

Sea Cadet Quarterly

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2, JUNE 2018





JUNE 2018

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PHOTO BY: Andrea Gunnarson

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.

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International Exchange Program:
iep.seacadets.org

THIS PAGE: Lexington Division's PO1 Susan Izzo stands at attention during her final muster. Izzo will be attending the University of Wyoming and plans to study astrophysics.

PHOTO BY: Shawn Montano

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.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This spring brings good news to the Sea Cadet community.

Lowest Training Rates in Years

In March, we shared that we received \$6.7M in funding from Navy Recruiting Command. Because of this grant, we were able to lower the out-of-pocket costs for our families for this year's training season. This summer, cadets will be able to train for \$100 (14 days); \$75 (9 days); and \$50 (5-7 days). We are grateful to Navy Recruiting Command for their continued support and so excited to provide high-quality training to our cadets.

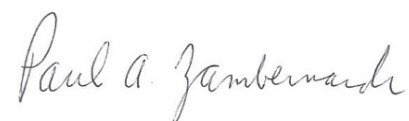
Ready

In this issue of Sea Cadet Quarterly, you'll read about the impact of our training program on our graduating seniors. From enlisting in the Navy to pursuing a commission to joining the workforce, Sea Cadets leave our program confident and ready to meet the challenges of this world.

As Chief Petty Officer Elissa Nott writes, "Starting from boot camp, I learned that with a positive attitude and a stoic disposition, anybody can overcome obstacles and grow from them. The USNSCC has also taught me the importance of teamwork, professionalism, and accountability for myself and my people. I have a newfound confidence in myself and my leadership skills because of this program."

As we celebrate the accomplishments of graduating cadets like Elissa, we look toward the cadets who are stepping into new roles, ready to train and ready to lead.

Enjoy this training season!



CAPT Paul A. Zambarnardi, USN (Ret)
Executive Director, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

An Open Letter to the Corps

In this issue, we are sharing the stories of our graduating cadets. Their paths will lead them all over the world, but no matter where they go, they will always have their shared Sea Cadet experience. In this open letter, graduating senior Chief Petty Officer Skyler Powell shares her thoughts with her fellow cadets.

To the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps,

To say thank you is not enough. I would not be the person I am today without the USNSCC guiding my path. In parting, I leave the Corps with this letter.

Someone asked me how many drills I've attended in my Sea Cadet career. After checking my record, I found that I attended over 200 drill blocks, which is equivalent to 700 hours. I have completed 17 trainings and traveled the world with the USNSCC. I have had the privilege to earn accolades and awards in my time, but nothing has been more valuable than the many lessons I have learned.

Today, I want to address those just joining, those who are rising to take charge, and those I have the privilege to be leaving with.

To the new cadets, congratulations on your achievement. Let me be the first to welcome you to the Corps. I offer you a warning: **the road ahead will not always be easy**. However, as I reflect on my hardships, I remember the words of a wise officer from California who told me that failure is always an option because even when you fall flat on your face, you're still moving forward. I've learned that falling down is normal – we're only human after all – but staying down is a choice. Have honor in all your pursuits.

To the rising leadership and cadets, I want you to know how proud I am of everything you have accomplished and the tremendous potential in each of you. It was the commanding officer of Viking Division who first taught me to "burn the ships." He taught me the Vikings would burn their ships upon arriving in the land they wished to conquer, communicating to all that they would either win or die. Together, you can accomplish anything if you come together and "burn the ships." **Stay committed.**

To those I depart with, my brothers and sisters, I want to leave you with a story.

One morning on my shipboard training, we woke early. The engineering officer met us, wide-eyed and smiling. He led us double-timing up and down ladder wells, checking every valve on the ship, ensuring the beautiful USS *Kearsarge* was prepared for the underway refueling scheduled for the day. Later, we watched as the fuel lines were catapulted over and connected, preparing us to continue our journey. In the afternoon, the 1-MC rang with the thrilling opening of "Crazy Train" as we began our breakaway from the refueling ship. We sped on, traveling faster until the fleet we had once been with was lost behind us in the fog.

This experience we have shared, as Sea Cadets, is a launching pad. This program has helped us test our limits and chart our course. The seniors graduating this year are some of the most amazing people I have had the honor of knowing, each dedicated to service whether in the military or as civilians. **We are fueled and equipped, prepared to tackle the open seas.** We are aware that while ships are safe at harbor, that's not what ships are for. So, today I commend you for your failures and willingness to "burn the ships." As you speed on from this fueling, know that your name is not your own, you have set yourself apart. You are prepared and willing to test your limits. Have courage in your future pursuits.

"I promise to serve God, honor our flag, abide by the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Regulations, and carry out the orders of the officers appointed over me, and so conduct myself as to be a credit to myself, my unit, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, the Navy, the Coast Guard, and my country."

This is the oath I took over five years ago. The promise to serve and honor has guided me through this short career. I would like to thank you for giving me the honor to serve with the best. Fair winds and following seas to all.



Chief Petty Officer Skyler Powell, NSCC
Viking Division, Purcellville, Va.
Attending Virginia Tech

Sea Cadets Make Their Mark As Sea Service Leaders

In this issue's Alumni Spotlight, retired Master Chief Vincent W. Patton III, a former master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, and retired Adm. Michael S. Rogers, former commander, U.S. Cyber Command, and director, National Security Agency, reflect on their experiences with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the impact it had on their lives and careers. Rogers' account appeared in Sea Cadet Quarterly in December 2015 and is excerpted here to mark his retirement from active duty.

Master Chief Vincent W. Patton III



“The Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) program was fairly new, at least in the Detroit area, when I joined in September 1969. I stumbled upon it while attending my weekly Boy Scout troop meeting, when our assistant scoutmaster, James Hannan told me that he was also volunteering with the NSCC program. He was a Naval Reservist, drilling at the Broadhead Naval Armory located near

downtown Detroit.

Mr. Hannan knew I was interested in the U.S. Navy — no, make that, I was obsessed. My oldest brother, who is eight years older than me, joined the Navy right after high school. At the time, I was 10 years old. My brother has always been my No. 1 role model (still is), so I emulated pretty much everything he had done, and going into the Navy was just another path to follow him.

He would send me pictures of all the things he was doing in the Navy, and it generated more interest. I couldn't wait until I graduated from high school in 1972 so I could join up and be like my brother.

All of my friends knew that I was fascinated with the Navy. At my Boy Scout meetings, I talked about it, so it got the interest and ear of Mr. Hannan, who told me about the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and suggested I look into it. I did, and after talking it over with my parents, I quickly joined. I was able to juggle my time with the NSCC and my Boy Scout activities and went on to earn my Eagle Scout rank in December 1969.

While my motive for being part of the NSCC program was all about my brother, after a few months, it soon transformed me into learning a lot about growing up, setting goals, understanding roles and responsibilities, team-building, citizenship, and developing my own sense of core values, which translated to building what I now call my “3Ds” of “Determination, Dedication and Discipline.”

The NSCC program opened up a whole new world for me at age 15. I grew up in a fairly tough neighborhood in inner-city Detroit. I always knew that I wanted something better for myself, as I watched my oldest brother become successful in school, as well as his Navy career. I envisioned myself being just like him. I knew it would be hard work, and I was eager to learn as much as I could from many people.

The NSCC provided me access to some phenomenal role models, who by their treasured time and patience, taught my fellow cadets and I about the value of learning and how to use it to help others. They also taught me how to think for myself and show me that courage and confidence are key ingredients to building a successful outcome.

Incidentally, the Broadhead Naval Armory Naval Sea Cadet Corps program later was named in honor of its leader and my former assistant scoutmaster. The NSCC unit is now called the James M. Hannan Division and remains today as a proud and active program supporting the young men and women in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Obviously, as it turned out, I didn't quite follow my brother's footsteps, as I ended up in the U.S. Coast Guard — that's another story. However, I will have to give a lot of credit to the NSCC [for that decision], because I soon learned from my three years of experience with the program how my confidence increased in myself. I found my own voice and developed my own path for success.

Becoming master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard is evidence that the NSCC program really worked for me. My brother, who himself had a successful Navy career going from enlisted to officer, retiring as a captain in 1997, asked me how my life would have been if I did eventually end up in the Navy. I told him: ‘I'd be Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy!’”



Adm. Michael S. Rogers

“Ever since I was a boy I wanted to be a naval officer. I've always been an avid

reader and a voracious consumer of stories about sailors and the sea. Nothing could deter me from going before the mast,

as it were.

At 13, I joined the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. My family lived in Chicago, an inland city but one with a serious port facility on Lake Michigan, which ocean-going ships can reach by way of the St. Lawrence River. The Sea Cadets, of course, only fueled my excitement about the Navy — from boot camp to swim calls and jumping off the catwalk of one of those very old, very tall hangars at Glenview Naval Air Station in Glencoe.

I found the sailor's calling to be one of action and adventure. It struck me as not merely a job or even a profession, but as a calling. I studied manuals and took tests like my fellow cadets, but what I really learned was that we were only as good apart as we were together.

My favorite memory is taking an old turboprop Navy transport (I think it was a C-54) up to a two-week exchange program on Vancouver Island, at Esquimalt Navy Base. We sailed aboard a Canadian patrol boat along the coast of British Columbia. It was absolutely beautiful.

Upon graduating from Auburn University and Navy ROTC there, I was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and spent my first five years as a surface warfare officer watching the Soviet fleet in the last decade of the Cold War. In 1986, I applied for and was accepted to change my specialty in the Navy from surface warfare to cryptology, or signals intelligence.

I never thought then that I'd be where I am today, commander of U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency [NSA]. I had heard a little about NSA, which seemed wrapped in mystery. Cyber Command, of course, did not even exist: "Cyberspace" back in the 1980s was literally something that one read about in science fiction.

What brought me here was love of country, of service and of the Navy. Throughout my life, those closest to me — my father, my wife — have always said to me, 'Michael, you love the Navy, and you love going to sea.' And I do. I am incredibly fortunate to be able to live my dream every day." 🌟

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Master Chief Vincent W. Patton III served as the eighth master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, retiring in 2002 after 30 years of service. He currently serves on the board of directors of both the Naval Sea Cadets and the U.S. Naval Institute. Adm. Michael S. Rogers retired June 1 after a 37-year career in the Navy. Prior to becoming director of the National Security Agency, commander of U.S. Cyber Command and chief of the Central Security Service on April 3, 2014, he served as commander of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and commander of the U.S. 10th Fleet.

Chief's Corner: Prepared For the Future

By Chief Petty Officer Elissa Nott, NSCC

Battleship Wisconsin Division, La Crosse, Wisc.

Attending George Washington University, Naval ROTC (Marine Corps)



Coming from a three-generation Army family, I have always felt the urge to carry on a family tradition by serving in the armed forces. I thought, "How can I better prepare myself for the future?" This was when I learned about the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. I joined the USNSCC in the hopes of gaining more exposure to the military — I never expected this program to change my life drastically.

Four years ago, I began an unexpected journey that would teach me more about myself than I could have ever imagined. Starting from boot camp, I learned that with a positive attitude and a stoic disposition, anybody can overcome obstacles and grow from them. The USNSCC has also

taught me the importance of teamwork, professionalism, and accountability for myself and my people. I have a new-found confidence in myself and my leadership skills because of this program.

From traveling to Sweden through the International Exchange Program to being named "Chief Petty Officer," the USNSCC has provided unparalleled opportunities, and I will forever be grateful. Next year, I will attend George Washington University in Washington D.C. on a four-year Marine Corps ROTC Scholarship. I could not have accomplished this without the guidance from my shipmates or the incredible volunteers in the USNSCC.

Fair Winds and Following Seas to each of you.



Q&A: Seven Graduating Sea Cadets

This year, hundreds of Sea Cadets will graduate from high school and go on to make their mark in the world. To give you an idea of the kind of people and leaders they are, we interviewed seven graduating cadets – one from each of our areas around the country.

Tell Us About Yourself

Q: What's one thing that's unique about you? Tell us about something people might not guess when they first meet you.



Cross-Kaplan: I studied Latin for three years and have had a passion for it since I was about six, when I read a Magic Treehouse book and fell in love with the language.



Derryberry: I am very comedic because I love to see the close people around me laugh. I am caring to those around me and I am always happy to cheer everyone up and make them smile. I also use my good characteristics to motivate others.



Domingo: A lot of people might not guess that I am actually Native Hawaiian! My Hawaiian culture is unique and something you don't often find around my town.



Gallagher: I was not born in the United States. I was born in Canada. People find this interesting because I am going to serve in the United States military. They do question how nice I am, and upon finding out I am Canadian, think it all makes sense.



McHugh: I'm a rock climber. I am a comfortable public speaker even though my conversational skills are not spectacular.



Poggenpohl: Most people do not know I was rejected from the Coast Guard Academy. It was a disappointment, but it was a motivation to pursue my appointment to USNA further.



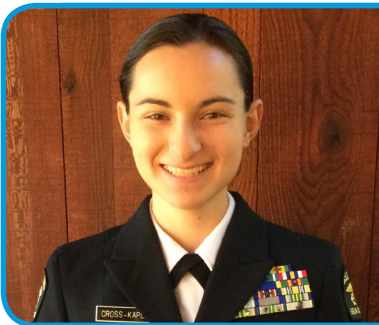
Wheatley: In high school, I opted to take Chinese, which is not a language offered in most schools in New

Jersey. It was known to be the hardest language program in our school, but for some reason, I still decided to take it. I credit this to the drive Sea Cadets has taught me. Many people have no idea that I have taken four years of Chinese, or traveled to China on two occasions, once as a part of the NSCC International Exchange Program to Hong Kong. Going to China and taking Chinese in school not only helped me learn the language but also contributed to my personality.

Q: What aspect of your personality adds the most value to the world?

Cross-Kaplan: I am very determined and persistent. When I develop a passion for something, I work as hard as possible to achieve it, and that is what allows me to be successful in the world.

Domingo: My optimism adds the most value to the world. In a very grueling society, a positive outlook is the best thing anyone can have.



Chief Petty Officer Erin Cross-Kaplan, NSCC
Pyro Division, Petaluma, California

Plans: I am attending Virginia Tech and majoring in chemistry. I will also be competing for an NROTC scholarship.

In Five Years: I want to be a college graduate and a commissioned officer in the Navy's Medical Corps. I want to be a surgeon, and I know this is a difficult goal, but if there is a school that can help me achieve this, it is Virginia Tech.



Chief Petty Officer Daniel Derryberry, NSCC
Nashville (LPD-13) Division, Franklin, Tennessee

Plans: I will attend Middle Tennessee State University in the fall where I plan to study business and marketing. I am still considering a career in the military.

In Five Years: I want to be beginning a successful career. I would like to find myself helping society to make the world a better place by spreading positive attitudes, peace, and love.

Gallagher: My resilience. No matter what the situation, I always bounce back. I can solve problems even if they are tough and I don't let anything stop me, which will be helpful for the Marine Corps.

Poggenpohl: Humility is the greatest aspect of mankind. If everyone was more humble, there would be a lot less conflict.

Wheatley: The trait I see that adds the most value to the world is diligence. Diligence is the trait that brings along change, and Chinese has taught me extreme diligence. I now plan to continue Chinese through college with a major in International Relations.

Your Time as a Sea Cadet

Q: What was your most defining Sea Cadet moment?

Cross-Kaplan: I staffed my second Recruit Training at Camp Pendleton while Chief Sean Gaylord was the AOIC (now OIC). Among other things, working with him allowed me to understand how to embrace the importance of knowledge and precision as much as compassion and caring for my subordinates. I was a better cadet chief because

of his mentorship, and I staffed that Recruit Training several times, each time learning more. That first training truly developed my passion for teaching recruits and training others.

Derryberry: I have experienced multiple defining moments in the Sea Cadets, and all of them have taught me the same lesson, which is no matter what adversity you are experiencing you can overcome the obstacle. You'll be proud of yourself because you will be better for overcoming that adversity. I always had such a feeling of accomplishment when I completed NSCC trainings such as Field Ops, MAA, Recruit Training, and POLA. Most of these trainings are very challenging.

Wheatley: My time with Sea Cadets totals almost eight years, but my most defining moment in Sea Cadets came late in my career. During my time staffing Recruit Training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts in 2016, I was placed in the position of Assistant Recruit Division Commander. In our division, there was a recruit struggling to pass. They were not meeting the PRT standards, class performance was below average, and they had very low motivation. At first,

I was just frustrated, unable to understand why they were doing so poorly until I decided to sit down with the recruit and the Recruit Division Commander for our division. After speaking to the recruit, I realized leaders are not always aware of what their people are experiencing. I quickly realized it is important to continuously assess your people because what may be an effective leadership style with some can be completely counterproductive with others. This cadet had difficulty with traditional learning methods. We then changed tactics and devised different ways to help this cadet be successful in the training. By the end of the two weeks, they passed the final exam and the PRT which allowed them to graduate.

Q: Describe one time you made a mistake at a drill or training and what you learned from it.

McHugh: One time I showed up to inspection with the wrong ranking flashes on my dress blues. I learned first to properly take care of my uniform and be fully ready for inspection, but I also learned to take pride in the rank I earned instead of just letting my old flashes stay on my dress blues.



Chief Petty Officer Grant Domingo, NSCC
Yorktown Division, Goose Creek, South Carolina

Plans: U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 2022

In Five Years: I want to be an U.S. Navy Submarine Officer working with and helping grow America's greatest fighting force.



Chief Petty Officer Niamh Gallagher, NSCC
Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle, Washington

Plans: My post-graduation plans include enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. I leave for boot camp on September 4 of this year. I also plan to further my college education. I hope to either pursue a degree in Public Affairs or Biology.

In Five Years: In five years, I hope to still be in the Marine Corps and hopefully will have transferred into my dream job of Combat Camera. If not then I will hopefully be pursuing a medical degree, so that I can become an officer in the Navy and later, take those skills and go back to work with the Marines. I hope to have at least some idea if I want to stay in the full 20 years at this point.

Cross-Kaplan: My first drill as a petty officer involved a dress whites inspection, and I packed everything I needed for my NWUs so I could change into them following the inspection, except for a blue undershirt. I realized as soon as we were dismissed to change that I couldn't do that, and I didn't want to look that foolish right after being advanced. I managed to run up to the exchange on base and buy a blue shirt so I could be in the proper uniform. That mistake taught me a lot about attention to detail and double-checking everything because a leader has to set the example all the time, and I don't like to be the leader who can't get something as simple as a uniform right.

Derryberry: I would have to say the biggest lesson I have learned from being in the Sea Cadets is being ready and on time. It has taught me how vital it is to be prompt and prepared to follow a schedule to be productive.

Gallagher: One time when I was staffing RT, my fellow staff cadets and I decided to steal the guidon from a different company. Up to that point, it had not been clear that guidon wars were not allowed, so we got in a lot of trouble. I learned to pay attention to the details and to ask clarifying questions if something is unclear.

Q: What are the most significant characteristics of the people who have been the strongest leaders during your Sea Cadet career?

Derryberry: Most of the officers in our division were, at one time, in the military. They taught us to be better individuals and leaders. They worked to instill values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, and hard work in the ranks of our cadets.

Gallagher: The most significant characteristics of the people who have made the strongest impact on me and have been the best leaders are: caring, attentive to detail, accountable, confident, and selfless. The person that comes to mind most regarding this situation is my senior chief, Senior Chief Kolar. She has seen me stumble and fall more than a few times, but no matter what, she always helped me to get back up and instilled the true meaning of being a chief.

McHugh: Confidence, knowing what you need to know plus more, humility, and consistency.

Poggenpohl: The characteristics of the best leaders in the Sea Cadets are the individuals who have a passion for service, are adaptable and know when to admit they are wrong.

Q: I'm a better _____ because I was a Sea Cadet.

Cross-Kaplan: Leader and person

Derryberry: Man

Domingo: Shipmate

Gallagher: Leader

McHugh: Leader

Poggenpohl: American

Wheatley: Mentor

Q: In your own words, what is "ethical leadership" and what role does it have in the NSCC and beyond?

Domingo: Ethical leadership is having the boldness to do what is right even in a position where it seems like you don't have to. This plays a role in every position as a cadet in the NSCC, and it translates into the real world as having the boldness and inner strength that a lot of people lack. Ethical leadership should be at the peak of anyone's morals.

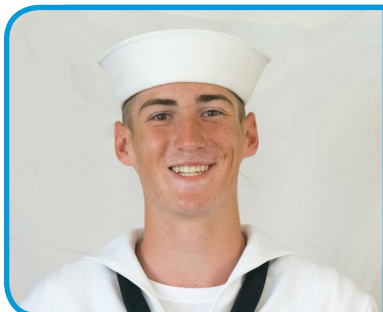
McHugh: Ethical leadership is leading with the well-being of others in mind, instead of personal power. Ethical leadership is important for the program to operate as a benefit to every member.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Elliot McHugh, NSCC
Houston Division, Houston, Texas

Plans: I leave for Navy boot camp on July 30, 2018, with a Special Operator contract to pursue the SEAL trident.

In Five Years: I'll be in either Virginia Beach, Virginia or Coronado, California with a SEAL Team.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Poggenpohl, NSCC
Battleship Missouri Division, Bridgeton, Missouri

Plans: My plans following graduation are to attend the United States Naval Academy, where I will graduate after four years and commission as an officer.

In Five Years: In five years, I want to be an officer in either the United States Navy or Marine Corps.

Chart Your Course

Q: What's something you want to do in the next year that you've never done before?

Derryberry: Embrace my college experience. I want to participate in some sports clubs and succeed in college.

Gallagher: I leave for boot camp in less than four months, and I graduate high school in less than a month, so I am trying to have as many fun positive experiences with my friends and family before I leave because I will not have many more opportunities like that. There is not one specific activity I would like to do. I mostly just want to spend as much time as possible with the important people in my life.

McHugh: Go to BUD/S.

Wheatley: Going to college next year, I hope to expand my experiences by working for different internships and giving back to the community. I have always been interested in internships and the great introduction they provide for different careers. I hope to cultivate my diligence and integrate it into all areas of my life.

Q: Are there any traits that you want to cultivate further in yourself? Please share.

Gallagher: Yes, I hope to improve every trait because a person can never stop trying to do or be better. When a person does that, then they are no longer giving 110%. I want to improve continually upon all the skills and traits that I already have and put forth the effort to improve.

Cross-Kaplan: I tend to be very driven, but I can also end up burning myself out as soon as my job is done and I'm not needed to accomplish an objective. I think the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will allow me to work hard and accomplish a lot without burning out, simply because that isn't an option, and that will help me be a better leader under stress and pressure.

Poggenpohl: I want to further my leadership abilities at the Naval Academy as well as increase my efficiency and organization.

Q: Is there a motivational quote that speaks to you?

Cross-Kaplan: As cliché as it sounds, one of my favorite quotes is "ut prosim," which is Latin for "that I may serve." It is also Virginia Tech's motto, and I read it while going over VTCC manuals before I applied, and it is what I used for my senior quote before I was accepted to VT. Service is very important to me, and I have been planning to join the military for years because I want to serve my country and have a positive impact on the world.

Derryberry: You are the only thing keeping yourself from achieving greatness.

Domingo: "When you fail, fail forward." Never let failure set you back from growing and learning more and more. In life, you are going to fail; it's inevitable. But, regardless of the circumstance, failing should never be a setback.

McHugh: "It is better to be a warrior in a garden than to be a gardener in a war."

Wheatley: A quote that has always spoken to me is our battalion motto from 1st Lt. Travis Manion: "If not me, then who..." Travis Manion's story is inspirational, and it is representative of the commitment that so many selfless people provide for our country. This quote speaks to Travis Manion's character, and how his contribution to this country carries on as an inspiration for others to continue to serve. These sacred words by Travis unite our battalion in our willingness to serve.

Q: How are you planning to stay involved with the NSCC?

Domingo: I'm planning on staying involved with my current unit and helping my shipmates become better versions of themselves as a mentor.

Poggenpohl: I plan to keep in contact with the cadets still involved with the program, as well as visit in the future so I can relay my experiences at USNA to the interested cadets.

Wheatley: I also plan to stay involved in Sea Cadets, first as a midshipman, and then move into the Officer Corps of Sea Cadets. This program has provided an endless amount of experiences, and I would not be the same without Sea Cadets. Sea Cadets has shaped me into who I am today, and I hope to give back to the program. ⚓



Chief Petty Officer Victoria Wheatley, NSCC
Travis Manion Battalion, Flemington, New Jersey

Plans: I will be attending Rutgers University in the fall of 2018, and I will be participating in their NROTC program. My goal is to commission as an officer in the Navy.

In Five Years: In five years, I hope to have graduated from college and be an officer in the Navy. I plan to go into the surface warfare community and continue there throughout my Navy career. I hope to build my education further by earning a Master's degree during this time.

Standing Tall

By Petty Officer 1st Class Garrett Doederlein, NSCC

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.
Attending Ripon College

What does it mean to be a Sea Cadet?

Being a Sea Cadet means so much to me. It has helped me become a better leader and taught me how to push myself further both physically and mentally. The program has given me confidence in every decision I make. I know that I can make it through everything if I work hard and stay motivated.

My journey to becoming a better leader started at Recruit Training Illinois (RTIL), and from that point forward, the bar was set high. I knew that there were big shoes to fill as I left RTIL and my division has high standards too. After boot camp, I went to vehicle maintenance training at Fort Custer then onto Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA). POLA taught me the basics of becoming a good leader. Now, I had the tools to become a great leader in my division. I was appointed to the MAA position, and after that, squad leader. Last summer, I staffed RTIL which put my leadership skills to the test and pushed me to a new level. At graduation, I knew that I had accomplished my goals and could lead

wherever needed.

Being a Sea Cadet has pushed me physically and mentally. I challenged myself to always to get a better score each time we took the PRT. I mentally pushed myself by taking one promotion at a time to rank up throughout the program, and I also used this method to get ahead in school. Sea Cadets improved my confidence because the rest of the cadets in my division — from the newest cadet recruit to the chief petty officers — are held to the same standard of excellence.

When I first became a Sea Cadet, I was always walking slouched over, with my head down most of the time, but once LtCdr Sydes noticed my poor posture, she told me to show off my 6'5" height and kept reminding me until I started to just do it without being told. That boosted my confidence level a lot, and now I'm always standing tall.

I graduate this year, and I'm going to Ripon College in Wisconsin. I've received a \$28,000 annual academic scholarship repayable each year, and I'll be playing football for the college team.



Chief Petty Officer Johnathan Larkin

Gunfighter Squadron, Attending U.S. Coast Guard Academy

When I first began as a Sea Cadet, I hardly knew what I was getting myself into and the opportunities it would afford me. The skills I learned in seamanship and leadership are ones that I will take with me.

I have introduced several of my friends to the program, met people I will never forget, and done things that I would never have had the chance to do. I was able to travel with the Coast Guard from Canada to Maine, earn my scuba diving and ham radio licenses, and meet officers from all branches of the armed services. I am proud to have been a Sea Cadet, and I hope all future cadets who join will make the most of this program.



Prepared to Excel in the Coast Guard

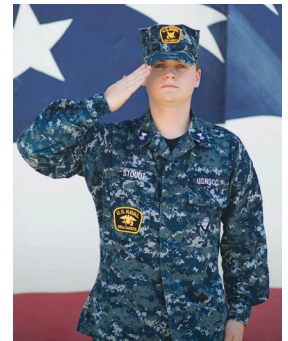
By Petty Officer 2nd Class Nick Stoudt, NSCC

Marvin Shields Seabee Battalion, Lakeland, Fla.
Enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard

For as long as I can remember, I have dreamt of serving our country as a United States Coast Guardsman, and after graduation, my dream will become a reality! I wish I had learned of the Sea Cadet program long before I did. However, I was fortunate to have been a member of the USNSCC Marvin Shields Seabee Battalion in Lakeland, Florida for three years. This program taught me discipline, leadership, time management, teamwork, physical preparedness, and respect – but also to have fun along the way!

I achieved the rank of petty officer second class while building friendships with the other cadets in my unit. I was fortunate to attend many trainings including recruit training, field operations, POLA, MAA, basic Scuba, and USCG small boat training. I was also able to attend a marine science training, along with marksmanship trainings. I met cadets from all over the country and have stayed in touch with many of them. I have enjoyed recognizing and supporting those who served in the past and those currently serving at events such as the Warrior Walk and the Honor Flight.

I was recognized as the Sea Cadet of the Year in 2017 for our battalion, but the truth is, I would not have had any of these opportunities without the officers in our battalion. I am grateful for all they have done for the other cadets and me in our unit. What this program taught me over the last three years has prepared me to excel in basic training and my role as a Coast Guardsman. This program makes a difference. Thank you.



What Sea Cadets Has Meant to Me

By Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Hoffman, NSCC

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

When I joined Sea Cadets, I was entering something without knowing its potential influence. Most of the time during Sea Cadets, I was determined to do what was expected of me. Even if I didn't achieve what I was asked to do the first time, that would make me even more determined to improve myself to accomplish future tasks. Usually, when faced with a challenge, I take it head on and attempt to accomplish the task. Sometimes I'm successful, and sometimes I'm not, but I try.

Sea Cadets has inspired me to try new things that are outside of my comfort zone. I have had both good and bad times in Sea Cadets, but no matter the circumstances, I still try to come out on top against any challenge that gets thrown my way.

Being a Sea Cadet has also taught me leadership skills and has helped to prepare me as I enter into a new phase of my life, the adult world. My biggest challenge is my fear of water. Sea Cadets didn't cure me of that fear, but it has made it where I'm not completely afraid of water like I was in the past, allowing me to swim more often.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers who have given their time to guide me through this program. I also appreciate all of the support from the other cadets for helping me get this far in the Sea Cadets. I would not have made it without everyone's support.



The Seniors of Polaris Battalion

By Lt. j.g. Dawn van Hees, NSCC

Polaris Battalion, Cambridge, Minn.

This year, Polaris Battalion celebrated its largest class of graduating seniors. Nine cadets finished their Sea Cadet careers strong.

The group included Chief Wells, Chief Bennett, Chief Williams, Petty Officer Allen, Petty Officer Wetther, Petty Officer Renner, Petty Officer Riedle, Seaman Kreft, and Seaman Nissen. The unit was incredibly strong with its enormous number of leaders. They were skilled at developing the cadets, leaving the unit with two chiefs, many petty officers and a large group of recruits that are headed to recruit training this summer.

Among this fantastic class, Renner will be attending the Air Force Academy and hopes to have a career in the Air Force as a pilot. Williams is currently serving in the National Guard and will be going to college once he returns from basic training this summer. Bennett will be attending an international exchange program in the United Kingdom this summer and plans to attend jumper school to fight fires. Wells is taking the summer to work, and in the fall, plans to enlist in the U.S. Navy. Kreft is currently enlisted in the U.S. Navy and ships out this summer for recruit training. Allen will also be shipping off to Navy recruit training this summer. After graduation, she will train to be a gunner's mate. SN Nissen is planning to attend college and intends to become an officer in the Marine Corps. She has applied to the Citadel. Wetther wants to enlist in the Navy and work in logistics. This was his billet in Polaris Battalion, and he enjoyed discovering what this entails. Lastly, Riedl is looking forward to remaining with the program as a midshipman, while building a business that will help others.

The Sea Cadets builds leaders, and in the words of Allen: "Take care of each other, there is no ship without its Sailors, and there are no Sailors without their Shipmates."



Back Row: CPO Williams, PO3 Riedl, PO3 Renner, SN Kreft, CPO Bennett. Holding the cake: PO1 Allen and SN Nissen. Front: CPO Wells and PO2 Wetther.

The Seniors of John T. Dempster Division

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



SN Evan Avots, NSCC

I don't even know where to begin. Throughout my Sea Cadet experience, I gained everything from medical skills to being able to step up and take command. Before I entered the program, I was an introvert. But now, I am more of a leader than I have ever been before, and this initiative has landed me multiple jobs. Being in the Sea Cadets helped me discover my real passion: being an EMT. I most likely would have never been introduced to the medical field if it was not for EMS training. Now, I am riding in the back of an ambulance as a cadet until I take my EMT course. Overall, the Sea Cadets has done nothing but good things for me, and I wish I could relive every second. My only regret was not joining earlier.



CPO Dylan McGettigan, NSCC

After eight years of membership, first as a League Cadet then a Sea Cadet, my time with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is coming to an end as I graduate from high school this year. I distinctly remember joining the John T. Dempster Division when I was 10-years-old and in the 5th grade. Now as I look back and reflect upon my time with the Sea Cadet Corps, I realize it has helped me to focus and hone my ability to see and observe without judgment; to hear and listen with a caring attitude, and to think and evaluate with an open mind. In short, the program has provided me with amazing opportunities to grow, thrive, and become a better human being.



P02 Jake Vernon, NSCC

The Sea Cadets program has been a tremendous experience from start to finish. But the most important thing I've gained is confidence. As kids, our parents are always telling us we can't do this or can't do that because we are too young or don't have experience or know how. Sea Cadets has given me not only opportunities but experience and knowledge to be confident in my decisions that I can do more than I imagined. I am now confident, not only as a member of the Sea Cadets but in my daily life. The foundation Sea Cadets has given me will have nothing but a positive impact on my future at Rowan University and the US Air National Guard. Of this, I am confident without a doubt.



P03 Ritik Bedi, NSCC

Throughout my time in the Sea Cadets, I was given the opportunity to narrow in on my career path, lead other cadets, and develop discipline. I know my future lies in medicine, however, being a part of Sea Cadets has helped me find the niche field of tactical medicine. By achieving Honor Cadet at MAA training, I saw my potential in tactical and law enforcement scenarios and this coupled with my background as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) solidified my goal of becoming a TACMED Doctor.

Furthermore, at the Dempster Division, I was able to act as the medical cadet allowing for me to function in austere environments — a critical skill I will undoubtedly use in the future. As a doctor and a professional in any field, one must be a strong and decisive leader, and Sea Cadets has given me this opportunity. Being in charge of several cadets has given me a sense of responsibility and taught me how to make difficult decisions in the face of adversity.

Finally, Sea Cadets has provided me with the valuable trait of discipline. Being able to self-motivate and juggle several stressful situations at once is something I will always need, and by way of my training, I have learned how to stay focused. Thanks to the USNSCC I have a clear sense of my future goals. I have developed tangible leadership traits, and the necessary discipline to accomplish my goals.



A Graduating Senior's Words to Parents

"We all owe a lot of credit to our parents. The ones who have driven us for hours, spending way too much money on gas. The ones who have always been there for us. The ones who will stop at nothing to give us the chance to do whatever we want, and who will boot us back into place if we don't give it our all. Parents, thank you."

CPO Logan Rowe, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Attending Naval Academy Preparatory School

The Importance of Details and Mistakes

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Sara Smith, NSCC
Twin Cities Squadron, Minneapolis, Minn.
Attending Hamline University

In the seven years I spent in the Sea Cadets, I learned to eat, sleep, and breathe the military; how to march, how to speak, how to make my bed. When I outgrew the League Cadets, I learned to lead by following and by doing. But the program didn't just teach me how to behave. It taught me how to look after the people around me, to adapt to whatever situation arose, and to pay attention to detail.

Throughout my time in the program, these skills have served me well in leading my fellow cadets, whether it be checking uniforms for inspection or perfecting the movements of a color guard team. As I move on from high school and the USNSCC, I plan to study anthropology and art history, and these skills are more vital than one might believe at first glance. One misstep with an artifact can lead to an entire study being discredited or the destruction of a piece of history, just as one mistake can make a color guard look like children instead of professionals. Paying attention to detail is necessary. However, cadets also taught me to roll with anything that comes my way, and that as long as they're unnoticeable, mistakes can be repaired to the point where they're unnoticeable. For example, if a color guard forgets to order their rifles back to shoulder from present arms, they act like they meant to do it and then fix it in a way that looks crisp and professional. If a researcher makes an error in a study, they acknowledge it in their report and use the effects it had as an example. Mistakes can be fixed, and the stories of how they get fixed are often told to those who might have to do the same.

These skills have served me throughout my cadet career, both at drill and in everyday life, and as I move onwards in my life, I do not plan to leave them behind. The valuable lessons the USNSCC has taught me will stay with me for the rest of my life, and I am confident they will help me leave my mark on the world.



"As I move on from high school and the USNSCC, I plan to study anthropology and art history, and these skills are more vital than one might believe at first glance. One misstep with an artifact can lead to an entire study being discredited or the destruction of a piece of history, just as one mistake can make a color guard look like children instead of professionals. Paying attention to detail is necessary. However, cadets also taught me to roll with anything that comes my way, and that as long as they are not ignored, mistakes can be repaired to the point where they're unnoticeable."

The Seniors of Lexington Division

Back: SA Jack Townsend is going to a vocational school to be a electrician.
PO3 Jorda Cire is enlisting in the Navy as a corpsman.

Front: SA Holly Nicholas was awarded a ROTC scholarship at the University of Colorado and plans to study molecular biology. PO1 Susan Izzo will be attending the University of Wyoming and plans to study astrophysics.



Prepared to Achieve Goals

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Riley Craig, NSCC

Gosnold Division, Buzzards Bay, Mass.

Attending University of New Mexico, Naval ROTC (Marine Corps)

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps has taught me a great deal during the last three years. I have learned how to live the core values of the United States Navy: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. I have learned how to be a good leader, what happens when you are a bad leader and the difference between the two. I have learned about sacrifice and pride, about service to Corps and Country, as well as experiencing the camaraderie formed by a group of individuals.

This will translate directly to my future when I attend the University of New Mexico and participate in NROTC with the Marine Corps option. I intend to graduate and commission into the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer. The skills I have gained, and the lessons I have learned, will inevitably improve my ability to function in this role.

For the past year, I have served as squad leader in my home unit and have had ten cadets placed in my charge. This has been a humbling experience, as I have helped teach and lead new cadets and recruits through the start of their Sea Cadet careers, taking on the same role as the petty officers who instructed me. I have also learned a great deal about effective leadership, as I have made both good and bad decisions for my cadets, and through these experiences, I have learned what works and what doesn't work. I still have a significant amount of learning to do, but I do feel I am much better prepared as a result of the USNSCC.

I have also learned how to act in a military environment. I have learned the inner workings of a chain of command, and how to be subordinate and a superior. This is directly translatable to the actual military, and I think that my experience in the USNSCC has greatly improved my chances of understanding and properly navigating the professional and military environment I will be entering in the next year. My Sea Cadet career has prepared me for my goals, and I attribute the man I am today almost entirely to my unit, my Corps, and my country. I will forever be thankful for the lessons I have learned and my experiences as a cadet.



What Does It Mean When a Person is Persistent?

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathaniel Pestano, NSCC

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

Attending University of Michigan, Army ROTC

Is it when they continue to fight a losing battle? Or is it continuing to strive towards success despite their numerous failures? I believe a person is persistent when they refuse to give up. It means they are willing to rise to the challenge and the obstacles that await them. Before I joined the USNSCC program, I was known among my peers for not being so determined. I would often miss homework assignments, not study for tests, and show up late to sports. Despite the low standards I had set for myself at the time, I knew I could be better. I felt that my life had a purpose and a reason, and I was willing to do whatever I could to make it happen.

During my sophomore year, my family helped me enroll in my local Sea Cadet program. I joined Wolverine Division. Since that day, I've been through several challenges: the PT sessions, the coursework, and the advanced trainings. There have been times when I wondered if I'd made a mistake and if I should quit, but something made me stay. The thought that my very being mattered to my shipmates, that they needed me as much as I needed them.

I'm happy I didn't quit as it helped me develop into a more confident and focused person with the experience, confidence, and life skills that I've gained from my chiefs, officers, and shipmates. The Sea Cadet program has also been pivotal in me being awarded an ROTC scholarship at the University of Michigan to study biomedical engineering. While some fights are tough and success seems far from reach, I'm a Sea Cadet and "we never give up the ship."



Know Yourself

By Chief Petty Officer Michael Bedard, NSCC

John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.
Attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." – Aristotle

The Sea Cadet program gave me the opportunity to learn so much about myself. I learned how I follow, how I lead, and how I respond to challenges. I did not learn alone, either. I watched other people grow as I did, and we worked in teams like never before. The knowledge I have gained about myself and how others think has put me on a path to future success.

I joined John T. Dempster, Jr. Division at the start of my freshman year. I spent my first year as a recruit, and during this time I discovered what kind of follower I am. I learned that I always respect positions of authority, even if I do not always agree with the decisions made by those in charge. I have come to understand that I do not necessarily have the knowledge or experiences those appointed over me have. **I learned that I make it my business to learn the standards, ask questions when appropriate, and to try to exceed expectations.** I probably annoyed my Squad Leader when I first joined – I was constantly asking questions at drill and over email. Also, I know I volunteer for jobs and additional tasks because I enjoy having a role in my team's success. At Recruit Training, I volunteered to be Guidon, and I embraced the additional responsibilities because it was satisfying to make a measurable difference in my division's performance. I relied on my shipmates who marched behind me as they helped me keep my spacing in formation. I have realized who I am as a follower, and I credit the Sea Cadet program for that.

Before you can lead others, before you can develop and teach, before you can inspire, you need to relate to the experiences of those you lead. Before you can lead, you must follow. **Before I could be an effective leading petty officer, with squad leaders reporting to me, I had to be a squad leader. It was important for me to be able to empathize with the challenges they faced, and for me to understand the effects of the orders I gave.** I was able to provide them with advice when they needed it because I had been in their position one year prior. The Sea Cadet program also helped me realize my love for leadership by example. I believe that a true leader holds themselves to the highest possible standard to inspire the same excellence in their followers. If I cannot score Presidential on my PRT, how can I ask anyone in my division to push themselves through the last stretch of the mile to earn Presidential? If I fail to wear my uniform perfectly, how can I give someone a gig during an inspection? The essence of what I have learned is that I must be my best self to bring out the full potential of those I am privileged to lead.



"I could not control the Plan of the Day or the challenges the RDCs planned for us.

I could control my reaction to it, and I could influence the reactions of others in the same situation."

The time I spent staffing Recruit Training Great Lakes epitomized what the Sea Cadet program has taught me about facing challenges and working as part of a team. I could not control the Plan of the Day or the challenges my RDCs planned for us. I could control my reaction to it, and I could influence the reactions of others in the same situation. In other words, I did my best to keep a level head because I knew that complaining about something beyond my control was a waste of time. Whenever I recognized that other members of the Staff Cadet team were getting stressed and worn out, I helped them by talking through the issue with them. For example, when our RPOC started getting corrected more than usual over marching issues, and it started to get to him, I made a point to talk to him later that

night. I helped him recognize what he was doing well, and that while he may have messed up that day, he knew what to do differently tomorrow. I am grateful for my challenging experience at RTC Great Lakes because it was rewarding to push myself, my team, and the recruits beyond what we all thought was possible.

All of these lessons and experiences have given me a deeper understanding of myself and other people. With the strong foundation that the Sea Cadet program helped me uncover, I know I will accomplish my goals. Above all, I will make a positive, lasting difference in the world. More specifically, I will study engineering in college while being the best school community member I can. I will help others study by finding the academic material I am the best with and providing tutoring on campus. I will take classes in sustainable engineering and environmental issues because I feel I must help make the Earth a cleaner place. I will pursue engineering jobs that will enable me to give back to my community. I will not be able to do all of these things alone, and after my time as a Sea Cadet, I know I can find like-minded individuals to work with. I know how I fit into a team: how I follow, how I lead, how I respond to issues, and how I can help others face their challenges. I am excited about my future because the Sea Cadet program helped me uncover my skills. I will achieve my fullest potential and much more.

From Shaky to Steady Ground

By Chief Petty Officer Nathan Miller, NSCC

Harlan R. Dickson Division, Londonderry, N.H.
Attending University of New Mexico

Sitting down, at my computer, drafting this essay has allowed me to look back on my time in the Sea Cadets and become overwhelmed with nostalgia. While I am still relatively young at 17-years-old, I have had many more incredible experiences with the Sea Cadets than I would have sitting on my couch sending out Snapchat streaks. Whether it be swimming, running, shooting, or learning, this program has done more than expose me to the realities of the world. It has prepared me more than any high school in the country could.

In 2011, I would have considered myself not only shy but in my own world just as any other ten-year-old would have been. What child would willingly give up his summer and embark on a journey that was built upon shaky grounds? I did.

Being a quiet child, this week-long sneak peek into the military lifestyle scared me, but I passed without realizing that my life has changed forever. Little did I know that my shyness had left my personality entirely and was replaced with an outgoing leader who was, and still is, ready to face any challenge regardless of anyone's biases.

Over the eight years I have been a part of this program, I have learned lessons that can never be described using words as they are entirely action- and scenario-based. While these lessons are scenario-based, the three most important, in my mind, will always be a sense of pride in everything I do, the ability to work as a team first and a leader second, and the ability to work with everyone no matter how difficult it may seem. These lessons will follow me into the years to come, as I want to continue my journey into the medical field. Even now, as I am going for my Emergency Medical Technician license, I notice myself becoming not only a better EMT but a better person, keeping calm under pressure and making challenging decisions daily. College, being 3,000 miles away from home, feels closer now that I have experienced months away from my family and friends on the opposite side of the country.

The uneven grounds on which I began my journey in 2011 have now been paved over with my accomplishments and surrounded by my goals. I am not naive because I know that even though this road is now steady, it has many twists, turns, and hurdles that I will have to overcome. But I am not scared, for I have a vast network of people from around the world ready to support me whenever this road becomes uncertain again.



BRAVO ZULU to all of our officers and cadets who were selected to participate in our International Exchange Program!

Bermuda: ENS Brian Nuckols, CPO Jana Ghaddar, P01 Aaron LeQuang, P01 Veronika Matysiak

Canada: LCDR Tricia Rife Thiessen, P01 Devon Golding, CPO Ian Sleight, P01 Connor Schlagel, P02 Lukas Kavanaugh

Hong Kong: LTJG Diana Aguilar-Sanchez, CPO Rory Kluesener, P01 Kara Cacioppo

Korea: LTJG Chris Rubino, CPO Sebastian Bouvier, P01 Molly Griffin

New Zealand: LCDR Terry Turner, CPO Kevin Becker, CPO Steven Muirhead

Sweden: LTJG Matt Powell, CPO Nathan Miller, P01 Robby Galang

United Kingdom: LCDR Sandi Chamyam, P01 Jeremy Rice, CPO Jarren Bennett, CPO Gage Clark

Inbound Exchange Staff: LCDR Rodel Agpaoa, LT James Washington, ENS John Williams CPO Jorge Castaneda, P02 Marco Fiorello, P03 Mia Russo, CPO Renee Woods, CPO Evan Chavez, CPO Conner Pichoff

OUR 2017 UNIT AWARDS

Bravo Zulu Central Iowa Division

Central Iowa Division was awarded the **John J. Bergen Trophy** for Most Outstanding NSCC Unit.

"Our Command keeps us focused and disciplined, and had very high expectations for me as a chief petty officer. I had real leadership opportunities and real responsibility."

MIDN Adan Reischauer, NSCC
(former chief petty officer)



"It is certainly an honor for the Division to be recognized with the Bergen Trophy. My adult staff and cadet leadership have high expectations for our cadets. High expectations helps create a culture of excellence in the training experiences we provide cadets. We align all of our unit's training, human capital, and financial resources to Central Iowa Division's mission statement: 'Through exposure to rigorous, authentic, and inspiring training experiences, we endow cadets with the knowledge, skills, and positive mindset to successfully pursue a meaningful future of their choice.'"

LCDR Eric Goslinga, NSCC
Commanding Officer, Central Iowa Division

Our 2018 Scholarship Recipients

BRAVO ZULU TO THIS YEAR'S NSCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CPO Michael Bedard
John T. Dempster, Jr. Division

CPO Erin Cross-Kaplan
Pyro Division

CPO Kaitlyn Doyle
Battleship New Jersey (BB-62) Division

P03 Symeon Elkins
Challenger Division

P02 Kirsten Engel
Viking Division

CPO Michael Hennicke
Squadron One

P01 Susan Hess
Raymond J. Evans Division

CPO Will Koleszar
Viking Division

P03 Katherine Nguyen
Katy Division

CPO Skyler Powell
Viking Division

CPO Callie Regal
Chattanooga Division

CPO Timothy Ryan
Pentagon Division

P02 Sara Smith
Twin Cities Squadron

CPO Victoria Wheatley
Travis Manion Battalion

Bravo Zulu Lone Star Squadron and TS Lone Star

Training Ship Lone Star was awarded the **Morgan L. Fitch, Jr. Award** for the **Most Outstanding NLCC Training Ship**.

Lone Star Squadron/Training Ship Lone Star were awarded the **George H. Halas Trophy** for **Most Outstanding NSCC/NLCC Combined Unit**.

"It is an amazing honor and shows all of our hard work through the year. We did it as a team."

PO2 Dillon Moseley, NLCC

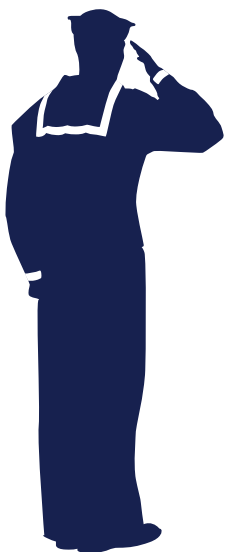
"I'm extremely proud of where we are as a unit. We consistently perform at a high level and as a team – and it shows. We put up the results that we did because of that."

CPO Mitchell Meaders, NSCC



"I am so incredibly proud of my entire staff and cadets for this win! I think this is three years in a row for us to be the best-combined unit in the nation, and it still humbles me. It is nothing that I have done, but it is all about the team we have built. I am fortunate to have some very long-standing staff members: our XO has been with us four years, our Sea Cadet Training Officer for 12 years, and many others with four-plus tenured years. They lead by example and entrust cadets to do the right thing, which is what I believe in turn drives cadets to be the best they can be. We have deep cadet leadership that we have built over the years, with cadets who have been with us since they were very young. It's incredible to see the growth in these young men and women. They come in shy and anxious but eager and have a dream. They accomplish that dream through hard work and dedication. It is extremely gratifying to see that hard work pay off through an accomplishment such as winning the George S. Halas Trophy and our League Cadet unit winning the Morgan L. Fitch Award. It's difficult to find words to describe the level of pride I have for my cadets and staff. All I can say is thank you — for working hard and doing the right thing. Nothing beats hard work, and it always pays off."

LCDR Jayne Bell, NSCC
Commanding Officer, Lone Star Squadron/TS Lone Star



NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA CHALLENGE TROPHY

Awarded to Grey Ghost Division (LT Paul Norton, Jr.) for the most improved Sea Cadet unit while finishing in the top ten units.

ANTHONY H. MURRAY, SR., SEAMAN AWARD

Awarded to Sacramento Division (LCDR Curtis Gant) for the NSCC unit effecting the most cadet advancements to NSCC E3 (SN).

For the full list of unit award winners, visit [Homeport](#).

Honored and Grateful to Carry the Flag

By Petty Officer 1st Class Mitchell Craig, NSCC

Viking Division, Purcellville, Va.

One of the most important things I have been able to be a part of in my time in the Corps is my unit's color guard team. I have had some of my best experiences and prime opportunities during my time on the team. As a newly formed unit, we decided to start a team. Our first Color Guard Commander (CGC) pulled some of our most disciplined cadets and began training us. We started off with smaller local events. We grew into an outstanding team, and after our first year, I took the position of CGC. I continued to recruit squared away cadets, and we have grown into one of the best color guard teams in the area. This team has taught me about leadership, service, giving back to our community, and most importantly, honoring our active, retired, and fallen service members. It is an honor and privilege to do these events, and my pride in this country has grown.

Our first few events were for a local basketball team that played almost every weekend. We got better and did more community events and many Veteran's Day events. We also have had the privilege of traveling to Washington, D.C. for multiple events. Of those, the most notable was the Senate Sea Services Award ceremony which we have done twice. We were able to present in the Capitol Building. We met high-ranking officers from all branches of service.

We also had the highest honor of carrying out a ceremonial funeral service for a local veteran who had passed away. This was by far the most inspiring event we have ever done. It is hard to explain in words the importance of being part of this experience. Folding the flag, while Taps was playing and family members were grieving, was a privilege that I will never forget. Since then, we have done two more funerals for service members, and it is something I hope the team can continue to do.

As part of the team, I have carried the American flag during many events. I am honored and grateful to be able to carry that flag. I have so much pride in my country and so much pride in being able to honor all of those who have protected that flag. Carrying the colors is the most significant privilege ever given to me. Listening to citizens, service members, and veterans clap as you parade the American flag is an excellent experience. I encourage all cadets to try out for their unit's color guard team. You will learn discipline and structure, and you will be working with some of the most professional and disciplined cadets and teams. You will not regret it.



"It is hard to explain in words the importance of being part of this experience. Folding the flag, while Taps was playing and family members were grieving, was a privilege that I will never forget."

Operation Firestorm: A Joint Drill Activity

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

Operation Firestorm is a militarized version of "Capture the Flag" that is played in a swamp in Central New Jersey. This event evolved from a chief petty officer project by Stephen Treacy when he was a Sea Cadet at John T. Dempster, Jr. Division. Now, as the training officer, Treacy carries this tradition forward.

Operation Firestorm is played biannually with a combined group of Sea Cadets from Dempster Division and Battleship New Jersey (BB-62) Division. The cadets are divided up into two teams: Navy SEALs vs. Army Green Berets.

Each team builds forts in the swamp to protect their highly-valued "munitions." The other team attempts to enter these forts, take these munitions and score points. In addition, each player has an armband. Armbands also have assigned points based upon the "rank" of the player. The opposing forces try to grab those armbands, remove that player from the game, and attempt to capture the munitions.



SA Philip Cecala, NSCC

During Operation Firestorm, we built not only forts to protect our flags, but we built teamwork, communication, and leadership skills. I particularly enjoyed building forts to save our flags. The forts we built were made out of wood and string. We worked together with our division and made friends with other shipmates from another division.

SN Connor Bagley, NSCC

Firestorm was a great way to put all of our knowledge to use in the field and test our ability to function effectively as a team. The objective is to capture and secure the enemy ordinance, but it is unknown where the opponent's forward operating base is or their main base. I really enjoyed this because it allowed me to put the skills I learned through this program to use and proved yet again that teamwork is vital in any situation.



Petty Officer 1st Class Christian Krafton, NSCC, of Gosnold Division recently completed an internship at Coast Guard Station Cape Cod Canal. Accumulating over 290 hours dedicated to enhancing Station Cape Cod Canal's operational missions, Krafton fully engaged with the crew and command conducting preventative maintenance on the 45-foot Response Boat-Medium and the 29-foot Response Boat-Small. During this time, Krafton earned the absolute confidence of the crew completing nearly 20 hours underway conducting training evolutions.



My DEA Experience

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Garvey Blackwell, NSCC

Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, Yuma, Ariz.

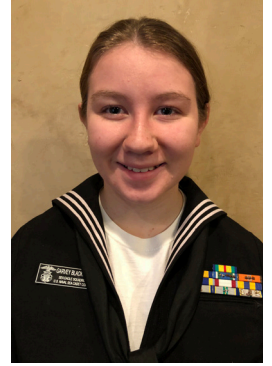
As a Sea Cadet with the Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, I had the opportunity to work with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). I learned who they are, what they do, and how to apply this experience towards my DEA ribbon. Before this, I knew little about the DEA, but now I realize the importance of the DEA and what they do in our community.

Formed during the summer of 1973, the DEA is a federal law enforcement agency that is responsible for dealing with drug smuggling and drug abuse within the United States. They are responsible for inhibiting drug trafficking within the United States of America. DEA agents have a unique and special role in law enforcement; they work closely with state and local law enforcement agencies, as well with fellow federal law enforcement associates. They coordinate investigations and enforcement efforts. Working with the local DEA, I discovered they are a very diverse group from different backgrounds and varying reasons why they love what they do.

My first meeting was a bit awkward and funny. First of all, their location is not really listed (of course), and it's locked up securely. I was asked several questions before I could enter the building. Once I was in, it looked similar to any waiting room in an office, which was quite unexpected. The DEA agent came out with several others to talk with me. The first thing he said was, "You're not a boy?" which he assumed because of my name, and he thought I was a Sea Scout. I laughed and said, "No, I am not a boy but a Naval Sea Cadet petty officer." Once the preliminaries were dealt with, he gave me a tour of the office, and then we discussed the steps required from the DEA and me to earn the DEA Ribbon.

Throughout Red Ribbon Week, I observed several law enforcement agencies' presentations at schools. The presentations discussed the meaning of Red Ribbon Week and the remembrance of DEA Agent Camerena as well as displays of safety gear, drug dog demonstrations, discussions of drugs, and videos. I also got to present with several DEA Agents at one of the schools and answer questions based on what I had learned. I was nervous, but yet excited. The school kids were interested in why another kid was presenting with the DEA. Then I had to do several presentations on my own, which at first seemed difficult, but my first presentation was with a Girl Scout Brownie troop. We watched a video, played games, and discussed why drugs are harmful. They enjoyed my talk just as much as I enjoyed presenting it. Within several weeks, I completed my required presentations, and I think I acquired as much knowledge as the groups.

After all the discussions, observations, and presentations, my final step was to share my experience with the public. This was a unique experience that taught me about the DEA, law enforcement, and about the drugs in America. My interest in earning this ribbon was to learn more about an area of law enforcement as I am interested in some type of law career, but I learned far more than I expected and met some wonderful adults who do a lot in our community to keep us safe. They are all heroes in my book for what they do every day.



Left: LCDR Gail Ryan, NSCC, was presented with her Distinguished Service Ribbon for her selection as the Bruce B. Smith Regional Director-Recruiter of the Year. Her region added 78 new Sea Cadets during the period of January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, an increase of 32.5% over past levels. She was presented the award by LCDR Kevin MacFarland, NSCC, Regional Director of Region 6-1 and Tampa Bay Council NLUS President. **Right:** LCDR Ryan and LCDR MacFarland attended the U.S. Navy enlistment ceremony for Nathanael P. Vincent, a former chief petty officer and midshipman from Suncoast Squadron.

A Call to Action for Alumni: Pay It Forward

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Blaine Bradley, USN

It's been almost a year since I last wore the uniform of a Chief Petty Officer in the USNSCC. Quite a bit has happened since my last drill with the Wolverine Division. I've shipped out to RTC for boot camp where I graduated in the top 3% of my training group as an honor recruit, and my new home is Naval Nuclear Power Training Command just outside of Charleston, South Carolina where I recently graduated from Nuclear Field A School and was frocked as an Electricians Mate Nuclear 3rd Class. I can honestly say life is good. But in saying that, I can't help but acknowledge the many people who went out of their way, and continue to do so, to help me get here. Their efforts, their confidence in me, and when needed, the boot they put in my backside were fundamental in making me who I am. I'll never be able to repay that debt. There aren't enough resources. Or are there?

During my last drill, while trying to maintain my composure, LCDR Lisa Stoyanovich, who raised me from a timid League Cadet, unexpectedly gave me one last order as I left the drill deck for the final time. She told me that when I was able, I owed it to those following behind me to be what she was, what so many were, in my life. And like just about anything else she ever told me, she was right. What a great idea, brilliant in its simplicity. Just do what I'd been taught for the past eight years as a cadet and help my shipmates be the best cadets they can be. The fact that I was graduating didn't end my career as a cadet; it meant I was promoted to now help others achieve what I had.

Now that I'm earning the big bucks as an E-4 (note my

sarcasm), I'm donating a few dollars a month to the division. LCDR Stoyanovich told me: "Your ongoing donations make an enormous difference in our ability to provide exciting, interesting and good quality training at the unit level, such as our upcoming overnight stay at the USS Silversides Submarine Museum in Muskegon, rental of a rock climbing wall, safe boating course along with the course book, certificate and propeller appurtenance, marksmanship training, and a team-building exercise at an Escape Room to name a few. Rather than having the parents pay for each of these training events we can now cover the cost of the cadets. This makes our unit more attractive to potential cadets and helps to retain the cadets we have by building a diverse and exciting curriculum." I'm hopeful that the other former chiefs will join with me in doing so as they settle into their careers.

There are other ways to pay it forward – where even League Cadets can make a difference! Recently, the director of communications, Ms. Kate McIlvaine, established the USNSCC as a charitable donor-recipient on Facebook. When you see people donating their birthdays to a cause, that cause can now be the Sea Cadets! So, in addition to what I'm giving to my old division, I donated my birthday which raised \$350 for the program. How many cadets do you have in your division? Imagine if even half of them donated their birthdays!

I'm hopeful that the other former chiefs will join with me in paying it forward as they settle into their careers. I feel like the USNSCC has done so much for us, we owe it to pay it forward. How can you help when your time comes?

"When I was chosen to lay the wreath [at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery], I was excited and nervous at the same time. I was excited because not a lot of cadets get to do this and nervous because it was a big deal. When my fellow cadets and I got in formation for the ceremony, it almost seemed surreal. I never thought that I would participate in the wreath-laying ceremony and walk where some of the most dedicated soldiers walked. To be part of this experience is honoring and memorable."

SN Dashawna Fowler, NSCC, Fort McHenry Division, Baltimore, Md.



ENS MARIA FAJARDO, NSCC

Do You Know Your Cadets?

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

Recruiting is one thing, but retention is something else. When you recruit, you attract cadets with a promise of the future. When you retain, you do it by meeting their needs. The question is: Do you know what their needs are? Without waxing too emotional here, it really comes down to this: "Do you spend time getting to know your cadets?"

If you know them, you will care about meeting their needs. To push that thought a bit more, you can't help but want to meet their needs if you really know them. We address retention in our "How We Recruit and Retain" guide, which you can find on Homeport.

This relationship starts when they are in the recruiting phase. Do you ask them why they were attracted to the NSCC in the first place? Do you know what they hope to achieve? Do you know what outcome they expect from the program? Do you know what they like best/least about the prospects of being in the NSCC? Do you know what their goals are when they grow up? Do you know if they have a split family and that it might be difficult to make it to drill if they are with the other parent? Do you know if the family only has one car and two working parents?

Let's say you can answer this for all of your cadets. Do you help them achieve their goals with this program?

If you are doing more than just showing up and checking the boxes on drill weekends, and if you are meeting your cadets' needs because you know them, you'll retain them. They will know that you are concerned about their wellbeing, their interests, and their reasons for wanting to be with us. Is it tough to try to be all things to all people? Yes. There will be parts of every drill and every training that won't mesh 100% with their goals. But, if you know what their goals are, you will be able to demonstrate the parts that help achieve them.

It takes more than just showing up to drill. You have to be as passionate about their success as your own. It's about doing unto others as you'd have them do to you. When you get right to the core, it's about truly understanding them.

Offering Specialty Classes Pays Off

By Ensign Jennifer Wells, NSCC
Polaris Battalion, Cambridge, Minn.

You rarely get to hear about a cadet's achievements outside the Sea Cadet program, but I am thrilled to share the first of many accomplishments to come from Seaman Rylee Jorgenson.

Polaris Battalion offers "specialty" classes, or classes that focus on what the cadets are most interested in learning. Some choose law enforcement, some culinary, wilderness survival and so on. I was lucky enough to have Jorgenson in my specialty class – photojournalism!

Jorgenson showed such an interest in photography, I encouraged her to practice her skills throughout the summer of 2017, both in and out of Sea Cadet Corps.

In May 2018, she entered the Mississippi 8 Conference Visual Arts Festival in the category of visual arts. The Mississippi 8 consists of 10 regions throughout midwest Minnesota. She took a picture of her sister's silhouette in the foreground of a sunset, and she called it "Stand Still."

Jorgenson placed second overall and received both Fine Arts Honors and a Varsity Letter Award. I am so proud of her for using her talents not only during drill but also during her spare time, always looking for the next moment to capture, making time "Stand Still." Bravo Zulu, Seaman Jorgenson!



SN RYLEE JORGENSON, NSCC

Cadet's Art Depicts International Maritime Shipping as a Global Unifying Force



PO3 MACKENZIE WENTZELL, NSCC

By Petty Officer 3rd Class MacKenzie Wentzell, NSCC
Massachusetts Bay Division, Boston, Mass.

At the beginning of each year, an art competition is announced where students ranging from Kindergarten to twelfth grade across the Americas are eligible to submit a piece for the possibility to be selected for a calendar. The United States Coast Guard (USCG), North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), and the Inter-American Committee on Ports of the Organization of American States (CIP-OAS) sponsored this year's competition, containing the theme of "better shipping for a better future," aligning with the International Maritime Organization's World Maritime Day.

Students were asked to depict ideas about how shipping makes the future better for people and the marine environment, or how shipping can be even more green. I decided to illustrate how shipping can benefit the future for people, specifically how shipping relations can bring countries together. I achieved this by painting a United States Coast Guard Cutter out on the sea because the U.S. Coast Guard was a sponsor for this competition, and they are very involved in maritime shipping. I painted shadows of hands holding flags of many different countries to create the illusion that the Cutter was coming to shore. This shows that the maritime shipping industry creates unity among many countries of the world, as trade stimulates a more prosperous economy and people tend to be happier and less willing to create conflict with others if international commerce is driving their wealth.



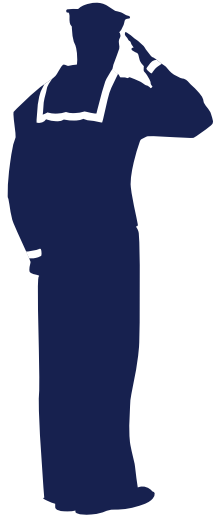
CLASS OF 2018 SNAPSHOT

"With indescribable strength, all the moments of comradery, determination, and perseverance have made their mark on me. They've allowed me to find the strength in me that I never knew existed. They've brought out the best in me."

P03 Katherine Nguyen, NSCC

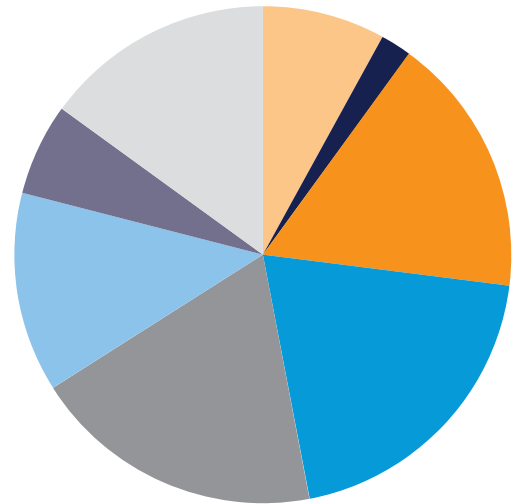
CLASS SIZE

807 males **1,010** **TOTAL** **203** females



THEY ADVANCED

- Seaman Recruit 8%
- Seaman Apprentice-Trainee 2%
- Seaman Apprentice 17%
- Seaman 20%
- Petty Officer Third Class 19%
- Petty Officer Second Class 13%
- Petty Officer First Class 6%
- Chief Petty Officer 15%*



*Average number of days to achieve chief petty officer: 1,123



THEY TRAINED

31,113 TOTAL TRAINING DAYS
3,139 CCMS COURSES COMPLETED

THEY GAVE BACK

39,782 TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS



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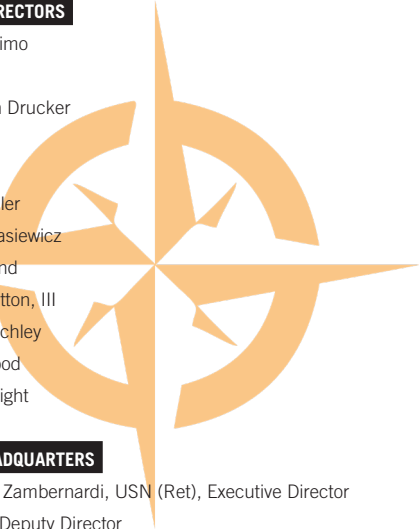
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