stick with it."

- John Gibbs

Intends to Pursue Degrees in Cyber Security and Network Administration

"Next year I will be in the Navy. I enlisted as a Construction Mechanic in the U.S. Navy Seabees. I will be leaving on Sept. 14. I wanted to join the Navy before I joined the Sea Cadets, so the Sea Cadets strengthened my decision to enlist."

- PO3 Hayden Pearson, NSCC
Intends to Enlist in the U.S. Navy

Senior Cadet Gives Back By Helping Establish New Unit

By Chief Petty Officer Eric Bertulaitis, NSCC
VIKING Division, Purcellville, Va.
Naval ROTC at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

When I joined the Sea Cadet Corps in February 2011, there were many things I expected I would get to do — learn about military jobs, lead, and work alongside active duty military — but one thing I never imagined getting the opportunity to do is building a unit from the ground up. However, when presented with the opportunity to help start the Viking Division in Purcellville, Virginia, I was excited to take on something new alongside people whom I knew to be great people and leaders. To organize a new unit is no easy undertaking for anyone involved but I know that all who worked to expose the amazing Sea Cadet program to a wider group of youth, will benefit as I have from the Sea Cadets.



Just under a year after first stepping off to start our unit and about eight months after our first drill, the Viking Division was commissioned in April 2016. The hard work of the officers, parents, the National Capitol Council of the Navy League, and most of all the exceptional level of commitment of the cadets, have allowed the Viking Division to embody all of the best traits of a Naval Sea Cadet Corps unit, and I know that even as I prepare to move on, each and every plank owner and future Viking I leave behind is prepared to lead the unit to continued success.

To quote the late American hockey coach Herb Brooks, "Great moments are born from great opportunity." If I have learned nothing else from Sea Cadets, I have learned that life is always full of opportunities. As a graduating senior, I will be embracing one such opportunity as I study Aerospace Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and participate in Naval ROTC next fall.

Cadet USNA-Bound, Thanks to USNSCC

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Miguel Huerta, NSCC
O'Callahan Division, Bakersfield, Calif.
Attending U.S. Naval Academy



Huerta and Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.)

At eight-years-old, I joined the Bakersfield Young Marines. By the age of 10, I transitioned to the O'Callahan Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and am now proud to be the leading petty officer. I gained a vast majority of education and skills from the trainings at military bases which include Aviation Evolution, Marksmanship, Field Medical and POLA to name a few. These trainings, along with many others, contributed to my awards like, being awarded Sea Cadet of the Year, Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal, Physical Fitness and Academic and the VFW Citation and Medal Award.

My passion for the military life was further enhanced when I attended the Naval Academy's STEM program and most recently, Summer Seminar. I found my purpose and career I wanted to pursue. The academy was the perfect fit for me, and so I made changes to my education to ensure I was the perfect fit for the academy.

In school, I was part of the National Hispanic Institute attending The Great Debate in Chicago and the Youth Legislature in New York. I currently have a GPA of 4.67, class rank 13 of 300, a participant in the U.S. Army Bowl and delegate for the Delano American Legion Merle Reed Post 124 Boys State Program, which led to an internship with the office of Congressman David Valadao (R-Calif.).

The Sea Cadet Corps laid the foundation for my success, commitment, and passion for military life. Its values led me to receive an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Military Academy, or West Point. On June 30, 2016, I will begin my life as a Midshipman at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. I will forever be grateful to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps and my Commanding Officer Beth Karlin. "Let the journey begin — oorah!"

Learning Diplomacy and Fearlessness

By Chief Petty Officer Tracy Robinson, NSCC
Liberty Division, Lake City, Fla.
Attending University of Central Florida

Since I was nine-years-old, the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been an integral part of my life. In 2003 my father passed away. Looking for role models for me and my three siblings, my mother discovered the Sea Cadets. My entire family soon became deeply involved in the program, and when I was old enough in early 2007, I joined the program. Now, as I see my final days as a chief petty officer glinting in the distance and reflect on my first day as an LC1, I know that the distance which separates these two moments in time is the core which I have built my life around. Through the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, I have learned diplomacy, fearlessness, and confidence — all attributes which I will utilize to become a successful writer and a well-rounded citizen of this great country.

In April 2015, I had the opportunity to hone my diplomatic skills when I was selected for an exchange to Australia through the Sea Cadets International Exchange Program. From the moment I landed in Sydney, I felt that the experience would have a lasting impact on my life, and over the next two weeks, that premonition became true. While engaging in friendly debates with cadets from all over the world, I learned the value of diplomacy. While sharing ideas and opinions with those cadets, I began to see that, no matter what accents we have or what flag we fly, individuals all over the world are the same, each cherishing his own passions, aspirations, and dreams. Finally, through exploring the beauty of a new country, I learned the value of travel — of escaping from one's own comfort zone and seeing that the limits that we impose on ourselves are only in our own imaginations. In the future, I will infuse this sense of adventure into my writing, making my books as thrilling for others as my trip to Australia was for me. In addition, I will exercise the diplomacy I learned through the Sea Cadets into my future encounters with publishers, enabling me to achieve my goals.

In January 2014, I gathered my courage and dedicated myself to planning, organizing, and running a veterinary medicine training — the first in my tenure, and possibly the first ever in the Sea Cadets. The prospect was daunting, but I attacked it with full commitment, eager to achieve. In June, my hard work came to fruition, culminating in a highly successful training attended by four cadets from across the nation. As I shook those cadets' hands at graduation, I knew that specific week of training would become a defining moment in my life. Because of Sea Cadets, I had the courage to tackle a project which no one had attempted before. Additionally, as a 16-year-old, I was able to find the initiative to dream of creating the training. This fearlessness and this initiative which the Sea Cadets taught me will enable me to break whatever barriers stand in my way as I forge toward my future goals.

In December 2010, my confidence was at an all-time low. I was a 13-year-old recruit, headed off to my Sea Cadets



Robinson (right) had the opportunity to meet Medal of Honor recipient, Corporal Duane Dewey.

recruit training. I was absolutely terrified. When my family dropped me off and waved goodbye, I was ill with nervousness, and I wanted nothing more than to forget the whole thing and go back home. Nine days later, however, as I stood on the stage receiving my award as Battalion Honor Cadet, I was overcome with a pride and confidence which has since become infused into every fiber of my being. This confidence is perhaps the most important attribute which the Sea Cadet program has instilled in me. With it, I will be able to approach every challenge that life offers me with poise and optimism.

"As I shook those cadets' hands at graduation, I knew that specific week of training would become a defining moment in my life."

I will be able to conquer every difficulty and achieve every dream, because, no matter how hard I strive to succeed, I will be confident in my abilities.

From my first day as a trembling recruit to my time now as a chief petty officer, the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been a guiding influence in my life. Through the International Exchange Program, I learned diplomacy and gained a love of adventure. Through the unique experience of running a veterinary medicine training, I learned fearlessness and the power of taking initiative. Through my whole career as a Sea Cadet, I learned confidence. I will translate these skills directly into my plans for achieving my future goals. I will fearlessly take the initiative to pursue my dreams of becoming a writer, and I will conquer obstacles with diplomacy and confidence, remembering to seize every chance of adventure. My time in the Sea Cadets has defined my past, and the skills which I have learned through the program will build my future.

How the USNSCC Shaped Me

By Seaman Ryann-Kai Corpuz, NSCC
Ben Moreell Battalion, Port Hueneme, Calif.
Attending University of California, San Diego

The palms of my hands dug into the sharp, rocky gravel of the parade deck on Camp Pendleton's Marine Corps base and I could feel the raindrops becoming heavier. In the push-up position, I waited for the command in my overpolished combat boots, neatly ironed battle dress uniform, and a low bun slicked back with enough hair gel to light a tree on fire. Lifting up my hand to see the cuts and embedded rocks in my palm all I could think was, "how did I end up here?"

Before joining the USNSCC, I had recently decided to leave my club soccer career behind to ensure success in a more rigorous course load for my junior year of high school. With college fast approaching, I realized that my studies, not soccer, were more of a priority for me to get into a college with topnotch academic programs for students interested in medicine. I stopped playing club soccer but felt that I should fill that free time with a meaningful activity. Many of my family members have served in our nation's armed forces, most notably the Navy, and I was both inspired and intrigued to learn more about life in the military. I did my research, and it was at this point in the summer of my junior year that I decided to join the Sea Cadet program. Little did I know that it would be the beginning of the most rewarding journey I would embark on during my high school career.



I was able to experience Recruit Training at Camp Pendleton and Basic Medical training in Wisconsin. I was given the opportunity to lead a squad of fellow cadets in drill which helped build my confidence as a leader. The USNSCC has taught me that the best leaders were first followers. Ultimately, the Basic Medical training I attended in Wisconsin spearheaded my interest in working for the military. Our unit ran a combat simulation that mimicked a war zone where teams had to complete an objective: bring a wounded warrior to safety. In this simulation, we ran through obstacles and resolved treatments for our patient's wounds. As I hurled myself

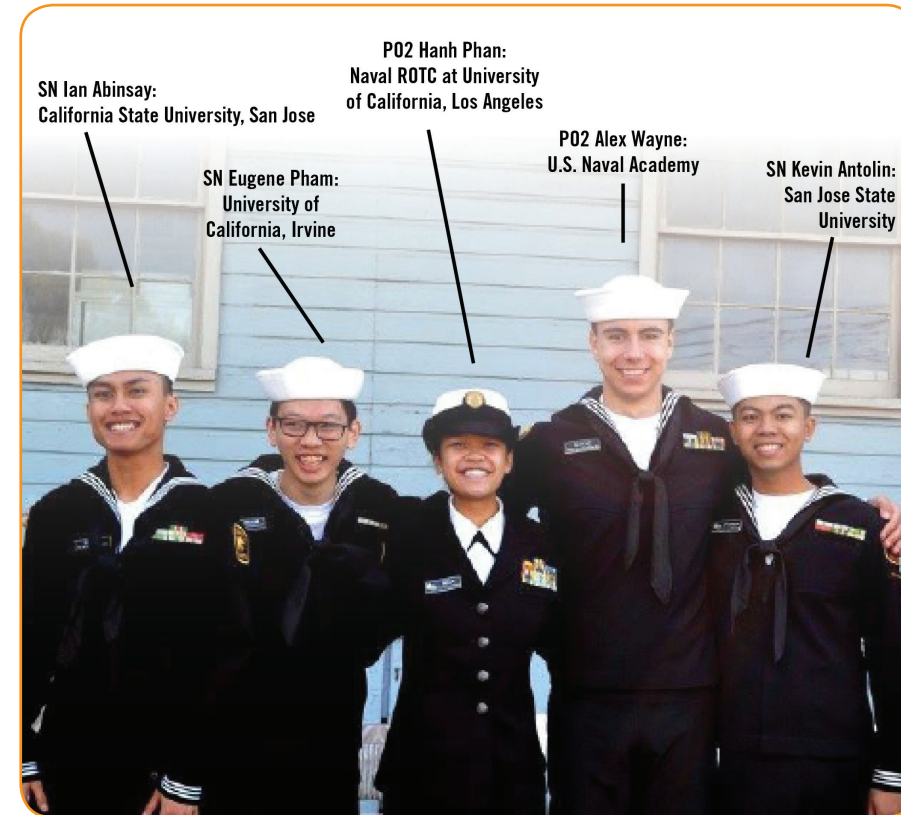
through the mud in my ten-pound uniform and medic kit in hand, I gained a newfound love for the adrenaline and the rush of diving headfirst into a new challenge with confidence and ingenuity. It was during this drill that I discovered the job I wanted to pursue after college. My dream is to become a surgeon or doctor for the troops who risk their lives every day to protect our country's safety and values. I want to give back to those who have sacrificed so much by providing care and making sure they are healthy.

After being involved in the program for two years, I have gained invaluable leadership skills and training in trauma and combat medicine that I would not have experienced anywhere else. I have also had the opportunity to serve the veterans and active duty servicemen in my community. Often when people see me dressed in my BDUs, they thank me for my service. I never knew how to respond, thinking that they had mistaken me for active duty. Although I don't serve the country on the battlefield, I realize that I am still making an impact on my community.

Being a Sea Cadet has taught me that although being unique is important in today's culture, all individuals are part of a whole, working together for the betterment of our country. Knowing that I am a part of something bigger than myself is one of the most humbling and rewarding experiences, and I strive to implement this perspective going into college. I will be attending UC San Diego in the Fall as a Human Biology/Pre-med major with the hopes of one day joining the ranks as a physician. In college, I plan to immerse myself in my interests and nurture my passion for serving my community and the world.

As I looked down once again at my hand in the gravel, I knew that becoming a cadet didn't happen merely by chance, but rather by a desire to experience the adventures of life and uncover new passions. Whether it be in college or hospitals on the battlefield, I realize that I have developed a passion for growing in knowledge and meaningful experiences and for serving my community with the same dedication and ardent spirit my grandfathers demonstrated while serving our country. I plucked out an embedded shard of asphalt from my palm and buckled down to complete the next repetition of push-ups, determined to perform stronger each time.

"Lifting up my hand to see the cuts and embedded rocks in my palm all I could think was, 'how did I end up here?'"



Meet the Graduating Seniors of Chesty Puller Battalion in Watsonville, California

Meet the Graduating Seniors of Gosnold Division in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

Left to Right: Brian Harwood (Massachusetts Maritime Academy); Brian Proctor (Norwich University, Army ROTC); Jaylene Austin (Cape Cod Community College, Criminal Justice/Nursing Degree Program); Charles Kiernan (U.S. Naval Academy); Micah Hoo (Enlisted, U.S. Marine Corps); Andrew Palmer (Massachusetts Maritime Academy); Zackary Taylor (Norwich University, Naval ROTC); Travis Kiklis (Cape Cod Community College, Fire Science & Technology Degree Program); Connor Sullivan (Plymouth State University, Nursing Degree Program); Frederick Bohnenberger (Massachusetts Maritime Academy)



Cadets Serve in Historic Memorial

“March 11, 2016 was a day that I will never forget. Fifty years from now, I will be able to tell my grandchildren that I was a part of history.” With that statement, Seaman Anthony Firpo put into words what so many cadets felt as they greeted guests at the memorial service of former First Lady Nancy Reagan. The cadets, from Langley Division, Ben Moreell Battalion, and Trident Patrol 65 Squadron, were featured prominently on the local and national news, and they represented the USNSCC with honor on this somber and historic occasion.

By Chief Petty Officer Logan Glantz, NSCC
Trident Patrol 65 Squadron, Point Mugu, California

This event was an absolute honor to be a part of, let alone attend. From the moment we stepped off the bus, we could not believe we were participating at such a monumental event. All three units were extremely excited and ready to help in any way possible. Each cadet took a post in a staggered formation around the entrance to the Reagan Library. As the celebrities and dignitaries arrived, we were called to attention and put at ease once they entered the building. The purpose of this simple task was to show respect to our former First Lady and the distinguished guests.

Opportunities like this truly illustrate the Sea Cadet program. These cadets are above average individuals who demonstrated their pride and decided to take a day off of school to spend their time to help the community. As the leading chief petty officer at the funeral, I was extremely impressed with how well we performed.

Towards the end of the event, the commanding officer and the executive officer of USS *Ronald Reagan* approached Chief Petty Officer Sean Chen and myself to congratulate us on our performance at the funeral. We were thanked for our help, but it was more apparent that we were more thankful to be present at the historic event. The Sea Cadet program opens doors to unexpected things that alter the lives of young men and women. I am beyond grateful for this experience and all the cadets I had the opportunity to share it with.



By Seaman Finn-Christian Baker, NSCC
Ben Moreell Battalion, Port Hueneme, Calif.

On Friday, March 11, 2016, my unit arrived at Nancy Reagan’s funeral at around 7 a.m. to honor the guests attending. My fellow cadets and I were positioned around the front entrance of the library waiting for the Reagan’s guests to arrive. When the guests arrived, we snapped to attention and honored them until they had passed. I didn’t know most of the guests, but we did have the honor of greeting Newt Gingrich and his wife, Larry King, and Tom Selleck. We alternated from at ease to attention for about two hours until all of the guests had arrived. At that point, we witnessed the motorcade carrying the First Lady, former first ladies, and our former president. It was an honor to see and be in the presence of our country’s leaders.

In between the time when the funeral started and ended, we all gathered in the courtyard and talked to the Secret Service Agents. It’s not common to be able to talk to the Secret Service. When the funeral ended, we lined the courtyard and the path around toward the right wing of the library. There the rain and wind were coming down extremely hard and some of our covers were filling with water and water was spilling over. Standing at attention once again, almost all of the guests that attended the funeral passed us. Mr. T walked by us in his camouflage and said, “Thank you for your service,” as well as Governor Brown. I’m very honored to have had the opportunity to serve my country and the Reagans. This was a wonderful once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will be able to look back on for years to come.

“Before everyone left, a storm arrived. It was as if the world itself was crying, mourning Mrs. Reagan’s death. We did not let the storm hold us down for we had ground to stand upon and a heroine’s life and death to honor. We knew that at the end of every storm, there is a ‘Rainbow,’ which was the former first lady’s code name during the Reagan administration years. As we left the Ronald Reagan Library, we felt that hope because the storm was beginning to lift before the last cadet was off the ground and just beyond the clouds, we saw blue skies signifying that we not only made ourselves proud, but also the people of the United States. We are Americans, we are Sea Cadets, we are proud to serve, and we are hopeful for the future of the United States.”

- PO2 Harley Wilson, NSCC
Ben Moreell Battalion



“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I’m blessed to have been there. Getting compliments from many different people really made me feel proud to be a Sea Cadet. Representing my school, and all of Bakersfield, was an extremely great feeling.”

- SA Ethan Young, NSCC
Trident Patrol 65 Squadron



“I will remember this for my entire life because I was a part of history.”

- SA Jaden Hammer, NSCC
Langley Division



“It was an honor to be at Nancy Reagan’s funeral on March 11, 2016. It was an honor because Mrs. Reagan was a big influence in American history. It was cool to be part of history, and it was a once-in-a-lifetime thing that only a few people can say they experienced.”

-SA-T Taylor Evans, NSCC
Langley Division

“Even though some may have been nervous about the cameras, it felt great to represent the Corps and be there as the plethora of distinguished guests came and went. As we stood at attention and rain drizzled or pelted the earth, it was heartwarming to us that each and every single one of us has been a piece of history.”

- SN Michael Aguilar, NSCC
Trident Patrol 65 Squadron

“When I had the chance to look around at my brothers and sisters, I took a moment to realize that we all worked together, stood together, felt each others’ feelings, and cared for how we were doing. It was our first time doing something important like this so an affection of understanding surely went around.”

- SA Asly Pena, NSCC
Ben Moreell Battalion

Explore All Options: Chart Your Own Course

By Midshipman Austyn Sutton
Katy Division, Katy, Texas

Throughout my time in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, including four years as a cadet and two years as an instructor, I have noticed there is a plethora of information available regarding enlistment options and pursuing an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, or USNA. While there is nothing wrong with either of those options, in my experience staffing three trainings in the past two years, there is not much information about another option for commissioning: Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, or NROTC.



MIDN 1/C Sutton during a dining out at Texas A&M University.

First, let's take a look at the numbers. As a quick note, I will be comparing 2009 data since it is the most recent available for NROTC. For the Class of 2013 at USNA, there were 15,342 applications for 1,230 offers of appointment resulting in a 12.5 percent acceptance rate¹. The most recent class at Annapolis (2019) shows a 8.5 percent acceptance rate². As for NROTC, whose data is a little more difficult to track down, only 5,450 completed applications were sent to a selection board. Of those, 1,250 NROTC scholarships and 250 NROTC-Marine Option scholarships were awarded resulting in a 27.5% acceptance rate³. Although it makes sense to assume this rate has shrunk along with the USNA rate, I was unable to discover corresponding data.

With this in mind, the numbers alone explain why the NROTC scholarship is a worthy pursuit. Now, I imagine, there are many of you who, like me in high school, are dead set on USNA. By no means should you change that goal. In fact, my pursuit of a Naval Academy appointment is what qualified me for an NROTC scholarship. Conversely, I have met many midshipmen who never wanted to attend the Naval Academy. The main point is, at the end of your four years in college, regardless of the school you choose to attend, you will hold a baccalaureate degree in one hand and wear the rank of ensign or second lieutenant.

For those who are unfamiliar with the program, NROTC covers full tuition at 160 universities and colleges across the United States. In addition, monthly stipends, uniforms, textbook stipends, and summer cruises are also included⁴. The primary financial difference between USNA and NROTC is that NROTC does not cover room and board costs.

While each university is different, some, such as Norwich University in Vermont, will provide a separate

scholarship for room and board for students on an NROTC scholarship.

As Midshipman 1st Class Becca Ryan, who studies Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics at Notre Dame University, told me: "It turned out to be an awesome way to pay for college and it leads to really exciting opportunities." She also notes that the Navy "tends to encourage mids to pursue technical majors."

Finally, it is important to note that NROTC students are provided the same opportunities as their U.S. Naval Academy counterparts. Regardless of your school, all units conduct physical training together, attend naval science classes, and participate in leadership laboratories. Attending one school or the other does not mean you will have a better or worse chance to service select as a Surface Warfare Officer, Naval Aviator, SEAL, EOD, or whatever as both programs do not draw from the same pool. For example, the ship selection used to allow seniors to select their first vessel to provide different, but equal, billets to both programs.

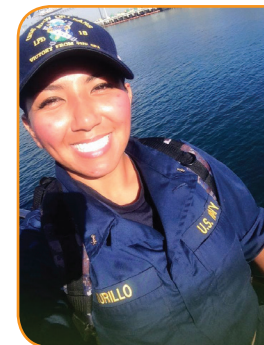
However, by no means should you take only my word for it. Midshipman 1st Class Scott LeFevre, a senior Mechanical Engineering student at Norwich University, believes NROTC is "fantastic in that it allows you to explore your options before you actually begin serving." He also reflects warmly on "the environment and friendships you'll most likely build in your unit." Furthermore, Midshipman 1st Class Alejandra Murillo from the University of Southern California believes, "This program, and the amazing staff that run it, have helped me appreciate being an American and have exposed me to amazing peers from all over that I will serve alongside in the fleet."

Midshipman 1st Class Glenn Hill, a member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Class of 2017, said he most appreciates the NROTC program for providing "the chance to see every part of the Navy from submarines to aviation squadrons through summer training and leadership development conferences..." He also cherishes "the opportunity to develop myself as a leader through challenges and advice given to me by instructors, training, and fellow midshipmen."

Last but not least, Midshipman 1st Class Winter Harbison,



MIDN 1/C LeFevre aboard USS Shoup.



MIDN 1/C Murillo aboard USS New Orleans.



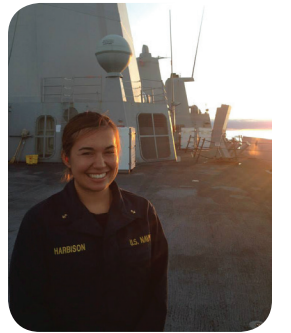
MIDN 1/C Hill poses in front of F/A-18 during his Third Class Cruise in 2015.

who studies Science Education at the University of South Florida, said that NROTC has allowed her to "experience the best of both worlds of pursuing my passion in a full college experience while training to become a Naval Officer." She also credits the NROTC program for having "driven me far beyond my boundaries, making this experience and reason to become a naval officer all the more worthwhile."

As you look to invest in your future, I implore you to keep your options open. It is possible that you may find, as I did, the safety net may be needed. If I had not applied for NROTC in addition to USNA, I would not be on a path to a commission as a naval officer next May. Plus, between you and me, in hindsight, I prefer how the cards fell. Unlike my counterparts at Annapolis, I have been able to wear civilian clothes and drive a car for all four years. At the very least, I hope you keep an open mind when exploring options for your future. There are multiple paths to the same goal, and you may find the most traveled is not the one you will enjoy the most. If you are interested in the program, contact a local unit, recruiter, or visit NROTC's website at nrotc.navy.mil.

Sources:

- [1] U.S. Naval Academy 2013 Class Portrait. Annapolis, MD: USNA, 2009. PDF
- [2] U.S. Naval Academy 2019 Class Portrait. Annapolis, MD: USNA, 2015. PDF
- [3] Actions Needed to Improve Evaluation and Oversight of Reserve Officers' Training Corps Programs. Washington, D.C.: Government Accountability Office, Nov. 2013. PDF
- [4] "Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Home Page." Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Home Page. Naval Service Education and Training Command, n.d. Web. <<http://www.nrotc.navy.mil/index.html>>.



MIDN 1/C Harbison aboard USS New Orleans during her Second Class Cruise in 2015.

Semper Paratus: Always Ready Since 1939

By David J. Icenhower, Branch Chief, Youth Partners
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary have enjoyed a long standing Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations. Our 30,000 members, located at some one thousand flotillas throughout our country, stand by to build upon that relationship and assist the Naval Sea Cadets as well as the Navy League in spreading the news of Safe Boating on our inland waterways and coastal waters.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary can offer a vast number of courses of interest to both the Sea Cadets and their adult leaders. These programs can be presented in a classroom, dockside or underway in nature. The most popular course offered and most likely preparatory is the "About Boating Safety" (ABS) course which runs 8 hours in length and is classroom based. It addresses topics such as an Introduction to Boating, Boating Law, Boating Safety Equipment, Safe Boating, and Navigation, as well as other subjects of interest.

Other, more advanced courses include such fields as:

- Sailing Skills & Seamanship
- Boating Skills and Seamanship
- Navigating with GPS
- Paddlesports America
- Personal Watercraft Course
- Inland Boating
- Lines & Knots
- Weather and Boating
- Your Boat's Radio

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps can also take advantage of the complimentary Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program offered to the public for any crafts your members might own. A VSC is performed at your boat whether dockside or in your own driveway and should take about 15 to 30 minutes, depending upon the size of your craft.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary also welcomes the opportunity to work with our partners in community service activities such as coast cleanups, veterans' hospital support, clothing and food drives or National Safe Boating Week programs.

Should your unit have an interest in participating in any of our partner activities, we ask for you to reach out to your local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla or division which can be located through our Flotilla Finder (<http://bit.ly/1UfLa1f>). We look forward in working with you in the near future.

Proud to Represent Aboard USS *Bataan*

By Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Gonzalez, NSCC
Spruance Division, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

I am one of 15 Sea Cadets that had the honor to sail and go underway on the amphibious assault ship USS *Bataan*. We flew into Norfolk on April 27 and got picked up by crew members from *Bataan*. On the first day, we were greeted by active duty members who would be our escorts for the remainder of the trip and got a safety brief. On the second day, we got to visit the various departments and learn about what the sailors do on board the ship on a day-to-day basis. On the third day, we got to watch a flight ops with a Mh-60S Sea Hawk, a CH-53E Super Stallion, and an UH-1Y Huey. To close the day, we had the privilege of dining with Captain John Carter, the commanding officer of the ship.

The next day we got to ride on the landing craft air-cushion which is what they use to transport Marines and vehicles. To end the day we got to serve ice cream to all the enlisted sailors on board and thank them for allowing us to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience what an active duty Sailor does and for helping us prepare for the future. On the last day, we got to man the rails as we pulled into Port Everglades and experience what it feels like when a ship returns home from deployment.

This program has definitely helped me grow and succeed and become the person I am today. I am very proud to have represented the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps aboard USS *Bataan*. This was truly an adventure of a lifetime.



Unit Visits Their Namesake, USS *Truxtun*

By INST Sarah Mason, NSCC
Truxtun (DDG-103) Division, Oswego, N.Y.

Recently the officers of our division took 21 cadets to visit Norfolk Naval Base in Virginia. The cadets spent four days on base and experienced firsthand what base life is like. While in Norfolk, the cadets were graciously allowed to tour the active duty destroyer ship that is their namesake, USS *Truxtun* DDG-103. USS *Truxtun* happened to be in port and the crew made accommodations to allow all 21 cadets and eight officers tour the ship and set up a meet-and-greet with the captain. The captain shook hands of each cadet and presented each his/her own *Truxtun* challenge coin.

Through the remainder of their stay, cadets also toured Arlington National Cemetery, witnessed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, toured USS *Wisconsin*, the Nauticus Museum, MacArthur Memorial and spent their last day on Dam Neck Beach at Oceana Naval Base. The cadets worked hard to fundraise for this trip and with great leadership from their Commanding Officer LTJG Andy Roth and his officers who helped make this trip happen.



What It Means to Be a League Cadet Petty Officer

By Seaman Apprentice-Temporary Grant Bruley, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

If you want to get better at teamwork, communication, listening, following directions and teaching others, then become an NLCC petty officer. During my time as a squad leader, I earned the rank of petty officer first class. I attended Navy League Orientation at 11-years-old and then attended NL SEAL at Ft. Custer at 12-years-old. I also earned several ribbons and appurtenances.

I've learned that to be a good leader, you need to be able to take accountability for your squads' actions and encourage them to work as a team, dress properly, learn commands and drills. Communication is the most important key to success.

Being a leader meant setting the example for members of my squad who were younger and lower ranking than me. As the leader of a squad, I represent my division in everything I do. I have to develop team relationships and friendships with everyone in my squad. To be a good leader, I learned that I need to be able to delegate some tasks. For me to be able to delegate, I have to trust my team and communicate well and with enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is good because it shows that you want to be in the division. The best quality of all is having accountability for my squad and my actions, the good and the not-so-good.

During my time as a squad leader, my division has earned two Battle-E Awards for getting a 3.5 or higher. Wolverine Division was also recognized as one of the top units in Region 9. That makes me so proud.

While I was the leader of the NLCC squad at Wolverine Division, I feel I have changed a lot. Before I joined this program, I could not work very well in a team. I learned to teach and got better at listening to and following directions. I got better at learning in general. Overall, my enthusiasm about the Navy and communication skills grew. Now, I am continuing with the Sea Cadets and a new set of challenges awaits me. I would recommend this program to others and given the chance, I would do it all again. I'm ready for the next challenge: Recruit Training at Great Lakes.

Spring Break with the U.S. Coast Guard

By Petty Officer 3rd Class John Aguiar, NSCC
Houston Division, Houston, Texas

My shipmate, Seaman McElyea, and I attended a U.S. Coast Guard Training in Galveston, Texas during spring break. When we first arrived at the Coast Guard station, I was a little nervous because I had no idea what to expect. We trained mainly with the Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) and participated in many activities, such as helping engineers fix one of the Trailerable Aids To Navigation Boat's brake and throttle cables.

We had the opportunity to go out into the Houston Ship Channel in a TANB, where we participated in buoy drills dropping and picking up small buoy's, man overboard drills, and towing drills. An event that was fun and stood out for me was when they took us onto USCGC *Harry Claiborne*, a buoy tender, and USCGC *Clamp*, a construction tender. On both cutters, they took us all around the ship, even into the engine room. The engine room was surprisingly clean for such a big ship.

I feel like I learned a lot about both the Coast Guard and the requirements to be a Coast Guardsman. This was a great opportunity and amazing training. When we departed, I felt I had a better understanding of what the United States Coast Guard does for our country.

Physical Readiness Should Be a Lifestyle

By Lt. Cmdr. Todd Dunn, NSCC
Regional Director, Region 6-4

We see the checkboxes and dates on the Request for Trainings forms. There are PRT Requirements on Magellan online applications. Lots of hearts get broken when a failed PRT keeps a cadet from getting an application in early only to learn that all the billets have been filled by the time they pass their readiness exam.

PRT should be a lifestyle! Cadets should always be in a state of readiness to pass the basic requirements for their gender and age. The only way that is possible for most cadets who are not already athletes is to keep up their fitness through regular exercise.

Run a mile or more on your own. Get up in the morning or when you get home from school and do your push-ups and sit-ups. When it comes time to do your PRT, you should know going in that you can do all the requirements. This way, during the test, you can focus your energy on exceeding your goals.

You don't stop being a Sea Cadet between drills. This is time you use to make yourself a better cadet. At least three times per week work on your running, your push-ups and your sit-ups and make it part of your lifestyle. Do that and you won't have to stress about whether you'll pass that next PRT and miss out on your next training.

Calif. Sea Cadet Rescues Five Swimmers

By Kate McIlvaine
Director of Communications, National Headquarters

On Sunday, May 1, Sea Cadet Joseph Wilkins, 17, was spending the day like many coastal Californians do — surfing. What started as a normal day on the ocean took a dramatic turn.

“I was paddling out and felt that the conditions were pretty rough. As I'm paddling out, I see that a group of five were caught in a rip current and my immediate thought was to jump into action,” Wilkins told us.

Wilkins is a Sea Cadet with Ben Moreell Battalion. Having surfed at Hueneme Beach before, he was familiar with the strong rip currents that are common in this area.

Wilkins was able to see that three of the five were capable swimmers so he gave them specific instructions on how to ride the waves back to shore and moved his attention to the other two individuals.

“I could see that the other two couldn't swim, so I put them on my surfboard and let them use it to get to shore,” Wilkins recounted. He got everyone safely to shore and placed the two individuals in rescue positions. Reassessing the situation, he saw that one of them was in bad shape. Thinking on his feet, he asked a bystander to call 911 and relay to the operator that he had two individuals in “red condition” and three in “yellow condition.”

First responders arrived quickly to assist. Duncan Shuler, one of the first on the scene from the Ventura County Fire Department, said, “Without the actions of this individual, two of the swimmers would have drowned; and the other three may have been in a much worse situation.”

Wilkins said his time as a Sea Cadet and his training with the Ventura County Lifeguard Team gave him the skills he needed to act quickly. All of the cadets in Ben Moreell Battalion were certified in CPR and First Aid this past October, reports the unit's commanding officer Lt. Randy Montrose.

On May 8, Wilkins was honored for his quick thinking and bravery at a ceremony where he received the NSCC Honor Ribbon. Also in attendance were the Mayor of Port Hueneme, members of the City Council of Port Hueneme, the Chief of Police of Port Hueneme, members of the Ventura County Fire Department, his school's assistant principal, and various teachers.

Wilkins is a senior in high school and plans to join the Navy after graduation. He would like to become a Master-at-Arms (MA).



Courtesy of Ben Moreell Battalion

International Exchange Program

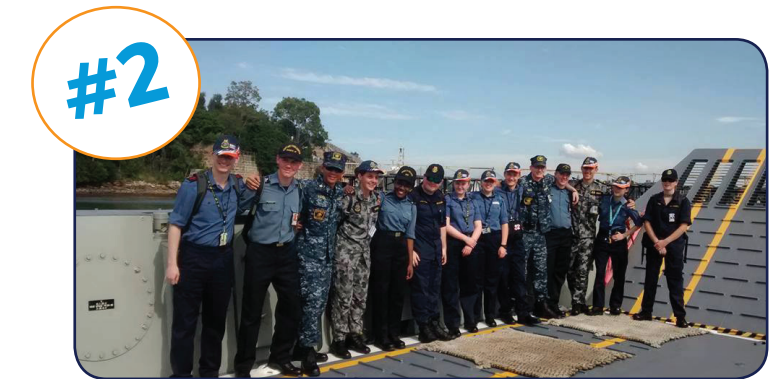
Our Top Moments From Australia

In April, LCDR Paul Julian, CPO Ian Sleigh and CPO Peter Nguyen journeyed to Australia to enjoy two weeks of training with Sea Cadets from around the world. Here are three of CPO Nguyen's favorite moments.



#1

LCDR Julian, CPO Nguyen, and CPO Sleigh in front of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. For the second week of the exchange, the international cadets were based at HMAS Penguin located on the middle head of Sydney Harbour. From here, cadets were able to visit Sydney's most iconic sights as well as engage with members of the Royal Australian Navy and aborigines. (Photo Credits to UK Cadet First Class Pawel Pawlowski)



#2

The Australia International Exchange preparing to sail aboard a Royal Australian Navy landing craft from HMAS Waterhen. From the craft, the cadets were able to sail past icons such as the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Prior to sailing, the group was afforded the chance to tour and meet with members of the navy's minesweeping and clearance diving teams who are based at HMAS Waterhen. (Photo Credit: LCDR Paul Julian, NSCC)



#3

CPO Nguyen and cadets from Australia, New Zealand, the UK, and Canada all pose for a selfie following the ANZAC Day parade in the streets of Sydney. The exchange group was afforded the chance to march alongside veterans and current members of the Australian Defence Force as a symbol of respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. ANZAC Day commemorates Australian and New Zealand soldiers who lost their lives during the Gallipoli Campaign of World War I, as well as all other subsequent conflicts. (Photo Credit: Australian Navy Cadet CPO Jessica Gardner)

BRAVO ZULU to all of our officers and cadets who were selected to attend this year's exchanges!

Australia: LCDR Paul Julian, CPO Ian Sleigh, CPO Peter Nguyen

Bermuda: LTJG Steve Stewart, PO2 Connor Rooney, PO1 Grant Domingo

Canada: LTJG Dawna Stewart, LTJG Rob Robbins, CPO Cameron Brewer, CPO Logan Glantz, PO3 Aaliyah Karunaratne, PO1 Xavier Garza, CPO Caleigh Jensen, CPO Blake Lieb, PO2 Robert Simpson, PO2 Emily McCoy, PO1 Jessica Garcia

Hong Kong: ENS Richard Covington, CPO Eric Bertulaitis, CPO Rebecca Modrich

India: LTJG John Gallo, CPO Tracy Robinson, PO1 Vivian Dees, CPO Alexander Mueller

Sweden: LCDR Martha Robinson, CPO Sean Chen, PO1 Jacob Redlawski

United Kingdom: LT Sandi Chamyam, CPO Benjamin Leaman, CPO Tamera Riffle, CPO Jessica Nagel

Ask the Chief

By Chief Petty Officer Maxwell Yonkers, NSCC Truxtun (DDG-103) Division, Oswego, N.Y.

Over April break, I had the chance to experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and an excellent way to be promoted to the rank of chief petty officer. My unit, Truxtun (DDG-103) Division, stationed in Oswego, New York took a trip to the Norfolk Naval Base in Virginia. The morning started with a 4 a.m. wakeup for most of the 30 cadets traveling to prepare for a 5 a.m. departure. While traveling down to the Naval Station, our first stop at Arlington National Cemetery. While there, we had the privilege of witnessing the “Changing of the Guards” and got to see the burial site of President John F. Kennedy. The true experience started to unfold when we arrived at the station. Our unit was so grateful to receive berthing arrangements from the Top Hatters Squadron of the USNSCC. Our unit command and cadets were very grateful that this squadron lent us their berthing quarters on base. On our first day, we took a trip over to a helicopter squadron on base. We toured the facilities and helicopter bays, and got a special presentation from a Naval Academy graduate who was now a helicopter pilot. We did many other things on this trip such as going to Nautilus Museum to tour the battleship USS Wisconsin, touring the General Douglas MacArthur facilities, and going to the beach. My favorite part of the training was being recognized for the last four and half years of Sea Cadet accomplishments. My unit was welcomed aboard USS Truxtun, the ship that is the namesake of our unit. Our tour started with an immediate escort to the wardroom. Here, we were able to meet the commanding officer of the destroyer and receive ship challenge coins from his handshake. I had the honor of being promoted to chief petty officer, the closest any Sea Cadet will have to true Navy tradition. Aboard the commissioned destroyer, an electronic warfare master chief petty officer was my Master of Ceremonies and the one who

would cap me and present me with my first chief’s challenge coin. My father and the master chief pinned me with my anchors. I finally earned the title of chief.

Later that night, I had time to reflect on my commitment and the Navy tradition towards the salty seniors of the enlisted ranks. The chief is one of the most sacred ranks in the Navy because it shows the command’s trust instilled into a person of wisdom. The Navy can rely on the chief because they have proven the core values are words they live by. They are the ones who can be counted on not only by officers but also by their subordinates. It dawned on me this situation is comparable to the situation of chiefs in the Sea Cadet program. In the USNSCC, the chief is a sacred rank because it shows the commitment a cadet had put forth to developing himself or herself. The anchors pinned to the collar of every chief, prove the ultimate sacrifice of time attending countless trainings and constantly demonstrating the highest standards of leadership. The master chief who pinned me that day informed me that being promoted to chief is an accomplishment all its own, but that more will be expected of you as well. It is a rank that proves you have demonstrated the mental strength to tackle more tasks than you think you will be able to handle at once, but this is what sets the chiefs apart from the rest. Just like the chiefs of the Sea Cadets, Navy chiefs will always have the confidence and poise to complete any amount of tasks, regardless of the difficulty. Even the highest-ranking petty officers of the Navy come to the chief for guidance. One of the most famous lines recited in the U.S. Navy is “Ask the Chief.” This line reflects the wisdom and experience coming from a seasoned chief, and I am more than excited and proud to say this is an experience I am ready to share with my fellow chief petty officers.

Last Words



“The world around us is rapidly changing and is in desperate need of world-changers and this program provides just that. I arrived as a kid from Florida and left a national champion. I am going to look back in a few years and think about how everything I did then made me who I am now. This was a life-changing experience, and it could not have been done without honor, courage and commitment.”
 – Seaman Jacob Dawson, Centurion Battalion, on his team’s first place finish in the all-service division at the CyberPatriot National Finals

Important Reminders

Check out our 2015 Annual Report:
2015.seacadets.org

The summer training schedule is here:
magellan.seacadets.org/public/training.asp

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



Photo of the Quarter ↷

TAKE A LOOK AT LAST YEAR

For more of our 2015 facts and figures, go to 2015.seacadets.org.

SEA CADETS ARE GOING PLACES

2015 Service Accessions	# of Cadets
U.S. Naval Academy	144
U.S. Military Academy	9
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	2
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy	9
State Merchant Marine Academies	42
Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)	36
Other ROTC	22
Intend to Enlist in the Navy	225
Intend to Enlist in Other Services	144

TOTAL 633

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