

A Magazine by The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

July 2022 • No. 3

SEAFARER

MARINE CORPS

Alumnus Feature and Careers

GOING ASHORE

Graduates Share Experiences

AWARDS

Annual Winners Announced



CHOOSE ADVENTURE

Challenging Opportunities for Sea Cadets

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Recognizing our outstanding Sea Cadets who earned a scholarship for college

**RADM ANDREW LENNON, USN (RET.)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



EDITORIAL

I'm still amazed at the variety of trainings Sea Cadets can offer thanks to our talented and dedicated volunteers. I've had the chance to see many of our cadets in action and can report that summer training season is off to a good start.

"SHRINKING THE CHANGE"

I recently received some strong, positive feedback about one of our staff cadets who had helped a new cadet navigate the challenges of recruit training. The recruit was overwhelmed and not sure he could finish the week. The senior cadet encouraged the recruit to set very short-term goals and to just try to make it through the next hour, or to just focus on lasting until the next meal. This concept, also known as "shrinking the change" (see Switch by Dan Heath & Chip Heath), helps people cope with seemingly insurmountable challenges by breaking them down into smaller components and tackling them one at a time. I'm so proud of our staff cadets who coach and encourage junior cadets, helping them succeed. That's good leadership. You can be sure the recruit,

who did graduate from recruit training, has well-earned self-confidence.

"ENDURE ADVERSITY"

By the way, if you get totally overwhelmed every once in a while, don't worry. You're not the only one. Life is hard sometimes. I've often felt that sinking feeling in my stomach and thought, "What have I gotten myself into?" But we cope, we grow a little, and we press on. The goal isn't to have an easy life, that's just unrealistic. Instead, we should focus on being the type of person who knows how to endure adversity and deal with stress.

"MENTOR ANOTHER CADET"

There are many opportunities in Sea Cadets to step outside of comfort zones and try new things, even hard things. If you're taking on a new challenge, go for it! If you're in a leadership role and you can confidently do the task at hand, take the opportunity to share your experience and mentor another cadet. By doing that, you'll be growing as a leader. ■

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Our Seafarer is Award-Winning!
2022 28th Annual Communicator Awards
Award of Distinction in Newsletter-Non-Profit
for Marketing / Promotion

Congratulations to the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps on its 60th Anniversary!

Cadets, officers, and adult volunteers alike should all be justifiably proud of belonging to this outstanding Sea Cadet organization. The values, discipline, commitment, leadership, and standards you are learning today will help you to succeed in both your personal and professional lives. I know this to be true because I too was a Sea Cadet!

Like many of you, I was looking for something more than what was offered at my school. I sought something above and beyond the standard sports programs and clubs. I wanted to be challenged while learning more about the naval service and the possibilities for my future. I was not disappointed.

My time as a cadet in the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Division in Mattydale, NY provided me the opportunity to do things that my friends and others could only read about. Rising through the Sea Cadet ranks to become a petty officer, and eventually a midshipman, provided me the skills, knowledge, and experience that gave me a leg up in earning a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship.

I was looking for the travel and adventure offered by serving our great nation as a Marine Corps infantryman and have been able to serve beside my Navy and Marine Corps brothers and sisters for the past 32 years. My time as a Sea Cadet prepared me well for this journey.

I wanted to give back to the organization that has done so much to enable my success in life. I proudly serve as an adult volunteer today with the Alexandria Division in Alexandria, VA. I am so impressed with how much the program has grown and improved since I first joined over 30 years ago.

Not everyone needs to commit to a career in military service to our country. Whether you choose to serve for 4 years or 40 years, what's most important is that we each do our part to serve our country and our communities. Not everyone can serve in the military, but we can all serve in other capacities as demonstrated by our Sea Cadet volunteers. Thank you to every one of you. You are making a difference!

None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our cadets, officers, and volunteers. Keep up the great work, team, and let's look forward to the next 60 years of selfless volunteer service and growth in helping young men and women meet their full potential.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis. 

LETTER FROM:
Major General Jason Q. Bohm, USMC





FEATURE: THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS' MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALITIES

**OPTIMALLY TRAINED.
PROMINENTLY DEMONSTRATED.
MARINES BRING EXPERTISE TO EVERY BATTLE.**

Marines are trained in many different roles but fight each battle together, positioning our Nation out front to win on any front. There are hundreds of these roles available for aspiring Marines, roles the Marine Corps refers to as Military Occupational Specialities (MOS). These MOS are categorized into Military Occupational Fields, most of which are described on the next few pages.

ROLES IN THE CORPS

After completing Marine Corps Recruit Training, Marines can become an expert in any number of 300+ MOS', creating a diverse and talented group of modern fighters for our Nation. MOS training comes in many forms, including: formal schools that offer college credit and graduation certificate opportunities; on-the-job training, receiving hands-on experience from established professionals in those fields; and advanced formal training to become an occupational field expert and learn skills for supervisory, leadership, and management roles.

MOS FIELDS & DESCRIPTIONS

01 – PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

This field includes the operation and management of administrative and clerical functions in the areas of personnel resources, operations and manpower.

02 – INTELLIGENCE

This field includes a variety of jobs where Marines are responsible for gathering, processing, and disseminating sensitive classified information.

03 – INFANTRY

This occupational field includes ground forces who are trained to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repel their assault by fire and close combat.

04 – LOGISTICS

These Marines are responsible for providing general and direct support above the organic capabilities of the support element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

05 – MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE (MAGTF) PLANS

This field includes MAGTF Marines, planning specialists, information operations specialists, and security forces advisors.

06 – COMMUNICATIONS

Marines in the communications field are responsible for designing, installing, connecting, and operating communication networks and information systems.



08 – FIELD ARTILLERY

Marines in this field includes the following duties: firing battery, which includes moving, loading, firing, and maintaining cannon weapons systems; field artillery operations, which involves moving, operating, and maintaining equipment that acquires targets; and observation and liaison, which includes checking and analyzing combat plans and communicating advice and operating information.

09 – TRAINING

Special duty assignments that fall outside of a Marine's primary MOS and require special permission to enter. Several of these are instructor roles, including Drill Instructors, Combat Instructors, Marksmanship Instructors, Small Weapons Instructors, Water Safety and Survival Instructors, and Martial Arts Instructors.

11 – UTILITIES

Marines in this field are responsible for planning and providing utilities to support posts and stations.

13 – ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION, FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

Marines in this field have duties like welding and metalworking and are responsible for maintenance, operation, and repair of heavy engineering equipment.

18 – AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE

All members of an Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) crew perform duties to help with the operation and maintenance of the vehicle and upgunned weapons station.

21 – GROUND ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE

Duties for this field include the inspection, repair, and maintenance of weapons systems.

23 – AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

Marines in this field are responsible for the secure disposal of explosive weaponry and ammunition.

26 – SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE/GROUND ELECTRONIC WARFARE

Duties for this MOS focus on strategic and tactical intelligence, listening to radio and other broadcasts to determine enemy positions.

27 – LINGUIST

Marines in this field supervise and participate in translation and interpretation activities to support military operations and intelligence matters during operations and exercises.

28 – GROUND ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE

Duties for this field include the inspection, repair, and maintenance of weapons systems.

30 – SUPPLY ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

In this field, Marines perform ground supply administration and operations, including maintaining supply warehouses, ordering and processing equipment, and coordinating the distribution of supplies.

31 – DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT

Marines in this field oversee the movement of military equipment and supplies and must know how to handle and store hazardous materials.





33 – FOOD SERVICE

Marines in food service prepare food for other Marines in the garrison and the field.

34 – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In the field of financial management, Marines help with the budgeting of finances and generate spending forecasts.

35 – MOTOR TRANSPORT CAREER

In this field, Marines are responsible for making sure all vehicles used in the field are inspected, maintained and in top condition.

41 – MORALE WELFARE & RECREATION

Marines in this field are responsible for the well-being of military families and service members.

44 – LEGAL SERVICES

Marines in legal services assist military officers who have studied law and are licensed attorneys.

45 – COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

These Marines produce written and visual information products in order to build understanding, credibility, and trust with audiences while advising commanders and staffs on communication strategy matters.

55 – MUSIC

Marines in this field perform music or music-related activities in support of military ceremonies, official functions, community relations, recruiting, and Marine “esprit de corps.”

57 – CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL & NUCLEAR DEFENSE

In this field, Marines are responsible for handling defense against any type of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) attack that could occur in the area.

58 – MILITARY POLICE & CORRECTIONS

The military police and corrections occupational field provides commander support by enforcing the law, preventing crime, preserving military control, investigating offenses, and apprehending offenders.

59 – ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE

Jobs within this field involve maintenance, repair, and operation of different types of electronic equipment within the Marine Air Command and Control Systems network.

60/61/62 – AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

Mechanic (60), helicopters (61), and fixed-wing aircraft (62). The aircraft maintenance occupational fields include direct and indirect support of the total airframes as well as power plant pack of all aircraft weapons systems.

63/64 – AVIONICS

Marines in the avionics field provide direct and indirect support of aviation weapons systems.

65 – AVIATION ORDNANCE

This occupational field includes organizational and intermediate maintenance of guns, gun pods, aircraft weapons systems, bomb racks, missile launches, and aviation ordnance support equipment.

66 – AVIATION LOGISTICS

Duties for aviation logistics encompass a broad spectrum of network infrastructure and information systems operations and maintenance.

68 – METEOROLOGY & OCEANOGRAPHY

Marines in this field are responsible for collecting, assessing, and disseminating intelligence relevant to friendly and enemy force strengths and vulnerabilities.

70 – AIRFIELD SERVICES

The airfield services field includes the performance of aviation operations duties, expeditionary aircraft equipment recovery duties, and aircraft rescue firefighting.

72 – AIR CONTROL/AIR SUPPORT/ANTI-AIR WARFARE/AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

This field includes the operation and management of air command and functions associated with the Marine aircraft wing.

73 – NAVIGATION OFFICER/ENLISTED FLIGHT CREWS

Marines in this field are responsible for performing duties related to the maintenance and operation of aircraft and helicopters.

80 – MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS MOS

Containing a multitude of necessary roles, this field includes jobs like parachutist, environmental engineer, and regional and foreign affairs officers assigned to different regions of the world.



ENLISTED

Faithfully, courageously, and decisively, enlisted Marines execute each mission, fighting with honor to win battles in combat and in our communities.



OFFICER

Strategically, knowledgeably, and soundly, Marine Officers command each mission, earning the trust of their Marines and the confidence of our entire Nation—to win.

For more information on Marine Corps Opportunities, please visit marines.com

ADVENTURES ON THE WATER

ARTICLE BY:

Sea Cadet Seaman Apprentice Madilynn Penney, NSCC

We have incredible volunteers that make trainings like Advanced Seamanship possible and memorable. On our first day of training, the St. Johns River Water Management District personnel showed us a very detailed presentation on how much seagrass had been depleted in the last couple of years. Some of the issues are an excess of nutrients caused by hurricane rainfall. Honestly, you'd think the nutrients are good for the water; but instead, too many nutrients can create extreme amounts of algae, which can lead to a lot of oxygen being dissolved and suffocating fish and other aquatic life.

EXPLORING THE LAGOON

ENS Landrigan, NSCC, introduced us to the Water Management District's Indian River Lagoon by having us search areas previously flourishing

with seagrass and plant life. The floor of the lagoon was shockingly bare. We found little to no seagrass and only bits of drift algae. Our second day out, I remember the cool breeze whipping across my face as we rode in the boat. I was on a 17-foot boat with another Sea Cadet, US Power Boating Instructor Franz Goropeuschek, and Environmental Scientist Lauren Hall. The waves were choppy, which made it a little more exciting since the boat could rock a lot more and pretty much made everyone on the boat wet! It was honestly really entertaining, and I loved being back out on the water. Everyone seemed to enjoy the ride.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Later in the week, we had various lectures and on-the-job training from Coast Guard auxiliaries and U.S. Navy sailors, who volunteered their time to spend the week with the cadets. Coast Guard auxiliary Bob Balke and others taught us how to



properly call for emergency help. After being taught the basics by Instructor Goropeuschek, the instructors allowed all the cadets a chance to operate and command vessels. U.S. Navy Missile Technician (MT1) Morris showed us some interesting ways to dock our boats, from tying mooring lines to learning how to stow them properly. It was great to have someone like him mentor us at our advanced training.

The training was a true learning experience -- not only for the cadets, but I'm sure for the Sea Cadet officers as well. ■

DONATION TO UNIT

ARTICLE BY:

Jennifer Bell Ganley, Vice President of the Kiwanis Club of South Lake County Florida

The Kiwanis Club of South Lake was pleased to welcome Lt. Gary Schindele, NSCC, Commanding Officer of the local Clermont Battalion, to speak at our March 31, 2022, meeting and to present him with a check to help support the Clermont Battalion of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

MULTIPLE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The Clermont Battalion is sponsored by the Clermont Police Department. The cadets meet one weekend a month at the Clermont Police Department Headquarters, where they participate in a variety of hands-on outdoor training events and year-round community service projects. During school vacations, the cadets have the opportunity to train around the country on U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard ships and shore stations, and even have opportunities to train in other countries. The program is sponsored by the Navy League of the United States and is supported by both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard.

ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child at a time. The Kiwanis Club of South Lake meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 AM at the Citrus Tower Conference Center, 2757 Citrus Tower Blvd., Clermont, FL. Please stop by and check us out. We'd love to meet you! For additional information about Kiwanis, please visit kcosl.org or Kiwanis.org. ■



WWII ARMY NURSE HONORED

ARTICLE BY:
Sea Cadet Public Affairs

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps invited the Big Sandy, Texas community to an Open House event which included a Unit Dedication Ceremony for a Sea Cadet unit that moved to Big Sandy, TX last month. The newly relocated unit was renamed the Captain Lucy Wilson Division in her honor and it opened its doors to the public to celebrate the life and contributions the Big Sandy native made to World War II and our nation. The members of the Captain Lucy Wilson Division welcomed the family of Lucy Wilson Jopling, who flew in to attend the event. Three of her four children, along with grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and Captain Wilson Jopling's sister, Gay Tucker, joined with an outpouring of community supporters to both honor Captain Wilson Jopling and welcome the Sea Cadets to the area.

ABOUT CAPTAIN LUCY WILSON

Captain Wilson Jopling was one of the 101 Army nurses stationed in Bataan, Philippines prior to the onset of the U.S. involvement in WWII. These nurses, often referred to as the Angels of Bataan, retreated with their patients to the tunnels of Corregidor Island when the Japanese invaded Bataan. After 5 months of working under combat with their supply lines cut off and near starvation,



Captain Wilson Jopling was one of 13 nurses who were evacuated by the submarine, the USS Spearfish. After returning to the United States, Captain Wilson Jopling did a recruiting and war bonds drive by traveling around the country to speak. Motivated to continue helping the war effort in the Pacific, she became a Flight Nurse and returned to the Pacific to evacuate the wounded from various islands throughout the Pacific theater thereby saving countless lives. She then went on to become the Chief Flight Nurse for the 801st Evacuation Squadron, which evacuated POWs and the nurses from the Philippines after the Japanese surrendered.

DECORATED MILITARY CAREER

Captain Wilson Jopling is one of the most decorated women in Armed Forces history. Her decorations include The Bronze Star, the Air Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Philippine Defense Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and the Philippine Independence Medal. Lucy Wilson Jopling died on December 25, 2000 at the age of 83, but her legacy lives on through the Captain Lucy Wilson Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

FROM CAPTAIN WILSON'S FAMILY

The family shared a written statement to the Captain Lucy Wilson Division, "The Wilson Jopling family wishes to thank the Sea Cadets for honoring the memory of Lucy Wilson Jopling. We are thrilled to have others take note of the role that she played in the war as a woman soldier. She was truly a warrior in white as she worked in the Pacific theater to save the lives of our soldiers. She would be proud to be the namesake for your unit and your roles as Sea Cadets." "I am moved to tears by all of the support for our cadets. In my nearly 13 years serving in the Sea Cadet program, I have never witnessed so much community support for our Sea Cadet program as was shown here today," shared LT Joy Clark, Commanding Officer of the Captain Lucy Wilson Division. "Big things are happening in Big Sandy and this is just the beginning!" ■

SAVING A BUS DRIVER

ARTICLE BY:

Sea Cadet Petty Officer Third Class Ryan Martinelli, NSCC

My classmates and I were riding the school bus home one afternoon but were stopped at an intersection on a hill for an unusual amount of time. One of my classmates noticed the bus driver's head was leaning back and he wasn't moving, while another realized the driver was having a medical emergency. I was sitting at the back of the bus listening to music when I noticed people getting out of their seats and looking concerned. When I heard someone ask if they should call the police, I realized there was a problem. I walked up to the front of the bus to get a better view of what was happening.

SPRINGING INTO ACTION

The bus driver was conscious but couldn't speak and it looked like he was having trouble breathing. I loosened his collar and jacket and took off his seat belt in an attempt to help him breathe a little better. At this point, our school bus rolled backward and hit the car behind us. We stopped for a moment before rolling again. I reached down and pressed on the brake pedal with my hand to stop us from moving. With the bus stopped, other students called the police and helped younger kids off the bus. Another student and I attempted to engage the parking brake, but couldn't determine how it worked. When almost everyone was off the bus, we moved the driver from his seat to the floor so we could sit and hold the break more easily. There were several cars stopped behind us, and many of the drivers had come out to help us while the police, an ambulance, and several parents arrived shortly thereafter. We received news a few days later that our driver was doing fine and recovering.

CONTROLLED UNDER PRESSURE

Thanks to Sea Cadets and the training I received from their Master-at-Arms (MAA) training in 2021, I was significantly better equipped to deal with the situation by remaining calm and controlled under pressure. ■



MASTER DIVER & PATENT HOLDER

ARTICLE BY:
Sea Cadet Public Affairs

For the past five years, a San Francisco Bay Area resident and budding scientist has transformed a science fair idea to a patent for research on an improved yellow jacket attractant.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE 17-YEAR OLD

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' Kate Virsik is not your average 17-year-old by any stretch. In her short life, she has accumulated a litany of accomplishments that would take most teenagers, as well as adults, a lifetime to complete.

HARDWORK PAYS OFF

These accomplishments include obtaining the highest rank in Sea Cadets -- Chief Petty Officer -- and playing the trumpet in its Band of the West Division. As a physics tutor, Chief Virsik leads her school's peer tutoring program. Her fellow student tutors assisted in teaching biology, chemistry, and physics thereby providing a needed helping hand to students who were struggling throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. At 16, Chief Virsik received a patent for her out-of-the-box thinking to attract aggressive yellowjackets away from sources of food and into traps. That innovativeness was the result of her attempt to prevent unwanted flying insects from ruining family picnics and preventing others from enjoying the outdoors. At 17, she acquired her Master Diver certification and earned a four-year ROTC scholarship.

"HARDWORKING...NEVER QUIT"

According to her father, Peter, he and his wife raised Kate and her three siblings to tackle problems and provide solutions wherever possible. "She is extremely hard-working, and there could have been many times over the life of this project that she could have quit but she never did," he said. Both parents are impressed with their daughter's hard-work attitude and tenacity. Working in the biotech industry, one could say that Peter has always believed that children should learn science. "We always encourage the kids to learn as much as they can and be inquisitive about their world and how they can solve problems for the betterment of society."

AN AFFINITY FOR SCIENCE

Chief Virsik has always had an affinity for science. In the summer of 2016, Virsik first designed various experiments to search for a stronger yellowjacket attractant than available in commercial traps. More specifically, she was testing meat and fruit-based attractants. In the spring of 2017, Chief Virsik was encouraged by her parents to enter her experiment in her school science fair. That push for science resulted in her winning first place in her division at the California State Science Fair. She was also a semifinalist at the nationwide science fair.

FILING AND RECEIVING A PATENT

During the summer of 2017, Chief Virsik opted to conduct another series of tests to see if the results were the same. With this round of experiments, she wanted to challenge the results that a combination of heptyl butyrate - the standard attractant in commercially available yellowjacket traps - and citric acid would deter yellowjackets as compared to heptyl butyrate alone. "I live in Northern California, specifically in an area where yellowjackets often prevent people from eating outdoors in the summer months," said Chief Virsik. "These yellowjackets always attacked our food at family dinners, and I knew I had to do something about it." After her hypothesis was essentially repeated, she moved forward in her patent process in the 2018 to 2019 timeframe. Ultimately on April 21, 2020, U.S. Patent No. 10,624,340 was issued to Kate Virsik.

CONTINUING TO EXCEL

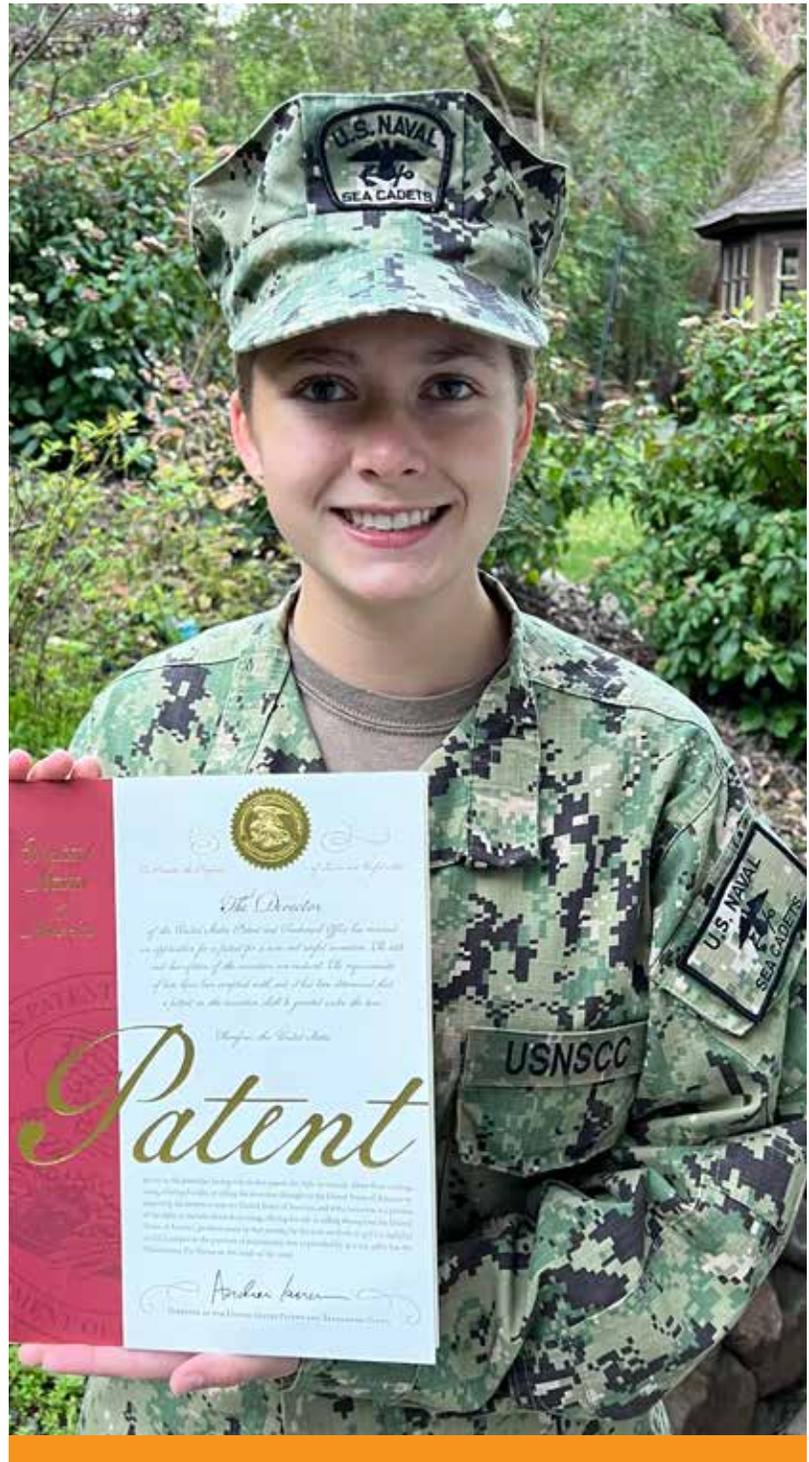
Not satisfied with stopping once receiving her patent, Chief Virsik took an online entrepreneurship class to learn how to conduct market research based on the level of impact yellowjackets have on the population in her geographical area – all while many students were battling with just learning from home. In 2021, she launched a website and is currently working to get her patent licensed for pest control companies to use.

FUTURE SCIENTIFIC DIVER

While Chief Virsik is finishing her senior year in high school, she is certain that she will major in biology in college but hopes to continue in her yellowjacket research. “The whole yellow jacket project is something I would like to continue.” What’s next on immediate goals for Chief Virsik? During her school’s mid-winter break, she will travel to the Florida Keys and work to restore the coral reefs with a scientific diving program. “I am currently diving with the DiveN2Life program, and I look forward to receiving my scientific diver rating so that I can conduct underwater research.”

DIVEMASTER TOO!?

Like her passion for yellow jacket research, Chief Virsik has applied the same veracity to achieving the SSI Master Diver SCUBA Certification which is the highest certification in recreational diving. At the age of 11, she earned a PADI Open Water SCUBA certification. A few years later, at age 15, she earned her PADI Advanced Open Water SCUBA Certification. She is now working toward completing her SSI Divemaster Certification, one of the first levels of professional diving, and her American Academy of Underwater Sciences, Scientific Diver Rating. ■





RELIVING EXPERIENCES

ARTICLE BY:

Lieutenant Commander Grant Greenwell, USN

Lieutenant Commander Greenwell is a 2006 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He formerly served as strike officer, first lieutenant, and navigator on board the USS Cape St. George (CG-71); flag lieutenant to Commander, Military Sealift Command; instructor at the Surface Warfare Officers' School; operations officer on board the USS Forrest Sherman (DDG-98); operations officer at Destroyer Squadron 50; and commanding officer of the USS Zephyr (PC-8). He will be a student at the National War College this coming academic year and has follow-on orders to the USS Lewis B. Puller (ESB-3) Gold Crew as the executive officer.

"THE DEFINING YOUTH PROGRAM"

Sea Cadets was the defining youth program that I participated in when I was young. I joined as a League Cadet when I was 11 years old. My unit, NARS B-1 Squadron, was extremely lucky to have NAS Atlanta support us. Over the next seven years, the base supported all of the Sea Cadets by providing correspondence courses for aviation ratings, allowing us to work alongside the Sailors on the base, flying in E-2Cs, C-9s, C-12s, and other aircraft, and allowing us to be the color guard for every base event.

"OPENED MY EYES TO THE...POTENTIAL"

During the summers, the Sea Cadet program allowed me the chance to visit different naval installations and recognize opportunities I had no idea existed. It really opened my eyes to the limitless potential of the U.S. Navy. Sea Cadets took me to recruit training at CBC Gulfport, airman training (basic and advanced) at NAS Atlanta, flight school at NAS Pax River, submarine training (basic and advanced) at Kings Bay, MAA training at NAS Oceana, and Petty Officer Leadership Academy in Texas. I traveled more than any kid I knew, and frankly my friends couldn't believe the cool things I got to do during my summer vacations. While they were relaxing at the pool, I was getting

practical life experience, leadership training, and flying aircraft. It really was a dream come true.

IMPACT ON NAVAL ACADEMY APPOINTMENT

I fully acknowledge that my membership in the Sea Cadet Corps had the largest impact on my getting an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. When interviewing with the selection boards, I was able to converse freely and confidently with the naval officers about activities and practices which they could relate. Sea Cadets also gave me a leg up in the first year at the Academy. Fifteen years into naval service, I still look back fondly on my time with the Sea Cadets. I made a lot of friends, did some pretty incredible things, and it gave me experiences that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else. Going through my official record last year, I was shocked to see that my first official Navy training occurred in 1996 - well before I joined the Navy! It was a firefighting school that we attended as Sea Cadets, and it still counts!

"A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES"

I can't emphasize enough just how valuable the Sea Cadets are. The program has my highest recommendation to any young man or young woman who wants discipline, camaraderie, education, leadership training, and a lifetime of memories. ■

**IF YOU IF KNOW SOMEONE WHO
IS A SEA CADET ALUMNI,
ASK THEM TO JOIN OUR
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AT
SEACADETS.ORG/ALUMNI**

AFTER SEA CADETS

ARTICLE BY:

Midshipman Erin Cross-Kaplan, USNR

When I was thirteen, I came home from school one day and told my dad that I wanted to join the Navy. I wasn't exactly the most disciplined child -- I didn't always do what I was told, and I liked to register my thoughts and complaints with my parents if I didn't agree with something -- and this gave my dad a good reason to want to test the idea of my joining the Navy before I jumped into the deep end. He looked for, and found, Sea Cadets.

"FROM THAT FIRST DRILL, I LOVED IT"

My introduction to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was when I helped a Sea Cadet unit field day a WWII-era littoral combat ship at Mare Island, California. The division had been formed up into two squads and I was standing behind the cadet I was shadowing for the day. From that first drill, I loved it. It didn't take long for me to join the program officially. In the four years between joining Sea Cadets, just before my fourteenth birthday and moving across the country to attend Virginia Tech after my eighteenth, I did more than I ever would have thought possible. I took part in at least one training every summer and every winter break, and many summers I attended two or three trainings. I was given the chance to travel across the country, including sailing aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle and attending a two-week international exchange in the U.K. Far more importantly, I met lifelong friends and mentors. I loved everything I saw.

"LEARN QUICKLY"

It wasn't hard for me to decide to join the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech (VTCC) as a member of the Navy ROTC. There was a lot to learn in the VTCC; but if I took anything from being a Sea Cadet, it was that I knew how to learn quickly and memorize information (as well as stand still and be yelled at). Most of the challenges were mental rather than physical, and the things I learned as a Sea Cadet helped enormously -- like having a level

of familiarity with military structure, which made the long days a little shorter.

"IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE"

I've learned a lot in my years at Virginia Tech. I've met more incredible people -- friends and mentors who cared about me like family seemingly before they even knew me. I've learned a lot more about how to form lasting relationships with people, which anyone who knows me will say I have struggled with. The greatest lesson I learned from both cadet programs was that it's always about the people.

FUTURE PLANS

Shortly after I commission in the Navy, I will be headed to the Basic Division Officer Course and then to DDG 84, the USS Bulkeley. I couldn't have gotten this far without all the people around me: my roommates, friends, peers, mentors, classmates at Tech, the cadets and adults I met as a young Sea Cadet, and my family. I know the people who will continue to surround me will continue to be largely responsible for my successes in this new chapter of my life. ■



If you know someone who is a Sea Cadets Alumni, ask them to sign up at seacadets.org/alumni

SUBMARINE INDUSTRY INTERNSHIP

ARTICLE BY:

Sea Cadet Midshipman Andrej Klema, NSCC

A shipyard is a large, complicated, and dangerous place. The saying around General Dynamics Electric Boat (EB) is "Safety #1 Priority." Damaging a submarine can cost millions. Losing a human life is beyond cost estimation. This past winter, I had the pleasure of spending two months in Rhode Island experiencing an internship at General Dynamics Electric Boat. For three weeks, I worked in the Pipefitting Department. Work was done on the Main Propulsion Unit (MPU) of SSN-801, the U.S.S. Utah, the last of the Block IV Virginia class submarines where it will begin the Block V iteration of the Virginia class.

TRAINING FOR A UNIQUE ROLE

The first four days of the internship were training days; and after those four days, I was finally allowed in the shipyard. The first two weeks involved tasks such as labeling parts, cutting and cleaning pipes, and conducting safety checks. EB training asks about claustrophobia during employee onboarding, and rightfully so. I often found myself crawling through incredibly tight spaces in the propulsion unit -- having to play a game of Twister just to maneuver around the pipes. Needless to say, it is important to maintain a good stretching routine as part of your PT regimen. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is important too. Included is an example of me with no exposed skin in addition to the standard head, eye, ear, and hand protection. Steel toe boots are also required.

SUBMARINES ARE COMPLICATED

To say that submarines are complicated would be an understatement. The MPU is a near incomprehensible maze of pipes going in all directions. Thankfully, there are many technical drawings that make the system more understandable with seasoned employee mentors to help as well. ■



PARTNERSHIPS

TEAMING UP WITH SUNY MARITIME



ARTICLE BY:

Ensign Priska Diaz, NSCC

On March 12, cadets from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' George Washington Division teamed up with the oldest merchant marine academy in the country, SUNY Maritime College, to conduct monthly drills. "Maritime College is pleased to partner with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and share our campus facilities with their Sea Cadets," said Maritime College President RADM Michael Alfulitis. "These experiences support the development of essential skills Sea Cadets need to succeed in their future careers, and align with our own mission of preparing the dynamic leaders of tomorrow."

"A GREAT OPPORTUNITY"

Maritime College is allowing the Sea Cadets to utilize classrooms, computer labs, pool, indoor gym, and their waterfront. Additionally, the college's Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) midshipmen are helping to teach and train the cadets. Access to facilities and having good mentors enables Sea Cadet units to grow and thrive. "This is a great opportunity for the George Washington Division," said commanding officer ENS Priska Diaz, NSCC. "We drill two days per month, with the guiding mission to build leaders of character."

HAVING FUN IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT

On March 12, the George Washington Division completed its first drill on the Maritime College campus. Sea Cadet's Executive Director, Rear Adm. Andrew Lennon, USN (ret.), joined the cadets in a 60-push-up challenge as a celebration of the Sea Cadet Corp's 60th anniversary. On March 13, Maritime College's NROTC midshipmen led the Sunday drill. Cadets earned their swimming certifications, which are pre-requisites for maritime-related advance training, followed by completing a U.S. Marine-style obstacle course designed for members of the NROTC. ■

LEADERS' INTENT

ARTICLE BY:

Lieutenant Commander Jared Moravec, NSCC

For both the cadets and adult volunteers, a continuous dose of leadership development will help to ensure a successful end state of cadets graduating from the program. The Seafarer publication not only showcases the benefits and success of the program, but also provides an avenue to educate cadets, adult volunteers, and all those who read and support the program about some key leadership principles that everyone should be familiar with. A relevant concept to begin with is Leader's Intent.

WHAT IS LEADER'S INTENT?

Leader's Intent, also referred to as Commander's Intent, is a clear and concise statement that describes the purpose and desired end state of a particular mission, operation, or project. This statement allows subordinates to exercise judgement and initiative to depart from the original plan when the unforeseen occurs in a way that is consistent with the higher commander's aims. In other words, if the purpose and desired end state is known, then those executing the mission at the tactical and task level have flexibility to deal with obstacles that may come up along the way.

LEADER'S INTENT COMPONENTS

Leader's Intent includes three elements: 1) purpose of the mission, operation, or project; 2) key tasks; and 3) conditions that define the end state. Let's provide a practical example that can be used by a unit commanding officer planning an upcoming drill day to help cadets prepare for summer advanced trainings: Purpose of the Drill Day. To prepare cadets for attending summer advanced training.

Key Tasks:

- Conduct Physical Readiness Test (PRT)
- Conduct uniform inspection
- Conduct sea bag inspection
- Confirm all documentation for service jackets

End State: Cadets have all uniforms and other

items needed to attend summer training; service jackets are ready; any deficiencies identified that require correction.

"DELEGATE THE PLANNING PROCESS"

Leaders must delegate the planning process down the chain of command as much as possible to key subordinate leaders. With the intent statement from the unit commanding officer, the other adult volunteers and senior-ranking cadets can develop the plan of the day (POD). If unforeseen circumstances arise at drill that require the POD to be changed, all involved still know what is expected at the end of drill. For example, the PRT took longer than expected and a service dress whites inspection was planned to be conducted while in formation. To make up for time lost, a decision may be made to conduct a hanger inspection to save time required to change into and out of dress uniforms in order to get things back on schedule. Leader's intent is still met because the uniform inspection was conducted.

"A POWERFUL AND CRITICAL TOOL"

Leader's intent is a powerful and critical tool for leaders to communicate what they want accomplished while giving their subordinates flexibility and ownership in the mission. It's a skill that requires practice and trust in order to implement it effectively. ■



VOLUNTEERING WHILE ACHIEVING AVIATION GOALS

ARTICLE BY:
Sea Cadet Public Affairs

For many former Sea Cadets, the decision to stay with the youth program after graduating from high school provides continued leadership opportunities. Sean Cameron served as a Chief Petty Officer and Command Chief of his Sea Cadet battalion for two years. He graduated from Liberty High School in June 2021 and has chosen to continue to serve, this time as a Midshipman, for the Rear Admiral C.W. Parks Battalion located in Dublin, California.

LEARNED TO LOVE AVIATION

Sean Cameron values the experiences he gained from the Sea Cadets and how it led him to his love of aviation. While active in a variety of training programs through the youth organization, his interest in flying first began in 2017 after he participated in various aviation-centric science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) days as part of coordinated monthly drill activities alongside the Patriots Jet Team Foundation (PJTF) located at the Byron airport. Through this partnership, Sean was offered an opportunity to participate in a Young Eagles event at the Byron airport after a joint STEM training venture between the Sea Cadets and the Patriot Jet Team.

FUTURE PRIVATE PILOT

"There were 10-15 other youth that participated in that training with me," said Cameron. "We were able to go up in a small plane and handle the plane for a few minutes once we were safely flying. Immediately after that, I wanted to be a pilot."

Shortly after the event, Cameron participated in an Intro to Aviation event with the PJTF and was awarded one of ten scholarships from the non-profit organization, which helped get him through the start of his pilot training. The scholarship assisted him in achieving his solo flight, which he

completed just a week before getting his driver's license at age 16. Sean passed his FAA ground school test and is currently honing his skills in preparation for his private pilot license test and attending his first year of college.

A FAMILY IN SUPPORT

While Cameron has been busy learning how to fly, the rest of the Cameron family are actively participating in the Sea Cadet program. According to Sean's mother, LTJG Shannon Cameron, NSCC, this program offers opportunities like no other youth organization. Much like her older son, LTJG Cameron's younger son has taken advantage of the training opportunities that abound for youth enrolled in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Her son Gavin has experienced a myriad of training opportunities over the past few years and plans on continuing to grow his resume of training in the next two years.

EXPERIENCES IN SEA CADETS

"Both of my sons have had amazing opportunities with the Sea Cadets. Sean has had the honor of representing our Sea Cadet program during the International Exchange Program in Canada in 2019. Last summer alone, Gavin participated in Vehicle Maintenance and Historical Vehicle Restoration; Tennessee Search and Rescue Ropes training; was the Leading Petty Officer of a recruit division at Recruit Training in Region 12 (where his division was awarded honor division); participated in NASA Advanced Aviation Training in Huntsville, Alabama; participated in U.S. Coast Guard training at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Golden Gate; and Scuba Training on Catalina where he attained his advanced open water certification," said Shannon Cameron. ■



ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

ARTICLE BY:
Sea Cadet Public Affairs

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps adult leaders and cadets were recognized at the Annual Commanding Officer Training Contingent Conference held in St. Louis, MO March 25-27, 2022. The awardees were recognized at the conference for their accomplishments and received award plaques marking their achievements. U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Executive Director RADM Andy Lennon, USN (ret.) recognized the adult leaders and cadets. "Congratulations to all who were selected at the unit, regional, and area levels," said Lennon. "Your accomplishments are amazing! Being chosen at any level is a testimony to hard work, commitment, and dedication."

The 2021 Sea Cadet Individual Annual Award Winners were as follows:

- Nicholas Brango Award for Inspirational Leadership: LT John Holt III, NSCC, Henry E. Mooberry Division
- Judge Robert T.S. Colby Award for Excellence in Training: INST Aldo DeAmicis, NSCC, RADM Charles W. Parks Battalion
- Fred D. Carl Award for Regional Director of the Year: LCDR Pete Wright, NSCC, Region 11-7 & 11-9
- Bruce B. Smith Award for Regional Director of the Year for Recruiting: LCDR Thomas Cepeda, NSCC, Region 14-2 (Guam)
- Willis E. Reed Award for Sea Cadet of the Year: PO1 Seth Allen, Jr, NSCC, Alamo Battalion
- Keith T. Weaver Award for League Cadet of the Year: PO1 Troy Schmelter, NLCC, Stars and Stripes Division

LEAGUE CADET OF THE YEAR

LT Nicholas Serena, NSCC, Commanding Officer, Stars and Stripes Division, who has volunteered with the Sea Cadet Corps for the past six years, is motivated by the talented League and Sea Cadets such as 2021 League Cadet of the Year PO1 Troy Schmelter. "I had two children that went to the program and ultimately became Sea Cadet

midshipman and also entered the military. I do it because it is a give-back kind of thing. I think every child should get a chance to experience this youth organization," said Serena, who accompanied PO1 Schmelter and his parents to the COTC conference. "I nominated him because he is always on point. There's never any time where his uniform was not squared away," added Serena. "My pride is off the charts. I cannot be prouder than anyone else -- than his parents, of course." LT Serena added that the involvement by the parents is what makes the youth organization special. "If we do not have the parents, grandparents, caregivers on our side, we do not have a program." Troy Schmelter has been enrolled in the youth organization for more than three years. "This program has given me a glimpse of what self-motivation can do and how to improve yourself as a better human," said Schmelter, who has an interest in joining the military one day.

SEA CADET OF THE YEAR

Sea Cadet of the Year PO1 Seth Allen, Jr, Alamo Battalion, joined the program for his interest in seeking a career in the military, much like Schmelter. Allen's long-term plans are to study mechanical engineering and to possibly pursue a career as a pilot. Referred to the youth organization by a friend, he believes he made the best decision to enroll in the youth organization. "I think it is a great idea to join the Sea Cadets, because it gives a sense of purpose and helps you establish goals," said Allen. "This program has taught me self-respect, discipline, and I have learned the value of showing up 15 minutes early." Allen's biggest supporter is his grandfather, LT Colonel Tim Allen, who is retired from the U.S. Air Force. He accompanied his grandson to St. Louis to watch him receive his award, and said PO1 Allen has benefited in so many ways by participating in the Sea Cadet Corps. "The Sea Cadet experience has changed him. It brought out his personality and attitude about life," said Mr. Allen. "He has always been a hard worker, but now he has an aim and has decided to enter the military. He has done everything he can to make that possible."

REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR FOR RECRUITING

Regional Director of the Year for Recruiting LCDR Thomas Cepeda, NSCC, brings many talents to his volunteer position from his region in Guam. When not volunteering, he is a drummer in a band. Like many other adult members, he first joined as a volunteer to participate alongside his daughter, who was 11 at the time. Since that moment to nearly seven years later, Cepeda continues to give back to the youth organization that has provided him so much more than he could have imagined. "I volunteer because it has become a passion. It really means something to see these young kids develop from shyness to leaders and develop character. It's fun and inspiring to see this happen. It's like a metamorphosis," said Cepeda, who reflected on what the award and recognition by his peers meant to him. "What I'm receiving, it means everything to me to be a part of it, to have some influence on these future leaders of our nation."

REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Regional Director of the Year LCDR Pete Wright, NSCC, Region 11-7 and 11-9, who joined the program shortly after his son enrolled in 2012, reflected on the personal fulfillment of volunteering. "I gain satisfaction on what our program provides the cadets as they move up in the program," said Wright, who added the return on investment is when the cadets come back to describe how the Sea Cadet Corps transformed their lives. "When they do come back, they refer to their experiences in the program and how successful they have been because of it." Wright continues to stay with the youth organization for the transformational possibilities to change the trajectory of youth. "To see them grow, to see what the program does for League and Sea Cadets, is what keeps me engaged and involved long beyond the time other friends or family have left the program," said Wright.

EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING

INST Aldo DeAmicis, NSCC, RADM Charles W. Parks Battalion who received an award for Excellence in Training emphasized what the recognition means to him and his unit. "My daughter is in the program; and after discovering the Sea Cadets, I see all of the value it brings - leadership, training, and physical fitness -- it really delivers." DeAmicis first started his military career in the Canadian Army in an infantry unit. As a dual citizen, he eventually joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He pursued a career in electronics,

but later received his commission in the U.S. Navy as an intelligence officer. Sea Cadets provide opportunities for him to share his vast military experiences with cadets. His advice to other adult volunteers is to examine their experiences to determine how they can make an impact on cadets' lives. A humble volunteer, INST DeAmicis is looking forward to celebrating his award with his unit. "I didn't even expect to receive an award, and I was really doing it for the cadets," said DeAmicis. "When I return with the award, we have a barbecue planned and we will definitely formally present this award to the unit." He seeks opportunities to encourage parents to learn more about the program. "For parents who are considering the Sea Cadets, I would highly recommend it. This youth organization develops self-confidence," said DeAmicis. "I have seen the transformation in my own daughter - that awakening - and it really has shown what the program has offer." ■



Pictured left to right:
PO1 Schmelter, NLCC
RADM Lennon, USN (Ret.)
PO1 Allen, NSCC



Pictured left to right:
LCDR Wright, NSCC
LCDR Cepeda, NSCC
INST DeAmicis, NSCC

SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS

ARTICLE BY:

Midshipman 3/C Micah Prewitt, USN

I'm former U. S. Naval Sea Cadet and current U. S. Navy Midshipman 3/C Micah Prewitt, a Mechanical Engineering major at the University of South Florida where I'm also enrolled in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC). I was chosen to become part of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program following a selection interview with its director, Admiral James F. Caldwell Jr.

FUTURE SUBMARINE OFFICER

Upon my graduation from university and my commissioning as a United States Navy officer, I'll train for service as a Submarine Warfare Officer. My interest in the Navy's Submarine Service was sparked and nurtured by my rich experiences in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' submarine training program. During my time as a cadet, I attended basic and advanced Sea Cadet submarine school at two of the Navy's submarine bases.



"A RARE WINDOW INTO SERVICE"

Sea Cadets offered a rare window into the silent service and its missions. At Sea Cadet advanced training evolutions, which culminated in tours of active-duty submarines, I learned about the high degree of proficiency required of a submariner. I was exposed to the specialized equipment that allows a submarine to operate in the unforgiving and hostile depths of the sea as well as the engineering principles behind it. These experiences impressed upon me the responsibility of every sailor to perform damage control actions, to ensure the safety of the crew, and to contribute to the success of the mission. From this shared responsibility for one another, a tight-knit camaraderie arises.

"A UNIQUE AND REWARDING CAREER"

The Sea Cadet's submarine training gave me context for my future technical studies, impressed upon me the importance of excellence as a submariner, and introduced me to a unique and rewarding career. I was discharged from Sea Cadets in 2020 after attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer, the highest rank in the youth program. I am deeply grateful for Sea Cadets and the role its dedicated adult volunteers played in my current successes! ■

If you know someone who is a Sea Cadets Alumni, ask them to sign up at seacadets.org/alumni

FACING A NEW CHALLENGE

ARTICLE BY:

Alan Nunn, U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command

Ben Pedersen's first visit to Recruit Training Command (RTC) came in 2009 with the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. He's recently returned to the U.S. Navy's only boot camp as Lt. Ben Pedersen, the Navy's newest Junior Ship Handler of the Year (JOSH). Pedersen is assigned as a ship's officer at RTC, following his tour as a navigator on board USS Patriot (MCM 7), forward deployed to Sasebo, Japan. "Receiving the award is really all the people who supported me throughout my Navy career, especially the wardroom and crew on the Patriot," Pedersen said. "They are truly the hardest working group with whom I've ever worked. They showed me what it means to put in hard work and effort and are an inspiration as well."

JUNIOR SHIP HANDLER OF THE YEAR

Pedersen, from Johnsburg, Illinois, graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri's Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps program with a degree in nutrition and exercise physiology. "The Junior Ship Handler of the Year is a significant award in the surface warfare officer community and a point of pride for those officers in which that recognition is bestowed," RTC Executive Officer, Commander Stephanie Hayes said. "It's impressive

that one of our ship's officers, Lt. Pedersen, is the Navy-wide winner."

COMPETING ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

Pedersen's Navy JOSH achievement was the culmination of seven months of competition, winning at the squadron and Pacific Fleet level before last year's two-day final in Newport, Rhode Island. His final test came against Atlantic Fleet JOSH Lt. Matthew Bain, with whom he attended navigation school. "They evaluated us on bridge management, how we're controlling the ship coming off the pier, and how smoothly we land with all the elemental factors like wind and currents," Pedersen said.

SHARING SUCCESS

Pedersen first learned he qualified for the final in Newport during a difficult time for his family. His father had suffered a stroke and Pedersen returned to his parents' Illinois home on emergency leave to help in his father's recovery. "They said I had won at the fleet level and that I was going to Newport to compete. I remember seeing my dad's eyes light up. I was taken aback at seeing how proud my dad was, and with my mom there as well, it was so meaningful."

EXPERIENCES IN SEA CADETS INSPIRE

"It is surreal to come full circle and be here as a ship's officer," Pedersen said. "I was in Sea Cadets during high school and trained here. Working with Sailors really inspired me to join the Navy." He is ready to put his experience to use in his new challenge at RTC. "What I've learned as an officer at sea is attention to detail and the scope of what your job entails," Pedersen said. "Transforming civilians into Sailors is an amazing experience. It's very rewarding to give them the best training and put all your efforts into it." Boot camp training includes physical fitness, seamanship, firearms, firefighting and shipboard damage control along with lessons in Navy heritage and core values, teamwork and discipline. About 40,000 recruits graduate annually from RTC and begin their Navy careers. ■



TAKE TO THE SKIES

ARTICLE BY:

Sea Cadet Public Affairs

Expanding one's horizons is something Sea Cadets representing the Lexington Division and Training Ship Colorado took advantage of when they flew with experienced aviators representing the Flying Eagles program in Bennett, January 29, 2022. Sea Cadet adult volunteer LT David Gilfillan, who leads the Lexington Division and Training Ship Colorado, has years of experience in leadership from his experience serving with the Royal Air Force as well as experience in aviation from his years of service as a paratrooper and forward air controller. With his keen interest in aviation, and assistance from his other adult volunteers, he has established a unique training opportunity for the cadets through the Young Eagles Chapter 301 for the past eight years.

"GROW IN CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP"

"The biggest enjoyment that I take from this program is how we see the cadets grow in confidence and leadership. I think it is a unique program that offers the ability for cadets at any age to have those experiences, and flying with the Eagles is just one of the many experiences that Sea Cadets offers," said Gilfillan. "It gives cadets the opportunity to try things if they are interested in the military -- and before enlisting, to try it out through the monthly drills and the summer programs that they have to offer." Over the years, some of the cadets who have completed this training have taken what they learned and applied it to their own military careers. "We have quite a few. Probably the one that comes to mind, he is now a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marines," said Gilfillan, who added that Naval Academy graduate Jacob Wahl flew with the Young Eagles as a Sea Cadet and is now flying the F-35B.

ABOUT YOUNG EAGLES

Young Eagles is a program created by the US Experimental Aircraft Association designed to give children between the ages of 8 to 17 an opportunity to experience flight in a general

aviation airplane while educating them about aviation. The program is offered free of charge with costs covered by the volunteers. Many youths who enroll in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps are also members of the Civil Air Patrol, JROTC, Boy Scouts, or other organizations. "Our cadets can be members of multiple organizations while still being a part of our youth program; and that is the feedback that I get, that they essentially benefit from the well-roundedness of our training, our monthly drills, and aviation experience through the Young Eagles," said LT Gilfillan.

HANDS-ON AVIATION

Yearly, the Lexington Division has averaged roughly 30 cadets. Over the past eight years, 240 cadets have participated in various aviation trainings that offered hands-on experience. One of the unit's prior Sea Cadets, who continues to volunteer with the program, is U.S. Navy Reserve Midshipman Holly Nicholas who also had an opportunity to fly with the Flying Eagles. Nicholas will graduate from the University of Boulder in their Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) this summer. During the past four years, while attending the University of Boulder, she has found time to assist her former unit with various trainings, mentoring, and guidance, essentially giving back to the program that provided so much for her. She has selected surface warfare as her designation. "She is an outstanding Sea Cadet midshipman. She joined when she was 15. She was only with us for a few years, she graduated as a senior, and has come back to the unit throughout her college experience," said Gilfillan.

PILOTING AN AIRCRAFT

The cadets who participated in the training were provided with instructional time, flight safety, the basics of aerodynamics, how a plane functions, and other key aviation concepts. "The cadets were paired with different pilots and different aircraft. That is one of the neat things about this program," said Gilfillan. "The pilots donate their own time and aircraft for this experience. One day you could be flying in the Cessna 182 and the next time you could be flying in a kit plane; and even if the cadets did this once or twice, they get a different experience

every time." Several of the aviation instructors are prior military serving as Young Eagle volunteers. "All of the cadets will get some stick time where they are given control of the aircraft and learn to climb and bank to the left and right," said Gilfillan.

CONTROLLED UNDER PRESSURE

Gilfillan's son once served as a Sea Cadet and enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps for four years. After his enlistment with the Marines ended, he joined the U.S. Navy Reserves and now serves as a Seabee, but continues to support his dad at the unit by teaching an occasional class for the new crop of Sea Cadets. "He helps out occasionally as well. He helps with first aid. He is an EMT. He supports the unit by teaching various classes," said Gilfillan. ■



GRADUATE APPOINTED TO TWO SERVICE ACADEMIES

ARTICLE BY:

Sea Cadet Lieutenant Deb Hayes, NSCC

From the moment 12-year-old Jackson Winner first began his career as a U.S. Naval Sea Cadet on March 21, 2016, his sights were laser focused on becoming a military officer. Fast forward to December 2021 and he not only achieved that possibility, but he also did it twice. Winner, now a 17-year-old Tumwater High School senior, accomplished athlete, and scholar with an average GPA of 4.0, received quite the Christmas gift this year.

NAVAL ACADEMY AND WEST POINT

The first package arrived a few days before the holiday announcing his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. The day before Christmas, yet another package arrived with an appointment from West Point. The packages meant the years of hard work, determination, tenacity, and tremendous effort were all solidified into his dreams coming true. "For as long as I can remember, earning an appointment to any of the service academies has been my primary goal. I am truly honored to have received these appointments and I would like to thank my parents, teachers, coaches, Sea Cadet adult leadership, and the program for helping me along this path," said Winner.

ABOUT THE CHIEF

When Winner first joined the Sea Cadet's Capitol Battalion, he struggled with passing his physical training tests. Undeterred, Winner worked hard to not only improve his scores, but also to ultimately secure multiple national physical fitness awards making fitness his lifestyle. Throughout his career as a Sea Cadet, Winner received numerous accolades for his professionalism and dedication to service. Since joining the Sea Cadets in 2016, Winner has attended over 125 in-person drills, accumulating over 630 hours of hands-on training and leadership experience.

HIS SEA CADETS ADVENTURE

Outside of regular drills, Winner successfully completed 15 one- to two-week duration advanced trainings away from home including Navy League Orientation, Sea Cadet Recruit Training, U.S. Naval Academy STEM, Basic Medical training, Communications/electronic/radio, Petty Officer Leadership Academy, STEM SeaPerch/robotics, SCUBA, Wilderness Survival, FAA Ground School, and the Inaugural Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Academy. Winner is the 2020 Cadet of the Year for both the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Region 13, and the Sea Cadet National Headquarters Area for the Pacific Northwest-Hawaii and Guam.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Winner has performed over 67 hours of community volunteer service providing color guards, serving meals to military families, and participating in related fundraising activities. Having amassed an impressive resume of leadership experience and training, in early fall, Winner began the arduous journey of applying for a congressional nomination. Chief Winner now faces a choice between the two prestigious academies. A wonderful nod to his years of hard work, and years of dedication and perseverance to his goal of becoming a military officer. Winner's efforts have made the dreams of a once 12-year-old boy come true. ■



FIREARM SAFETY EXPERIENCE

ARTICLE BY:

Sea Cadet Petty Officer Third Class Ava Shelly, NSCC

Our unit offers a marksmanship training once a year at a local shooting range. Amy Hackworth is the owner of Treasure Coast Firearms Training and is the Range Safety Officer for our Sea Cadet Marksmanship Training. She enjoys supporting the Sea Cadet program because she feels it's important for youth to learn about firearm safety and have quality instruction.

QUALIFY IN RIFLES AND PISTOLS

All Sea Cadet marksmanship qualifications are done using .22LR rifles and .22LR pistols. There are standard targets and regulations regarding scores and award designators. Each cadet that has a qualifying score can earn the marksmanship ribbon. Cadets who exceed the qualifying score requirements can go on to earn the Sharpshooter or Expert appurtenance. Each cadet is able to earn an appurtenance for both categories; so, if a cadet qualifies as expert in both rifle and pistol, their marksmanship ribbon will have two silver E appurtenances affixed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LINK

I had the opportunity to speak with some of my shipmates during our marksmanship qualification shoot. SN Garrison Trenchel, NSCC joined the Sea Cadets because he's looking to go into the military, preferably the Navy. "My dad is in law enforcement. I enjoy coming out here, and it's super fun because I get to shoot different things each time."

SURPRISINGLY ENJOYABLE

PO3 Eden Price, NSCC is one of five females in our unit. She joined the program because her older brother joined years before. "I saw the cool medical trainings that he was going to. I wanted to go to the medical trainings as well," she said. When I asked what her thoughts were about the marksmanship training, she said, "It's pretty cool, I did better than I thought I was going to do."

EARNING THE MARKSMANSHIP RIBBON

Every cadet who attended this training qualified and earned their marksmanship ribbon. There were several who earned Sharpshooter and a few who earned Expert appurtenances. The Sea Cadet program works very hard to promote a healthy and happy lifestyle. I feel fortunate to be a part of something bigger than myself. ■



MAKING IT TO THE FINALS

ARTICLE BY:
Sea Cadet Public Affairs

The CyberPatriot competition, now in its 14th year, began in October 2021. There were more than 5,200 teams enrolled, of which the Sea Cadet youth program had nearly 20 teams. The finals featured 28 teams competing across three divisions – Open, All Services, and Middle School. Two Sea Cadet teams competed and placed in the March 2022 Air Force Association’s National Youth Cyber Defense Competition’s CyberPatriot National Finals in Maryland: Sacramento Division’s Team Spartan and Band of the West Division’s Silicon Knights. The CyberPatriot program helps direct students toward careers in cybersecurity or another computer, science, technology, engineering and mathematics discipline.

“ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS”

The Air Force Association, since rebranded as the Air & Space Forces Association, recognized eight competitors, who had reached the finals of the competition four years in a row, as CyberPatriot Cyber All-Americans. Three of the eight competitors were Sea Cadets PO1 Emily Foreman, CPO Emily Kelso, and CPO William Smith, all from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Sacramento Division’s

Team Spartan. The Silicon Knights team and Team Spartan benefitted from keen experts who guided cadets, such as LTJG Ming Ikehara, NSCC, brings forth extensive knowledge and experience in cybersecurity for the Silicon Knights. “For cadets to acquire technological skills and critical thinking to protect personal privacy to national defense is extremely essential and important,” said LTJG Ikehara. “I also volunteer to inspire girls to get into cybersecurity and engineering disciplines.”

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Silicon Knights team captain PO1 Arkin Si, NSCC, emphasized the amount of time devoted to the CyberPatriot team leading up to the annual competition. “Our team practiced every week for an hour each time, which doesn’t include the countless hours outside of practice that members needed in order to become accustomed to the various operating systems that they were unfamiliar with, especially the strategies needed for the competition,” said Si. The Band of the West team has been to the national finals three previous times, in 2016, 2018 and 2020. These unit members join the CyberPatriot team and practice and



compete outside of their regular drill time, as they represent the nation's only Sea Cadet band.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

The Sea Cadets who participate and lead the teams, such as Team Spartan captain CPO William Smith, said participating in the CyberPatriot competition has been an unforgettable experience for each of them and they are honored to represent the Sacramento Division again this year. "CyberPatriot has provided Team Spartan the unique opportunity to broaden our cybersecurity skills through learning from real-world scenarios and threats," Smith said. "We are very grateful for the tremendous support from the Sacramento Division of the Sea Cadet organization. The discipline, teamwork and leadership skills we've trained have helped us qualify for national finals in the past five years."

RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND STUDYING

The Silicon Knights team has a better understanding of cybersecurity from participating in CyberPatriot. "Understanding cybersecurity is crucial to ensure safety as the world moves toward automation and increases its reliance on computers. It is also important to understand how to secure a computer and ensure that it has no vulnerabilities that can be exploited," said PO1 Si. Each member spends at least 80 hours of both instructor-led and online courses each season. Many of the cadets spend additional hours on their own to study and research materials. "We have great resources to tap into; and, of course,

it furthers esprit de corps and brings pride to our unit. We are also proud to serve and represent the NSCC on a national level," said commanding officer LCDR Jo-Anne Dao, NSCC. "I always remind my cadets that this is their team, not mine. And they may take it as far as they wish, but I am here to offer support in any way or form for them to succeed. But ultimately, it is their hard work, determination, and teamwork that will get them to where they want. Great life lessons here."

REACHING THE "PLATINIUM TIER"

For the Silicon Knights Team, many of their youth members started as middle schoolers and continued on to the high school team. In the past six years, their team has consistently achieved the platinum tier. The unit has a second high school team, the Silicon Ensembles, which has also achieved first place in the state awards in season 10. Sacramento Division's Team Spartan finished in 5th place, and Band of the West Division's Silicon Knights finished in 11th place in the All Services Division of the national finals. LCDR Jeffery Dao, NSCC, serves as Regional Director, and has a collateral billet as executive officer of Band of the West Division. "We are so proud of the cadets and grateful to LTJG Ikehara for making this opportunity possible," said LCDR Dao. "U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps units should apply for STEM grants." He is thankful to the Navy League Marin County Council for their financial support and the Navy League STEM grant, which allowed the unit to equip their cadets with the computing gear and instructional materials needed for this training. ■



SEA CADET TO COAST GUARD

ARTICLE BY:

Lieutenant Laura Garofalo, USCG

In summer 2021, Gunner's Mate Second Class Matt Kulczynski returned to Wisconsin to volunteer as an Escort Officer for the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Wisconsin Combined Training – Coast Guard Maritime Interdiction Operations. GM2 Kulczynski was an outstanding asset to the training and provided hands-on Coast Guard training for 12 cadets. Prior to entering the Coast Guard, Matt Kulczynski joined Training Ship Abingdon in Sheboygan Falls, WI on March 1, 2009. The following year, he became one of the first cadets to form Vollrath Division in Cascade, WI. Working his way up to Chief Petty Officer for Vollrath Division, NSCC, Chief Kulczynski graduated from high school in 2016 with more than seven years of experience with Sea Cadets. He promptly enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. I recently sat down with him and asked questions about his experience in the Coast Guard.

LT: What was your most significant Sea Cadet training and why?

GM2: I used Sea Cadets as a sort of job exploration to learn about different jobs in different branches that interested me. I attended Seabees training in Marseilles, IL in 2012; this training provided a broad spectrum of training and we were able to work alongside active duty Navy personnel. This training was most significant to me because it showed me that I didn't want to join the Navy. It was interesting, but I learned how many jobs in the Navy really honed in on particular skills. I didn't want to be tied to one narrow career path.

LT: Why did you ultimately choose to join the Coast Guard?

GM2: I really liked that Coast Guard personnel wear multiple hats and perform different jobs and tasks every day. I felt like the Coast Guard held more longevity for me to make this a career. I felt that I would get to do so much more in the Coast Guard and that every day had potential to be different.

LT: What led you to choose the Gunner's Mate rating?

GM2: Initially, I wanted to be a Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME), but when I got to my first unit, I was able to work with the MEs; and although I liked what they did, I couldn't see myself doing it for a 20+ year career. I really enjoy firearms and shooting as a hobby. Actually, I'm super nerdy about it and I looked at what I could see myself doing the longest and that could use the skills and experiences I would gain in the Coast Guard to prepare for my next career.

LT: Tell me about your first unit after graduating from boot camp.

GM2: I was assigned to CG Station Galveston right out of boot. I actually spent three years there, which is a long time for a non-rated member. Right now, people are going straight to GM "A" School from boot camp or spending as little as three months at their first units before shipping to "A" School. When I first arrived at Station Galveston, I was required to get boat crew qualified on both the 45' and 29' response boats as well as qualify as a Communications Watch stander. I could not put my name on an "A" School list until I was fully qualified. I became quite complacent at my unit -- I loved it there! I loved the area, the people, the food, and the mission.



LT: What was GM "A" School like?

GM2: Most of the people at "A" School are of similar age, a couple of years out of high school, and it was where I met some of my best friends. I was able to network with all the other GMs in my class and further my job experience and technical knowledge. They taught us the basics of how to do our job in the Coast Guard as Gunner's Mates. We learned about firearms, firearm safety, ammunition, and paperwork, logging, categorizing, and tracking. We learned every weapons system in the Coast Guard from pistols to the Mark 75, which is the largest canon the Coast Guard has. We also spent two weeks learning basic electronics because of the electronic nature of some weapons systems.

LT: What was your first assignment as a rated petty officer?

GM2: I got Maritime Security Response Team East (MSRT), which was only about 30 minutes from GM "A" School. I was also able to go with one of my best friends from "A" School. MSRT East was a wake-up call! We were so used to being part of the "Blue Coast Guard," but MSRT was very different as it is more of a Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) entity -- the "Green Coast Guard." We were exposed to a large variety of weapons and ordnance that most of the Coast Guard never really gets to see. It was a tremendous learning curve, but it was so cool! The MSRT scope encompasses the entire East Coast as well as abroad. My job was awesome! It was like being on leave without taking leave and getting to take weapons all over the eastern seaboard. I got to work on guns and take them to wherever they needed to go. MSRT East is responsible for such needs as active threats and establishing security zones for local agencies. For example, there is a regular convening of the United Nations in New York. My unit provides waterside egress for dignitaries as a means of escape in case something goes south. As an advanced security team, we can be called up in a matter of hours. I issue everyone's weapons and set up a base wherever we are needed.

LT: You just made second class petty officer, right? Congratulations! And now you'll be heading to Bahrain to be part of Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (PATFORSWA)?

GM2: Yes, thank you. I will be assigned to a Fast Response Cutter (FRC), the USCGC Clarence Sutphin Jr (WPC-1147). I will catch the boat in Florida in April and sail up to New York for its

commissioning. From there, we will head back down to Florida for some training exercises and then in June, we will take a 60 day cruise transiting to PATFORSWA.

LT: Did you volunteer to go to PATFORSWA?

GM2: Yes. I knew I would likely be sent on a boat, and I didn't really want to just go on a boat, so I began exploring my options. The FRCs in Bahrain extend shorter tours than FRCs that remain stateside. Plus, the experiences and benefits are beyond compare! I will be tax free for a year, I will be a Priority 1 when I return (this means he will choose from the top of the list for his next job), and I will collect Sea Time, which will help me on the service-wide exam for GM1.

LT: Are you nervous?

GM2: Yes, but I am also very excited. The FRC is brand new and I will be part of the commissioning crew. I think we will be plank owners as well, so our names will be on the boat. I have never been on a cutter before. It's a new mission on a new platform, but I am so excited for the connections I'll make and the people I will meet.

LT: Do you have any other words of wisdom or advice for Sea Cadets?

GM2: Research and test out what you want to do, know what you're getting into, have all of the facts about the career or assignment before you sign on the dotted line. Educate yourself about all your options. I have seen so many shipmates who chose a certain branch or job because someone else told them to do it. It's your life. You don't want to be miserable doing something you hate. I really explored my options and I have loved every second of my career. ■



SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

ARTICLE BY:

Sea Cadet Public Affairs

The NSCC Scholarship Committee selected 20 new college scholarship award recipients, and three are being renewed. A total of 23 awards are being made this year with a total award payment of **\$50,000**.

Henry Nyland Scholarship:

CPO Hansel Lugo-Ramos, NSCC – Clermont Battalion

Stockholm Scholarship funded by the Navy League of the US – \$3,000/yr (renewable)

CPO Duncan Casey, NSCC – Alexandria Division (first year)

Stockholm Scholarship funded by the NSCC Foundation – \$3,000/yr (renewable)

CPO Jordan Young, NSCC – Constitution Division (second year)

Morgan and Helen Fitch Scholarship – \$5,000 (one year)

CPO Neil Shah, NSCC – Chesty Puller Battalion

LCDR H. E. Mooberry Scholarship funded by the NSCC Foundation – \$2,500/yr (renewable)

CPO Justin Leung, NSCC – Paul Revere Division (third year)

CPO Christopher Hansrote, NSCC – American Veterans Division (fourth year)

Harry Lee & Rose Howell Scholarship – \$3,500 (one year)

CPO Emilio Chavez, NSCC – Pyro Division

CPO Julia Knisley, NSCC – Fort McHenry Division

CPO Jacob Nowalsky, NSCC – Atlantic City Division

CPO Lana Tran, NSCC – Enterprise Division

NSCC Scholarship – \$2,000 (one year)

CPO John Smolenski, NSCC – NWS Earle Division

LCDR John Camp Scholarship funded by the Northern Virginia Council – \$2,000 (one year)

CPO Diego Valencia, NSCC – Cruiser Indianapolis Division

NSCC Board of Directors Scholarship – \$1,500 (one year)

PO3 Marcus Barker, NSCC – Central Iowa Division

CPO Ariella Clarino, NSCC – Desert Storm Division

PO1 Ryan Cullen, NSCC – South Bay Coastal Division

CPO Cameron Frye, NSCC – Cruiser Indianapolis Division

CPO Braedon Moyer, NSCC – Fort McHenry Division

CPO Ralph Ramier, NSCC – Orion Squadron

CPO Raphael Rolwes, NSCC – Battleship Missouri Division

CPO Dustin Vu, NSCC – Rear Admiral C.W. Parks Battalion

PO3 Frank Wang, NSCC – Hancock Squadron

Robert and Helen Hutton Scholarship – \$1,000 (one year)

CPO Harrison Inman, NSCC – Daytona Division

San Diego Gas & Electric Scholarship – \$1,000 (one year)

SN Christopher Kim, NSCC – Ronald Reagan Division

CPO Charles Genner, NSCC Memorial Scholarship – \$500 (one year)

CPO Kayla John, NSCC – Hudson Valley Squadron



GOING

Sea Cadet Petty Officer First Class Seth Allen, NSCC

from Alamo Battalion in San Antonio, Texas

Three and a half years ago, I was a sophomore in high school wondering about my future and how I would achieve my dreams of serving my country. My school, though academically intensive with a superb STEM curriculum, did not have the same opportunities for extracurricular activities as most high schools. I began to look for opportunities outside my school. With the help of a friend also interested in military service, we found Sea Cadets. Attending the first drill was a new, scary, and exciting experience, but I recognized how amazing the opportunities were! We participated in parades, visited museums, and went to the firefighting academy. We experienced advanced topics that most youth would never get to experience: rappelling, auto mechanics, and extinguishing fires.

In May of 2021, I attended Sea Cadet Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA) which took place on board the USS Lexington. This training was a wonderful experience. By the end of training, through hard work and dedication, I was recognized as the honor cadet. After returning to my home unit, I was promoted to Lead Petty Officer (LPO). Later that summer, I attended by far my favorite advanced training: basic airman training, hosted at the Naval Air Station JRB Fort Worth. I met cadets from across the country, worked on multiple planes and other military equipment, toured the F35 factory, and lived among and worked with Marine, Navy, and Army aviators. Similar to POLA, this was thankfully a small training. We quickly formed and kept bonds, and many of us still talk to this day.

Once the summer was over, I focused on my post as LPO and worked to make sure I left the unit better than how I found it. My cadre of petty officers and I collaborated to develop a new squad system. We also used the Remind messaging application to build up a communication system for cadets and their leadership. By the end of 2021, I promoted to Petty Officer Second Class.



At the beginning of 2022, I was informed by my Commanding Officer, followed by the Executive Director of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Rear Admiral Andrew Lennon, USN (Ret.), that I had been selected as the USNSCC Sea Cadet of the Year. I was invited to the annual Sea Cadet conference in March 2022, where I received my award and was able to meet with numerous officers and members of this great organization. While there, I was also promoted to Petty Officer First Class, my current rank. In June 2022, I graduated from high school and attended my last ever drill as a cadet.

I can say with confidence that I am proud of my time in the Sea Cadets. I have made so many fun, exciting, meaningful, and important memories as well as many, many friends -- many I hope to continue to keep in contact. I owe a debt to the Sea Cadet organization and the wonderful people inside of it for building me into the man I am today. They are incredible in all they do. I will officially be inducted into the Air Force Academy in late June and my duty now is to make them and all of my loved ones proud.

Parting Words from Our

ASHORE

Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Scott Beemer, NSCC

from Black Eagles Squadron in Gilbert, Arizona

I started out as a League Cadet in mid-2014 when I was 10, and in 2017 I became a Sea Cadet. During my 8 years in the program, I have been to many trainings. Two of my favorite trainings were Basic Medical and Honors and Ceremonies. I've had the opportunity to participate in many great events and parades. I was part of the Color Guard team, eventually becoming my unit's Color Guard Commander.

During my time as a Sea Cadet, I learned the extensive histories of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps. I learned how to be responsible for myself; and as I became entrusted with more and more responsibilities, I learned how to be responsible for others as well. The Sea Cadet chiefs and petty officers played a big part in teaching me how to be a good leader. I also learned through my own mistakes. My other shipmates have also helped me grow as a leader as I have turned to them many times to see if I can do better in the future. One of the things I learned from U.S. Navy Chiefs was that my performance is based on the performance of my shipmates, so I made sure they were always doing their best.

I've also made a lot of great friends as a Sea Cadet, and I have met many amazing people and been given opportunities that I could not have been given with any other program -- one of which was attending the 75th Pearl Harbor Anniversary in Hawaii in 2016.

I was very shy when I first started the program; but as I got to know my shipmates, I became more and more comfortable with them and other people. Throughout all of this, one of the most important lessons I have learned is to just try. You don't have to fail, you don't have to succeed, but at least you can tell everyone you tried your best.



Graduating Sea Cadets!

GOING

Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Halley Clark, NSCC

from Cruiser Indianapolis (CA-35) Division in Indianapolis, Indiana

During my three and a half years in the Sea Cadets, the most valuable lesson I have learned is the extreme importance of respect. Without it, a team cannot thrive, a unit will not grow, and people will obey orders based in fear and not in understanding. I have known many respectable and fantastic leaders in this program; yet, my favorites all had one thing in common: they led from the front. They earned respect by running next to us during the PRT, comforting homesick cadets, volunteering for the messiest cleaning details, and accepting corrections alongside us. I think of the standard they set every time I put on my uniform. Watching new cadets rise in leadership with these values gives me much happiness for the future of my unit and for this program.

I experienced seven trainings while in Sea Cadets, where I met many of those caring leaders. My favorite training was when I had the opportunity to return to the Central Kentucky Training Contingent, the place of my first advanced training, to staff Navy League Orientation (NLO). We had a few dozen League Cadets; and as a Sea Cadet Petty Officer Second Class, I was still navigating the waters of leadership. Although my fellow staff cadets and I faced many challenges, we leaned on each other to overcome them. In the end, watching all those bright-eyed League Cadets graduate was very rewarding. I was elated to see their transformation into capable and experienced cadets.

An enlisted U.S. Navy Sailor recently gave my shipmates and me a piece of advice: "sometimes our biggest obstacle is our mind." Whether a Sea Cadet recruit training or a career in the military, a negative mindset can break you down. One of the best things we can do is have a positive and confident perspective to help overcome barriers. Have self-assurance in your abilities, and push forward no matter the challenge.



Parting Words from Our

ASHORE

Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Arik Getchel, NSCC

from Theodore Roosevelt Division in East Moriches, New York

I grew up by the ocean, spent most of my days on the water, and saw myself one day pursuing a career in the Navy. I joined Sea Cadets to help me better discern whether a military career was the right choice.

During my first summer as a Sea Cadet, I attended Recruit Training in Front Royal, Virginia where I faced many challenges but never gave up. After Recruit Training, I attended a training aboard the SS John Brown, where I learned line handling, ship navigation, engineering, and quarterdeck watches. This training helped me realize that Sea Cadets get to experience what others our age cannot. My most extensive advice to cadets would be to take advantage of all the opportunities available in Sea Cadets.

After attending Petty Officer Leadership Academy, I was assigned leadership positions at my unit. My first billet was master-at-arms, then color guard commander, then leading petty officer where I led a significant number of cadets. These multiple leadership positions motivated me to perform better; because at this stage, I knew that my subordinates were looking to me for guidance.

My proudest accomplishment as a Sea Cadet was attending Naval Special Warfare Orientation Courses (NSWOC). I participated in the Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen (SWCC) training where I learned special warfare tactics such as reconnaissance, close quarters battle, mission planning, and fast-roping. This training helped reinforce in my mind to never give up.

I am currently enrolled at the Merchant Marine Academy, Class of 2026. Sea Cadets helped me grow as an individual in my leadership and military bearing. I am thankful for having been a Sea Cadet because I feel I will be above everyone else when it comes to military knowledge. I know many things now like how to march, work as a team, and wear the uniform.



Graduating Sea Cadets!

GOING

Sea Cadet Petty Officer First Class Matthew Martin, NSCC

from Blue Angles Squadron in Seattle, Washington

I was introduced to the Sea Cadet program by a friend in seventh grade, and started to look into it further when I saw Sea Cadets at a local event. Ever since I was four years old, I wanted to join the military. When I found out there was a military style youth program that I could join, I was absolutely hooked. I remember first getting my uniform and how awesome I felt wearing my Sea Cadets uniform.

I attended Sea Cadet Recruit Training at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center in Oregon. Some of my staff cadets stood out as they wore the Woodland camouflage pattern uniform instead of the Type I uniform that everyone else wore. Those cadets turned out to be Sea Cadet Naval Special Warfare Orientation Course (NSWOC) graduates. I knew from that moment I wanted to do NSWOC.

Following Recruit Training, I attended Master at Arms (MAA) at Camp Casey in Washington state. That same summer, I attended Small Boat Operations at the Coast Guard base in Seattle, which is where my unit holds its drills. The following winter, I attended Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA), where I graduated as the honor cadet. Shortly after, I started training for NSWOC. I was determined to go to NSWOC. I installed a pull-up bar in a doorway frame, went on runs through the neighborhood, and swam at the pool regularly. At the same time, I did online FAA ground school (earning my wings). Winter of 2020-2021, I did not attend any trainings. I, instead, upped my training regimen and started the application process for NSWOC. Concurrently, I faced my fear of deep water and was SCUBA certified.

The NSWOC application is rigorous and no easy feat, consisting of a large medical examination board, personal essay, commanding officer recommendation, and capped off with the Navy SEAL Physical Screening Test (PST). The first time I took the PST I failed. I did fine in all events except for the 1.5-mile run, where I went over time. I felt defeated. I wanted this! Two days later, with the encouragement of my mother and one of my NJROTC instructors, I passed. That summer I went to NSWOC. I made strong connections to all of those guys I trained with, and I call many of them brothers. NSWOC have given me a community where I feel at home. These peers and the Sea Cadet program have helped me push mental and physical barriers. I started off as a shy kid and really grew. I will soon graduate to do NROTC and hopefully commission into the Navy as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) officer.



Parting Words from Our

ASHORE

Sea Cadet Petty Officer Second Class Tyler Morasse, NSCC

from Iwo Jima Division in Carmel, New York

By being a Sea Cadet, I have grown in ways that go much further than just leadership and military knowledge. The Sea Cadet program has molded me mentally and physically in ways that I never expected.

I joined Sea Cadets because I'd set the goal of going to the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA).

I thought the Sea Cadets would just be a walk in the park. I was wrong! At the time, I was overweight and very apprehensive about exercise. I quickly realized that the physical training involved with Sea Cadets was not for the faint-hearted. I fell behind in runs, I failed to meet the sit-up standards, and I just barely squeezed out the minimum push-ups. This failure to perform went on for the first several months that I was in Sea Cadets. I knew I needed to change, but I remained stagnant. It wasn't until Recruit Training was coming that I knew that this was my shot. It was my time to prove myself. I had four months to train and become the person I knew I was capable of becoming. I found I loved running and lifting weights. I lost weight and began to prepare my mind for the challenges life may throw at me.

My Recruit Training was the most memorable time I've had in the Sea Cadets. The challenges that it gave me were something that I'll be forever grateful. There is no better feeling than giving your all for something you believe in. After graduating from Recruit Training as an Honor Cadet, I realized my hard work paid off, as I was appointed to the position of Squad Leader in my home unit a few months later. I knew that this was going to get me one step closer to my dream of attending the USNA.

At Petty Officer Leadership Academy, I learned many valuable lessons in leadership that I'll use for the rest of my life. However, my greatest lesson in leadership has come from simply helping others. The reward from seeing those under me succeed will always be better than any reward for myself.

In the end, I reached my goal and received an appointment to the Naval Academy. I'm excited to begin my career in the Navy. It's been a long journey and the Sea Cadets helped me get there.



Graduating Sea Cadets!

GOING

Sea Cadet Petty Officer First Class Nicholas Robery, NSCC

from Franklin D. Roosevelt Squadron in Jacksonville, Florida

I've had many opportunities to grow as a leader in the Sea Cadets. My most valuable lesson learned through the Sea Cadets has been how to be an effective leader. I've learned that not everyone is motivated the same way and that I need to make personal connections with Cadets. I have taken over the responsibilities of the leaders before me and passed on my knowledge to the upcoming leaders.

Two trainings were my favorite during my time in the Sea Cadets. The first was recruit training. I worked hard and was chosen as a Company Honor Cadet. My second favorite was a SCUBA training in Florida. I knew I loved the water, and wanted to go to college for marine science. Since then, I have done many other SCUBA trainings including advanced open water training.

My advice to Cadets is from Wayne Gretzky, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." Take advantage of every training and opportunity that you can. Remember to give back. Volunteering is a great way to give back and help your community. I plan to volunteer in the Sea Cadets as a Midshipman. I will be attending college in the fall majoring in animal and marine sciences.



Parting Words from Our

ASHORE

Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Andrew Scalfani-Cohen, NSCC

from The Sullivans Division in Buffalo, New York

I am shaken awake in my rack. It's two in the morning, and it is time for me to take charge and supervise the middle watch until four. I drowsily stumble through the passageways and hatches, the thunk of my boots on the deck breaking the monotony of the soft hum of the ship. Finally, I arrive at the quarterdeck, dismiss the current watch, and begin the herculean task of not passing out for two hours.

This is the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

I've been in the program for nearly five years and been both a leader and a follower. Through the program, I've volunteered to serve my community and have been served by the adult volunteers who are the program's backbone. Ever since I joined the Sea Cadet program, I looked up to the leadership and desired to be in their position. To put it bluntly, though, leadership is hard. While difficult and often stressful, the responsibility is truly rewarding.

My experience as a Staff Cadet at Sea Cadet Recruit Training last summer was especially representative of my experience with leadership: I was dead tired, challenged, stressed, and busy. Although many of my nights were filled with middle watch and limited sleep, the experience of seeing my cadets improve through work hard and perseverance made it worth it. It felt like a privilege to be up at two in the morning standing on the quarterdeck with my recruits, giving them advice, and learning about them.

The leadership experience in Sea Cadets has served me extraordinarily well already. The program has helped me come out of my shell and gain confidence in my ability to lead others effectively. This experience has also taught me that a focused collective effort accomplishes goals more effectively and with superior success than an individual effort. I've learned firsthand that trying to solo a project usually leads to failure. Building a team bond with trust is much more fruitful. Leaders have to trust their subordinates, and I learned to delegate and place confidence in them. These learning moments have occurred throughout my Sea Cadet career making me a more well-rounded person and leader.

My final advice for anyone in Sea Cadets is to fully embrace its opportunities and lessons. It's worth it.



Graduating Sea Cadets!

GOING ASHORE

Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Alessia Velasquez, NSCC

from Lone Star Squadron in Fort Worth, Texas

Throughout the years of my experience with Sea Cadet, I have consistently discovered new possibilities at every turn. My 11-year-old self would have stared in disbelief if told she would have the honor of serving as a Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer. To me, Chief's were the guiding force of their units and the role models that all cadets looked up to. They were the keepers of tradition, responsible for passing down the collective knowledge of generations of previous chiefs. Ultimately, it seemed that Chief's were cut from the same cloth, and that tapestry of experiences appeared beyond my qualifications.

In the beginning, I had no realization of all what Sea Cadets had to offer to someone like myself. As I grew into my unit and learned from those around me, I discovered the brotherhood of military service. During my first few months in the Sea Cadets, I consistently had to learn how to redirect my self-doubt. The responsibilities that I had as a cadet seemed heavy to shoulder. Slowly, I became proficient at each task. The camaraderie with the other cadets became a focal point -- we were satellites striving towards a common goal. The sameness and unity made me realize what I was missing all along. The solution was not something to be discovered, the answer was uncovered from within myself! The resiliency and tenacity hidden within my core were suddenly mined as a valuable resource. I am capable of anything if I dedicate myself to accomplishing a goal.

Not to say that there won't be learning opportunities (i.e., failures) along my path. In the end, I left the program knowing that I gave it my all. There is great value in gaining insights from misguided steps. Future challenges will be peppered with the wisdom from my collective experiences. I hope that you, the reader, will see yourself in some of my message and realize that you, too, can navigate and achieve any goal. I advise you to push aside slivers of doubt whenever you find yourself at odds with a daunting task or goal and think "I can" instead of "What if?" Once you believe you can do it, anything is possible!



Parting Words from Our Graduating Sea Cadets



DONATE TODAY TO SUPPORT SEA CADETS

Your donation **helps us:**

Reach more young people across the nation,
Provide valuable **hands-on training** for cadets,
Support units in less well-resourced areas, and
Achieve our mission to **build leaders with character**

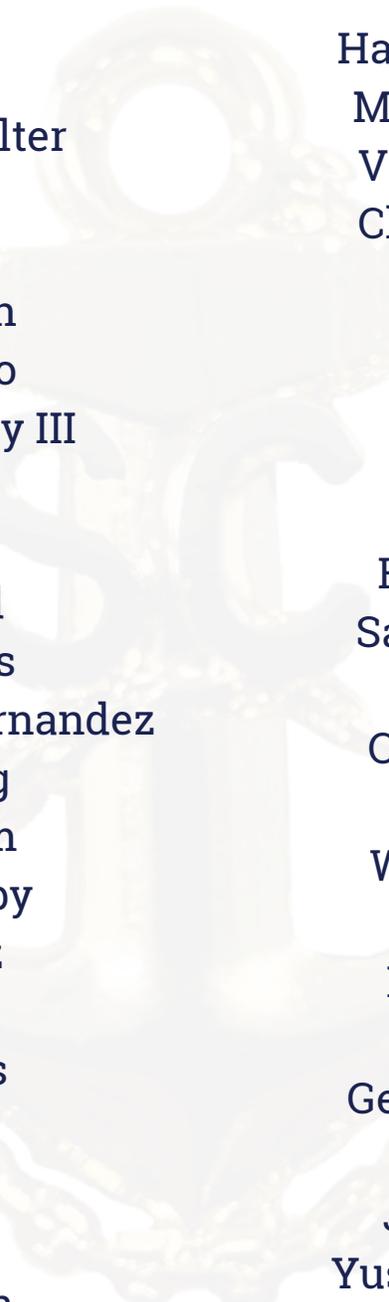
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*If you'd like to know more about how you can support Sea Cadets,
contact Jonsie Stone, Sea Cadets Development Director
at jstone@seacadets.org*



SEA CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER LIST

Bravo Zulu to these exceptional leaders of character!
Advancements from 17FEB22 to 30MAY22



Dana Bantug	Hansel Lugo-Ramos
Marc Bolanos	Matthew Martinez
Nathaniel Buckhalter	Viktoria Matysiak
Nico Carbone	Clayton Meggison
Joseph Colizzi	Kaden Molter
Jacob Crossman	Logan Molter
Diallo De Landro	Gabriel Moritz
Richard Dubnansky III	Josiah Nelson
Joshua Enfield	Mya Ponziani
Joseph Ewing	Katelyn Roberts
Jared Fairchild	Samuel Rodriguez
Christian Febles	Athan Roman
Gabrielle Angylyka Fernandez	Christian Roman
Allyson Floding	Lucas Santos
Douglas Graham	William Shaeffer
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