

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

SEAFARER

December 2022 • No. 4

COAST GUARD

Alumnus and Career Highlights

SUNY MARITIME

Learning to Sail

S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S.

Rescue Emergency Search Training



HANDS-ON TRAINING

Inspiring America's Future Leaders

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: USCG Station Golden Gate Training • Overcoming Adversity • Why Mission Matters



CELEBRATING OUR 60TH YEAR



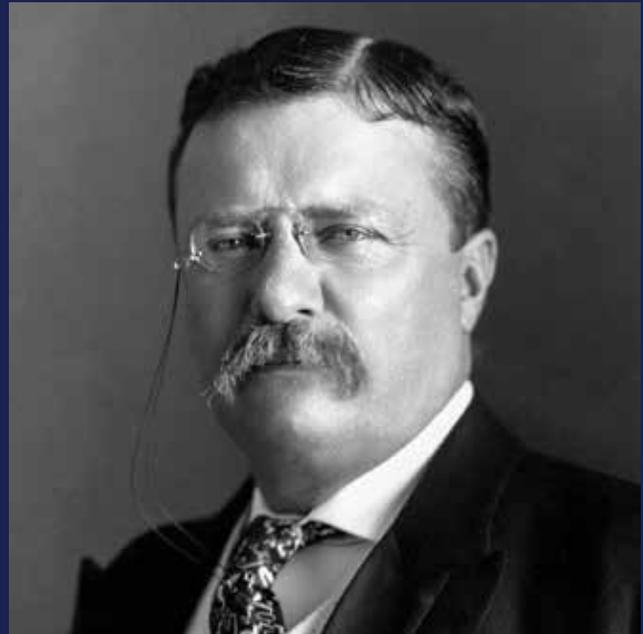
**RADM ANDREW LENNON, USN (RET.)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



EDITORIAL

I was recently reacquainted with President Theodore Roosevelt's famous words known as "The Man in the Arena." Its comparison between those who critique and those who strive is as relevant today as when it was written more than a century ago. My interpretation of Roosevelt's words is that your life is defined by the effort you put forth. Of course, sometimes we'll fail along the way as we take on new and difficult challenges. That's ok; sometimes failure is proof that we're trying. I believe that sincere attempts and honest effort are what life is all about. I have found that the risk of missed opportunity almost always outweighs the consequences of failing. I have a copy of "The Man in the Arena" posted in my office. I encourage you to find a copy, read it, and be inspired.

So, chart your course, choose your adventure, and as Roosevelt recommends: "dare greatly."



THE SEA CADET SEAFARER • December 2022 • No. 04

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF

Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Halley Clark, NSCC
of the Cruiser Indianapolis (CA-35) Division in Indianapolis, Indiana

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"WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING NOW IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE."

A LETTER FROM: CAPT RICHTER TIPTON, USCG COMMANDING OFFICER U.S. COAST GUARD RECRUITING COMMAND

I am so very proud to be affiliated with the Sea Cadets as part of my duties as the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard's Recruiting Command and as an officer in the United States Military Services. You have all, cadets, officers, and adult volunteers alike, shown me that I should have been a Sea Cadet. You see, I came to know your fine organization later in life through great friends, my Coast Guard family, and my current command. I wish that I had learned about this amazing organization sooner as every aspect of the Sea Cadet organization speaks to me personally.

I have learned that you, the nearly 6,000 Sea Cadets in the program, train on a variety of naval bases and military institutions. As a South Texas native, I rarely left the Gulf Coast in my youth, but was never far from a military base – bases that had Sea Cadets aboard I would learn much later. Following my father's example of military service, I accepted an appointment to the Coast Guard Academy. Through the academy and various follow-on tours, I learned the principles of honor, respect, commitment, and service. How much farther along would I have been had I started with the Sea Cadets a decade earlier?

While not all of us can serve in the military, there is a need for Sea Cadet principles and mission in every aspect of our society. What you are learning now is vitally important to our future. I would have loved to have had the Sea Cadet origin story, because I know now what I was missing. I have shared my commitment to helping our young people find their place in the Sea Cadets. In me, you will have a tireless advocate. Each and every one of you should be proud to be part of this outstanding Sea Cadet organization. You make a difference every single day!

SEMPER PARATUS.



FROM SEA CADET TO COAST GUARD CAPTAIN



ARTICLE BY: CAPT HOLLY R. HARRISON, USCG

My Coast Guard career began when I joined the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC). I didn't know what I was getting myself into, but I quickly found out. Sea Cadet boot camp pushed me out of my comfort zone in unexpected ways. I thrived working with my division to overcome the challenges put in front of us, and graduated with a new sense of self-confidence and purpose that set me on my path.

Through the USNSCC, I was led to experiences with the Coast Guard. At 16 years old, I found myself at Coast Guard Station Miami Beach where the crew and I interdicted (intercepted) illegal substances from entering the country, rescued a couple on a disabled vessel drifting out to sea late one night, and recovered the remains of a deceased diver. It was an adventure and I couldn't wait for more!

Fast forward to the present. I've commanded three of the six ships and operated north of Alaska, the Middle East, throughout the Pacific and Caribbean, across the Atlantic, and down the coast of West Africa. The Coast Guard has taken me to over 70 countries around the world. I've rescued many mariners in distress, boarded commercial fishing vessels in the heavy seas of Alaska's Bering Sea, captured drug smugglers, countered armed Iranian Republican Guard fast attack craft, built schools and hospitals during foreign port calls, and witnessed the magnificence of the aurora borealis and sunsets as can only be seen at sea. Many shipmates from every single one of my units, including my USNSCC division, are lifelong friends.

To those who volunteer to lead and support cadets without whom this program would not be possible, thank you! You positively impact cadets in ways you can't imagine. Without you, I wouldn't have found my home in the Coast Guard.

To the cadets, the USNSCC allowed me to explore our sea services to find what worked for me. I knew ahead of time what I was getting into and was much better prepared as a result. Find what you are passionate about and make the most of it. Capitalize on all the USNSCC has to offer, to learn, grow, and find out what's best for you. Whether you join a military service or chose another path, you'll have gained invaluable life skills, knowledge, and a better understanding of what it means to serve others.

To contact CAPT Harrison
about the Coast Guard
or her USNSCC experience
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GoCoastGuard.com



SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE HOSTS



Earlier this year, the USNSCC shook hands on a solid partnership with the State University of New York Maritime College (SUNY). SUNY Maritime not only lends its facilities to the local Sea Cadet Corps unit (George Washington Division) for monthly drills, but it's also the setting for national advanced trainings.

The Sea Cadet seamanship advanced training was led by highly skilled, university-level instructors that mentored and empowered cadets in operating several kinds of small boats provided by the maritime college.

Sea Cadets woke up to a typical daily routine: 0600 PT overlooking the Manhattan skyline and then marching to morning chow at the university's mess deck. From 0800 to 1800, cadets practiced a series of activities with keelboats, sailboats, dinghies, powerboats, and kayaks. It involved safety and sailing skills, navigation, chart readings, following buoys, moor and cleat skills, man-overboard training, and search and rescue exercises. One of the biggest challenges was "righting a 420," which meant cadets had to intentionally capsize their 420-class sailing boat, cling to its centerboard, then work to right the boat.

By mid-day, the manicured peninsula under the Throggs Neck bridge echoed military cadences from cadets marching to and from the mess deck into Fort Schuyler, where they learned how

SAIL TRAINING

to navigate cargo ships at the on-campus \$3M-ship simulator. Daily afternoon classroom time prepared the cadets to test for their boater card, good in all 50 states!

An unforgettable experience was the build-your-own-boat competition and racing in the boat, as well as powerboating over to watch the air traffic at LaGuardia Airport as the planes took off and landed.

Lastly, Cadets learned the proper way to abandon ship by jumping off the 20-ft diving board, learned how to survive a capsizing ship, crawled on the wet and slippery surfaces of the climbing wall at the pool, and used uniforms as life preservers. As added fun, the college made their Olympic-size pool available to the cadets for liberty time.

This training motivated cadets to expand outside of their comfort zone and find success in areas they had never had opportunities to explore before. The Sea Cadet Corps is very grateful to SUNY Maritime for this partnership.



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**ARTICLE BY:
SEA CADET ENS KIMBERLY LOWE, NSCC & SEA CADET ENS PRISKA DIAZ, NSCC**



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**S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S. TRAINING
TENNESSEE
SUMMER 2022**

SEA CADET CPO OLIVIA SCHWAB, NSCC
Lone Sailor Division

Going into this training, I thought all I was going to do was some rappelling, hiking, and learning some very basic things about rescue. Well, I did do all those things... plus so much more. I not only pushed myself physically, but mentally. I didn't think I was going to be that anxious rappelling down the bluff or even rappelling off the 40-ft wall, but I was wrong. Almost every time I rappelled, my hands and legs were shaking and I was soaked in sweat. With the help of the amazing instructors, I'd take a few deep breaths, tell myself "You can do this," and would start my descent. The more I rappelled, the more comfortable I was with myself and my gear, and I was having fun!

SEA CADET PO3 JEFFREY BROWN, NSCC
The American Victory Division

The instructors looked in our eyes and told us that we cannot say "can't" from that day forward. We learned a rescue cannot happen without your team and to trust your team and instructors unconditionally. We were motivated with every challenge and were congratulated each time we succeeded. Most faced a fear of heights, of bugs, and even small spaces – my struggle was small spaces. One minute I saw the sun and the next I was being coached through a small, dark tunnel. I was scared, but my team didn't let me feel alone. As I exited the tunnel, I was reminded of a phrase that an instructor told us nearly every day "Fear is just like a mist, all you have to do is walk through it." For the first time, I understood what that really meant.

SEA CADET PO1 BREANNA PENINGER, NSCC
The American Victory Division

Over the course of the week, the skills we learned were exponentially increased. We were given the challenging task of implementing those basic skills, but with the safety of a cadet involved. One of my favorite team-building activities was setting up the systems for rappelling and hoisting the Stokes rescue basket. We learned to pull cadets up in a Stokes basket and how to send a Stokes basket over the bluff safely. Before embarking on this training, all of these terms were unfamiliar to me, but they started to become second nature by the end of the training.

SEA CADET CPO JARED FAIRCHILD, NSCC
Lone Sailor Division

We learned basic rappelling, setting anchors, tying knots and how to use our personal protective (PPE) gear. More importantly, we learned that we were on call 24-7 for whatever rescues that could happen in the area, learned about the different types of extractions from high or low angle environments, and how to get in and out of those situations by rappelling down or being raised out of the location with the



target (victim). After lunch our first day, we got a call for help. Fortunately, all of our instructors were certified rescuers.

SEA CADET SA DEVIN FAIRCHILD, NSCC
Lone Sailor Division

It started like any other training, except for the fact that we were on a mountain! I was nervous and excited about the coming adventure ahead of me. Later on, INST Todd got a call and told us we needed to go help an injured hiker on the mountain. As the hiker was being brought down the mountain from where he'd fallen, we realized this wasn't going to be easy to extract him from the trail. We had to cross over a creek carrying the hiker strapped into the Stokes rescue basket. I was able to help carry him, but the basket was too heavy for me to do it for very long.

SEA CADET SN CHARLIE HALDEMAN, NSCC
John T Dempster/Trenton Division

While we were having class, we received a call that a man had fallen off a cliff and was severely injured. The Walden's Ridge Emergency Services (W.R.E.S.) had already responded to the scene, but they needed more manpower due to the inaccessibility of the trail.





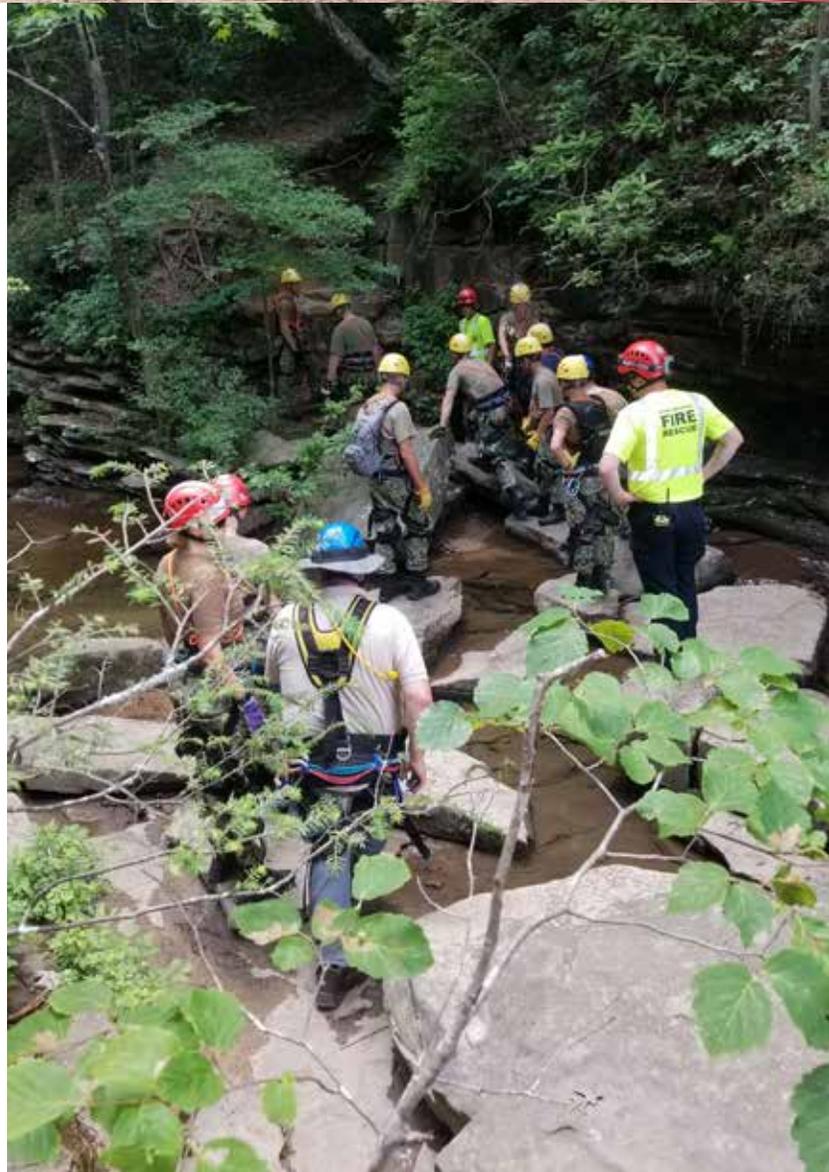
When we arrived, W.R.E.S had already placed the man in a Stokes rescue basket and lowered him down from his higher position on the mountain; however, the basket needed to be hand-carried and transported a half-mile along the trail to the parking lot where the ambulance was standing by. We passed the Stokes basket hand-over-hand across the creek and onto the trail. Once the basket was off the sharp incline, we attached a wheel to the bottom, which made the load a lot easier to carry.

SEA CADET SA AIDAN CARTER, NSCC
Asheville Freedom Division

Helping with the rescue made me understand what it is really like to rescue someone. I want to be an officer in the United States Coast Guard. Rescuing people is one of the main missions of the Coast Guard. This rescue made me want to be in the Coast Guard even more.

SEA CADET PO3 JAYDON ANDERSON, NSCC
The American Victory Division

I'd planned on enlisting in the Coast Guard as a gunner's mate; but after the feeling of helping save someone, it has made me think more about the rescue swimmer rate. This training taught me a lot in the course of 9 days and was really one of the best trainings for me.



SEA CADET P02 MAXIMUS SUMMAR, NSCC Clermont Battalion

After completing the rescue, we went back to training and studying for our written and field tests. We rappelled and climbed from towers and mountains, learned additional knots and anchoring systems, pulley systems and mechanical advantages. We were taught methods for raising and lowering the load. These skills are all critical in rope rescue and it was our main focus for nine days.

My favorite part of the training was our days at the bluff. We took a three-mile hike to it, set up our equipment, and got to work. We all rappelled down a 200-foot mountain. We did a low angle rescue exercise as well as many more rope rescue drills. They were very demanding (physically and mentally), and some were pretty scary; yet we all faced our fears and accomplished it all!



**SEA CADET SN LUCAS BARFIELD, NSCC
Lone Sailor Division**

On day three, we had a fun PT and played speedball. Later, we were on the tower learning vital rescue skills. By the fourth day of training, we learned how to rescue and properly save others with our issued gear. Saturday was our fifth day of training. We woke up bright and early, made our lunches, and hiked into Edwards Point. Once there, we rappelled and conducted low angle rescues. Sunday, we completed high angle rescues at Edwards Point and trained some more on low angle rescues. On Monday, we traveled to the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center and later to the Coast Guard Station where we toured a Coast Guard Cutter and swam in the Tennessee River.

**SEA CADET SN HUDSON FAY, NSCC
Lone Sailor Division**

In our down time, we sang. We sang A LOT. My favorite part of the training was helping with a high angle rescue and seeing the team members' faces after completing it. This training will stick with me for the rest of my life. It's a great challenge for anyone looking to leave their comfort zone and make lifelong friends while doing so. I say attend this training!



A tall, narrow wooden tower with a metal railing at the top. A group of about ten people are standing on the top platform, leaning on the railing. The tower's exterior is made of dark, weathered wood panels. A small window with a metal grate is visible on the side of the tower. At the base of the tower, a larger group of about twenty people, mostly in military-style clothing and wearing orange safety harnesses, are posing for a group photo. The background shows a clear sky and some greenery.

**"FEAR IS JUST LIKE A MIST,
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS
WALK THROUGH IT."**

FROM LEAGUE CADET TO SEA CADET

ARTICLE BY: LT LAURA GAROFALO, USCG

When he was ten years old, Steven Naylor joined the Barque Eagle Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in Plainville, CT. Little did he know he would stay in the program until he graduated high school, and use the skills and experiences he gained to develop an impressive Coast Guard career.

Initially, Steven wanted to join the Navy; but while he was in the Sea Cadets, his unit was able to get back in touch with the Coast Guard Cutter Eagle and Station New London (CT) to gain hands-on experience alongside the Coast Guard. He had participated in several Navy training programs throughout his Sea Cadet career, but he appreciated the level of interaction, camaraderie, and rapport the Coasties of all ranks built with the cadets. He also really enjoyed the law enforcement capabilities that the Coast Guard had to offer. It was the best of two careers he was interested in: military and law enforcement. When Steven was not offered an appointment to the Coast Guard Academy as he'd planned, he altered his course and set his sights on a new goal: maritime academy graduate (MARGRAD).

Steven chose Massachusetts Maritime Academy and completed a degree in emergency management homeland security. When he applied to the MARGRAD program, though, he was told his degree didn't qualify him for the program -- but he didn't give up! In 2012, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and served aboard the 210-foot Coast Guard cutter Resolute where he went through the boatswain's mate (BM) striker program (a program that enables Coasties to strike, or complete training for their specific rating through on-the-job training). During his striker program, Steven worked with his company sponsor from boot camp to enable him to apply for the MARGRAD program. He described his journey to success as "a lot of meeting the right people at the right time." One week after he finished the BM striker program, he was notified he'd been accepted to the MARGRAD program and would be attending the Direct Commission Officer program in 2014.

Upon commissioning, Steven went back to a 210 cutter and reported as a brand-new ensign aboard the USCGC Vigilant out of Cape Canaveral, FL. He attributes the ease he felt being a new officer to his

experience in the Sea Cadets as well as his time as a non-rate on the USCGC Resolute, "I knew the basics of seamanship, and having this experience allowed me to simply enjoy being in the Coast Guard."

Steven was afforded the opportunity to participate in the Navy Exchange and served onboard the USS O'Kane (an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer out of Pearl Harbor, HI) for two years as the ships navigator and executive department head. From there, he served with Joint Interagency Task Force South for two years, despite mentors advising him that serving outside of the Coast Guard for two consecutive tours could potentially be detrimental to his Coast Guard career. Steven trusted his own intuition to steer his course, and he was right!

**"...LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS AND
RELATIONSHIPS WITH SHIPMATES
THAT ARE INVALUABLE."**

In 2020, Steven took command of the USCGC Robert Ward, a fast response cutter (FRC) out of Los Angeles. From a personal standpoint, he described the day he took command as his best day in the Coast Guard. The FRC was responsible for patrolling nearly the entire west coast from Oregon to Guatemala, and his crew is credited with the largest at-sea methamphetamine seizure by the Coast Guard.

Professionally, Steven has had many great days in the Coast Guard, but he said the most fulfilling aspect of being in the Coast Guard is seeing the successes of those he has worked with. He described the relationship between his subordinates and himself as partnerships – they all worked alongside one another to complete the mission.

Steven currently serves as the military aide to Vice Admiral Kevin Lunday, Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, in which he supports the admiral in all facets, ensuring the admiral's overall success in his position directing Coast Guard forces and operations from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf.

TO ENLISTED COASTIE TO COAST GUARD OFFICER



Some words of wisdom from now LT Steven Naylor: "When I was a cadet, not getting into the Coast Guard Academy or Officer Candidate School was depressing at first, but then I realized those setbacks wouldn't change my goals; I just had to find a different route. There are many ways to accomplish goals. If one door closes, there are 15 more to open. Look at closed doors as an opportunity to find another way. I've spent my career following two quotes that I've been told day in and day out by my parents: first, take care of your people and they'll take care of you; and second, if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. I'm happy to say I have worked very few days in the Coast Guard and I have gained lifelong relationships and friendships with shipmates that are invaluable."





TRAINING AT COAST GUARD STATION GOLDEN GATE, CALIFORNIA

SEA CADET CPO BREEANNA LAPENNA, NSCC Clermont Battalion

This summer, I was able to spend a Sea Cadet week training at the Coast Guard Station Golden Gate, located in Sausalito, CA along with three other Sea Cadets. Each day consisted of a different Plan of the Day (POD). We went underway on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with the Coast Guard staff and they allowed us to observe them performing different training drills, such as man overboard or towing vessels. If you asked, they'd let you take a shot at it, too! After returning to the station, we'd stay down by the dock learning about knot tying, boat terms, how to throw heaving lines, etc.

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday we were on the boats doing maintenance, which consisted of sweeping, testing gear (like the life jackets), oiling chairs, or just some simple tidying up. In between all the learning, we got to experience the rush of the

alarm call, running down to the dock, throwing on our gear, and going out to real calls like downed kite surfers or boats with mechanical issues.



The workday started at 7 AM and usually ran until 3 PM. Afterward was when we'd all unwind, hit the gym, help the chef in the kitchen, or after a yummy meal (and I mean INCREDIBLE), we'd play 8 rounds or so of volleyball...very competitive volleyball. Our days came complete with an emotional support dog named Oscar, who was very friendly and loved to play. I made friendship bonds that I'll never forget. I was also honored to have sit-down with one of the on-duty "Coasties" to help form a framework of tasks & milestones for cadets to complete and get signed off during the training.

SEA CADET CPO JUAN HERNANDEZ, NSCC Col Lewis L Millet Division

Have you ever been interested in joining the Coast Guard or ever thought about it? Then the Coast Guard training that's offered for Sea Cadets 15-years old and up might be for you. I attended the U.S. Coast Guard Station training in San Francisco, CA this summer.

At first, I wasn't too sure about what the Coast Guard actually did every day. However, after spending 8 days at Coast Guard Station Golden Gate, I now have a pretty good understanding of the jobs within the Coast Guard and how hard they work.

I would highly recommend this training if you want to challenge yourself and do something different from the basic Sea Cadet trainings. Be prepared to go out on a call anytime the Coast Guard receives one, eat good food, work on the boats, and play volleyball with the Coast Guard. The week I was there, we had the added bonus of a visit from the Executive Director of Sea Cadet National Headquarters, retired Rear Admiral Andrew Lennon. This training was one that I'm glad I signed up for and would recommend it for those who want to expand their view and see how the Coast Guard operates.

SEA CADET SA CHLOE NGUYEN, NSCC Chesty Puller Battalion

My Coast Guard Station training experience at the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Station Golden Gate this summer was unbelievable, and I am so thankful for the hands-on experience of what the USCG does on a daily basis. I learned how the Coast Guard operates, and they treated me like I was part of their crew. I worked with and was aboard both their boats and participated in the daily activities of the



station. I even got to go on the Helo Ops (Helicopter Operations) training that they perform weekly.

During the training, the executive director of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, retired Navy RADM Andrew Lennon visited. The executive director shared words of wisdom, and my shipmates and I got to share our ideas and suggestions about the Sea Cadet Corps. I appreciated that my voice was heard and that some of my ideas might contribute to the program. I am grateful for the training and the surprise visit from RADM Lennon.

SEA CADET PO3 DAMIEN GUERRERO, NSCC Pasadena Division

During the Sea Cadet Coast Guard Station training at Golden Gate, the Sea Cadet executive director retired RADM Andy Lennon visited the USCG Station as a surprise. It was such an honor and wonderful experience to meet him.

The Coast Guard training exceeded my expectations. The food was some of the best I've ever had at any Sea Cadet training. The Coast Guard personnel treated us cadets like we were one of them, and they really put us to work. I would really recommend this training to everyone who wants to join the military, whether it's commissioning or enlisting. I will definitely apply to attend this training again next year!

SEA CADET SN AXL SERIL, NSCC RADM Charles W Parks Battalion

Being at U.S. Coast Guard Station Golden Gate was a beautiful experience. There was an unbeatable view of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco. It was enjoyable to be able to learn about the Coast Guard at such a sublime location. While I was there, I was able to partake in the various daily tasks of the Coast Guard. From boat checks to maintenance, there were a variety of things to do.

One interesting post at the station were the Culinary Specialists. They were always working hard serving delicious food. We also had the opportunity to go underway for Helo Ops (helicopter operations), a weekly routine where they practice various scenarios with a helicopter. There was also a pleasant surprise from Sea Cadet Corps National Headquarters Executive Director retired Navy RADM Andrew Lennon, National Headquarters Area Representative retired Navy HMC Vahan Manoogian, and Senior Regional Director LCDR Pete Wright, USNSCC. They had a conversation with us about the Sea Cadet program and we discussed our experiences as cadets, how they affected us, and how to better the program. Overall, it was a great experience to have had that talk and be able to communicate about leadership and benefiting this program.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

ARTICLE BY: SEA CADET MIDN OLIVER SWIMELEY, NSCC



The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) has allowed me to serve my country and my community, even while being disabled, because Sea Cadet leaders of character come in all different shapes, sizes, and abilities. I have been in the program since 2018 and have mild Cerebral Palsy. I thought military service was completely out of the question for me; but when I found the Sea Cadet Corps, my dreams suddenly became restored.

When I graduated from the Sea Cadets, I achieved the rank of Seaman Apprentice and did not plan on stopping my service anytime soon. I returned to the unit as an adult volunteer and am serving as the unit's Executive Officer. I plan to continue to serve until I physically cannot anymore.

The USNSCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which must follow the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Sea Cadet Corps authorizes accommodations for most disabilities so members are able to serve to their fullest extent possible. When I was a Sea Cadet, a few of my modifications included modified pushups, rest more often, and having access to a brace when I needed it.

Some of the best advice I can give to any cadet is to not be afraid to advocate for yourself. Talk to your shipmates about your condition if you feel comfortable. I feel as though I was put on this earth to educate people about my disability and to show people how to be more kind, caring and compassionate.

The Sea Cadet Corps' mission is to build leaders of character and these leaders come from all over the country and span a range of abilities. Never give up, follow your dreams and keep pushing to get where you want to be.

WHY MISSION MATTERS

ARTICLE BY: SEA CADET LCDR JARED MORAVEC, NSCC

In an ever evolving and complex world, it's more important than ever that young men and women are taught the ability to critically think and be able to lead and to do so in a moral, ethical, and responsible way. The Sea Cadet Corps seeks to do this by providing unique experiences that provides opportunities to learn and lead in a military-based environment. Our volunteers contribute tens of thousands of hours each year to execute the mission, and the cadets work equally as hard to learn and practice new skills.

"MY WHY IS... TO TAKE THE EXAMPLE SET BY THE VOLUNTEERS WHO INVESTED TIME IN ME AS A YOUNG PERSON, AND PAY IT FORWARD."

As commanding officer at an advanced training evolution one winter, I visited a Petty Officer Leadership Academy class. During a question-and-answer session, I was asked why I volunteer. I explained that as a freshman in high school, I was part of a fire cadet program at a local volunteer fire department. That experience made me realize the officers and firefighters that volunteered their time made a profound impact on me. It also helped set the foundation for my eventual career in the fire service. My why is a personal obligation to take my experience, and the example set by the volunteers who invested time in me as a young person, and pay it forward.

The Sea Cadet mission is vitally important for our future. Our volunteers and cadets all know the mission and keep it front and center so that it drives our program. It's equally as important to know why we're involved in the program and ensure it supports the mission.



FORMER SEA CADET BECOMES

ARTICLE BY: ANASTASIA DEVLIN, RESERVIST MAGAZINE

A 12-year veteran of the service and a seasoned member of Station Channel Islands, Petty Officer First Class Ryan Huffman had been busy last year. The station's senior enlisted reserve advisor, Master Chief Petty Officer Steve Wolfe, said Huffman had informally been performing the duties as the senior enlisted reserve advisor (SERA) for the unit for 10 months before MCPO Wolfe arrived at the station.

"He really stepped up without even needing to be asked – he just fell into that leadership role because it was natural for him," said MCPO Ian Eady, the station's officer-in-charge. "Honestly, from the second I stepped on board, it was very apparent that Huffman was an exceptional reservist. My only regret is that he's not active duty where I'd get to work with him every day."

"There's so much our reservists have to do, there's so many requirements, we have to capitalize on every

moment of every drill weekend, and he's so good at that," said Eady.

Huffman said he's been giving his best effort to the Coast Guard in a symbiotic relationship. There are many programs and benefits to military service, but not enough members take advantage of them. In the last few years, he's spent a lot of time on active duty, always trying to support the military whenever requested. In 2018 he deployed to Cuba for a year. During the pandemic, he assisted with two community vaccination clinics; and most recently, he spent six months on active duty as a recruiter bringing more than a dozen people into the service.

He said his company, Valero, has been nothing but supportive of his service, even attending his Reserve Enlisted Petty Officer of the Year (REPOY) ceremony at Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach in April.



THE COAST GUARD RESERVE'S ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR

"I do a lot of similar things [to my Reserve job]," said Huffman. "My MK [engineering] skills that I learned at A-school and being underway definitely translate into my civilian job. Without the Coast Guard and A-school, I probably wouldn't have gotten the job I have now."

He said that he even used tuition assistance to obtain his current degree, which helped him at his civilian job as well.

"The harder you work, the better chance you have of getting on orders," he said. "And the better chance you have of going places and doing things."

In late March, PO1 Huffman was asked by his command at Station Channel Islands, CA, to come in. He laughed as he remembered that they were oddly insistent that he come in on a Monday. Later that afternoon, he took a phone call from the commandant, informing him that he'd been selected as the Coast Guard's 2021 Enlisted Person of the Year – Reserve Component.

When he's not working or spending time with his wife and three daughters, Huffman is known for his extraordinary volunteerism. In 2021, he logged more than 150 hours volunteering for various projects, including fundraising, refereeing, coaching, toy drives, blood donation, building houses for Habitat 4 Humanity and honoring memorials at a veterans cemetery. "I've always taught my kids, 'We have a good life, we're fortunate that we haven't had to worry about many things, so we should give back to people and organizations who need help,'" he said. "Volunteer organizations try their best; but without volunteers, they're not going to get very far."

In May, his Chief Petty Officer advancement ceremony was held at Cape May, NJ with outgoing Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Jason Vanderhaden, and outgoing Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Gee Williamson. He only wore his chief anchors for a few weeks. Chief Petty Officer Huffman left for Reserve Officer Candidate



indoctrination at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut in June, graduating as a new ensign.

Ensign Huffman plans to continue his journey in reserve advocacy by applying to become a reserve component manager or RCM.

His master chiefs say he'll leave a legacy in the people he's inspired. "He's the type that makes you want to show up and do better," said MCPO Wolfe. "He kept people wanting to stay in the Coast Guard."

"I've worked with reservists for most of my career, and he is by far the best one – well deserving of this recognition," said MCPO Eady.

"...HE JUST FELL INTO THAT LEADERSHIP ROLE BECAUSE IT WAS NATURAL FOR HIM."

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The Seafarer Team is a group of Cadets and Volunteers from across our nation who is tasked with assisting Headquarters in a variety of National Public Affairs initiatives. This includes helping with the production of our Seafarer Magazine, with whom, without their help, this issue would not be possible! Thank you!



SEA CADETS



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Bravo Zulu to these exceptional leaders of character!
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Jordan Berezin
Gabriella Bijjani
Maxavatar Bloess
Guy Bradshaw
Darin Buenaluz
Abigail Burke
Gavin Cameron
Geoffrey Cavanaugh
Jasmine Chapin
Guanting Chen
Sidney Chenier
Aaron Cheung
John DiBella, III
Colin Diep
Ian Dobrosky
Caleb Emery
Summit Farnsworth
Zoe Finelli
Joshua Fisher
Savannah Ghent
Colby Gillespie
Angelina Giresi
Karen Gonzales
Luke Graham
Matthew Grams
William Graves
Liam Harrington
Deacon Heglund
Colby Hendricks
Juan Hernandez
Garrett Holtgrewe
Alexander Hood
Nicole Ingle
Bruce Jones

Patrick Jost
Akshay Kamat
Rikki Kelleher
Steven Kennedy
Zachary King
Cary Lai
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