



Courtesy of Lt. Andrew Hrynkiw, USN

Alum
Achieves
Dream p. 5



Jeff Denlea

Honoring
Our Fallen
Heroes pp. 6-9

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

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Sea Cadet Quarterly



INST Loretto Polachek, NSCC

Cadets Honor Fallen SEALs

By Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Nix, NSCC
Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.

"Nix, it's time to wake up." I look at my watch. It's 4:20 a.m. Most, if not all, other teenagers would be sound asleep this early on a Sunday morning, but I decided to join the Sea Cadet program three years ago. Guess I'm not most teenagers.

This weekend had been a rough couple of days for every petty officer who was attending the 2014 UDT-SEAL Museum's annual SEAL Muster. I rolled over in my rack and fumbled for my boots. I'm not sure how I managed to get fully dressed, but I stumbled outside to where the watch was standing and a couple of the other petty officers were gathering.

Today we would be helping in the ceremony for lost SEALs as their ashes would be placed in the Atlantic Ocean. I had experienced the same ceremony the previous year, so I knew the seriousness of the event. We would need everyone looking their best for the ceremony because that is what the fallen heroes deserved. I looked down at my watch as the second hand moved to 4:30 a.m. and shouted, "Reveille!" inside the large tent my unit had brought. Sleeping bags began to move as 30 sleepy cadets rose. I was impressed that I didn't have to scream for them to get up or shake any deep sleepers. After telling everyone in the tent to use the head and do any morning hygiene, I moved outside

to where everyone was gathering. People moved in the dark as shadows, some with flashlights, others without. We needed to have everyone formed up and ready in just 20 minutes so they could grab a quick snack before going to their stations for the ceremony. Over 70 cadets from seven different battalions all woke up at the same time. We were now forming up in our positions for the ceremony. I shouted the order for squad leaders to take their cadets to the desired locations.

Finally, the time came for the ceremony to begin. After a few words from a guest speaker and the naming of the fallen SEALs, fellow SEALs picked up the ashes of their comrades and carried them out to the ocean. With bagpipes playing in the background, the fallen SEALs were washed out into the sea. These men paid the ultimate price for their country by dying in the line of duty. Standing behind the other cadets, I realized that other teenagers wouldn't have a chance to see what I was seeing at that moment. The Sea Cadet program allowed me and other cadets to honor fallen SEALs, which is much better than sleeping in like other teenagers. Waking up at 4:20 a.m. seemed like no big deal at the time because the people who died for my freedom deserved to be respected with honor.

From the Field



INST Frank Hanfland, NSCC

Texas

Cadets from Lone Star Squadron visited VMFA 112 during drill.



Courtesy of Travis Manion Battalion

New Jersey

Cadets helped rebuild a bayonet assault course at MCB Quantico.



Maj. Robert Demchak, USAF (Ret.)

Maine

Cadets learned fire-building skills during a training event.

Letter from the Executive Director

By **Capt. Jim Monahan, USN (Ret.)**
Executive Director, National Headquarters

Shipmates, as we celebrate the holiday season and the coming new year with our families and friends, I want to thank each of you for your dedication and commitment.

Cadets, you trained hard this year. More than 5,500 of you completed Recruit Training and advanced training evolutions this summer, and we expect to train over a thousand cadets during the upcoming winter session. Not only did you train hard, but your commitment to your communities was evident. Your time spent helping those in need and honoring our nation's heroes helps to strengthen your hometowns and our nation. You made us proud with your continued embodiment of the Navy's core values that we hold dear.

Volunteers, I am so thankful for the countless hours you spent dedicated to your cadets and to the program's mission. Be sure to read the story on page 5 and know the work you do makes a difference in the lives of America's youth.

Heading into the new year, we want to build on our successes and provide increasing opportunities for growth. To do so, we will need our senior cadets to step into leadership roles and more volunteers to make training events available that build the moral and physical character of our cadets. We also want to expand our efforts to provide training for cadets in the STEM disciplines, and are looking for good ideas on how we can best do so.

Here's to a successful winter training and holiday season!

Welcome to Our Family

A big welcome to our new units, TS Henry M. Jackson of Everett, Washington and Sandhills Squadron of Fayetteville, North Carolina!

There are many valuable resources available to you. In addition to these, please consider our community of volunteers as your best resource!

Website:

www.seacadets.org

Policy and Reference:

homeport.seacadets.org

Online Unit Management:

magellan.seacadets.org

National Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/usnsc

National Twitter page:

www.twitter.com/seacadets

Hello from HQ



Courtesy of Veronica Morales

In addition to being our ID-card maker extraordinaire, **Veronica Morales** manages our membership, background checks and junior promotions. She has been with HQ for more than 19 years. Veronica's favorite hobbies are gardening, painting in silk, reading and spending time with her family here and overseas. She's a great cook and loves making lasagna, homemade pizza and lemon pie. On a Saturday, you might find Veronica enjoying listening to Pavarotti at home or riding her bicycle.



Florida

Courageous Division participated in the Coast Guard's birthday.

Ensign Gail Schneider, NSCC



Tennessee

Cadets took part in a living history reenactment aboard USS *Alabama*.

Courtesy of Chattanooga Division



Hawaii

Cadets honored those lost at Pearl Harbor in a memorial parade.

Courtesy of Battleship Missouri Division

It's 'Cool Being a Girl in Sea Cadets'

By Able Cadet Cali Strantz, NLCC

TS CDR W.C. McCool, Santa Rita, Guam

How would it sound to be a Naval Sea Cadet on Guam, with a whole ship full of opportunities? Well, if you ask me, it is pretty awesome. I love the Sea Cadet program. One of my favorite Sea Cadet team-building events is when we are at the end of drill and we play basketball. I mostly like to cream the boys at basketball.

As Sea Cadets in Guam, we have a lot of unique opportunities to see and do things that most kids our age never get a chance to, like getting tours of U.S. Navy ships.

Aboard the ships we get to indulge our childhood dreams of eating the awesome cafeteria food that Navy Sailors get to eat. This is one of my favorite parts of touring the ships.

On our recent tour of the aircraft carrier USS *George Washington*, I remember seeing flashes of blue uniforms everywhere, moving about as the hardworking Sailors moved around the ship getting their work done. Blue everywhere you looked, besides the beautiful ocean,

of course. We learned from our Navy tour guides that there are nearly 5,000 Navy personnel who work and live on the carrier.

Our team also got a tour of the flight deck by a Navy fighter pilot. We saw many, many jets, in-

cluding the F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter attack jets, and several helicopters used for search-and-rescue and other missions. The view from the carrier flight deck is extraordinary. Living on Guam, it was neat to see the island from the perspective of the sea.

On the bridge of the carrier, we were allowed to sit in the captain's chair. We were also able to work the rudder controls, which was pretty cool. Imagine being able to steer and control this giant metal ship with all these planes and personnel!

During the tour of the carrier, I remember walking into a lounge room that was super dark with televisions playing classic movies. It seemed like the perfect place for a Sailor, or teenager, to hang out and relax after a long hard day of work on the ship. Sailors talking about their jobs, benefits and joys of living out at sea with their shipmates, I mean it does not seem that bad. You can see they take a lot of pride in their work for the Navy and what they do to protect our country. You can tell that the Sailors really love the Navy — and the cafeteria, just like me!

I love being a Sea Cadet because it makes my dad proud when I wake up early for drill. And, in the long run, being a Sea Cadet is a lot of fun, as much as I hate mornings.

Being a Sea Cadet is also going to help my career later on in life, and I will have such unique stories to tell with all these experiences — like when I get to lead and drill a bunch of boys listening to my commands. It is actually really cool being a girl in Sea Cadets.

“As Sea Cadets in Guam we have a lot of unique opportunities to see and do things that most kids our ages never get a chance to, like getting tours of U.S. Navy ships.”



Ensign Joe Strantz, NSCC

Strantz placing flags at Asan Beach in Guam for Veterans Day. Asan Beach was the primary landing site of the U.S. military during Guam's liberation during World War II.

Chief's Corner: My Journey

By Chief Petty Officer Peter Lindsey, NSCC
Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle, Wash.

My journey to chief began as a 15 year old, standing outside the gates of Naval Air Station Lemoore, with just the slightest idea of what I was getting into. I had dreams to attend a military service academy and one day become a great officer and leader. I signed up for the program to test myself, and to learn everything I could about the military before I signed up for any branch or applied to an academy. Fourteen days later, I was changed for the better. I had learned that I had a level of inner discipline, focus and attention that I was previously unaware of. Recruit Training was tough, because building a functional service member, or close to that, out of an adolescent is no small feat.

From there, I continued to learn everything I could from the people and the environment that the Sea Cadet program provided for me. I attended trainings such as Advanced Weapons, Maritime Interdiction Operations and Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA). During the summer of 2013, I was fortunate enough to attend Urban Counter-Insurgency Training and graduate with 15 of the finest cadets I've ever met and worked with.

Knowing that I had aspirations to become an operator one day, Sea Cadets gave me the chance to experience the training and hardships of my dream career. Upon completion of the training, I was even more excited and ambitious about what lies ahead in a military career.

After attending POLA and Urban Counter-Insurgency

Training, my role as a cadet shifted. I realized that I was now the experienced cadet, the one who less knowledgeable cadets and recruits would look to for assistance. There was still much more for me to learn about leadership, but it became vital that I start sharing what I had learned and begin developing cadets who are subordinate to and younger than me. As a chief petty officer, my primary role with my unit is to train and serve those who wish to learn and do everything they can in the program, just like myself four years ago. I believe that I have had success because of the support and the people that I've had around me to encourage, motivate and train me. I feel in debt to those who have left the program, but I now realize that I can pay them back by training all of my shipmates. The beauty of the Sea Cadet program is that knowledge and experience never become lost with those who graduate the program; it's passed down from leader to future leaders, and is therefore preserved.

The Sea Cadet program has taught me an incredible amount about myself, leadership and working with others. As a civilian, those traits will help you succeed in any occupation. In the military, those traits might just save your buddy's life. The Sea Cadet program teaches you how to deal with great amounts of adversity, and truly develops you as a person. Four years ago, I was a kid with a dream. Now I'm a chief with the tools I need to make that dream become a reality.



Courtesy of Blue Angels Squadron

First photo from left to right: Newly pinned Chief Petty Officers Eriik Snyder, Christopher Waite and Peter Lindsey with Regional Director Lt. Cmdr. Robert Jablonski at Blue Angel Squadron's recent chief pinning ceremony. In the second photo, Lindsey is third from the right.

Alumni Spotlight

Ukrainian-born Sea Cadet Achieves Dream of Becoming a Naval Aviator



Courtesy of Lt. Andrew Hrynkiw, USN

By Lt. Andrew Hrynkiw, USN

One day when I was about six years old in a small village of Ukraine, my grandmother asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. After she asked me that question, I remembered seeing an airplane the same day and imagined myself sitting at the controls of that plane and looking at the clouds passing by. I answered right away that I wanted to be a pilot. That was not an answer my overprotective grandmother was hoping for, but that moment defined my life.

I consider myself to be a very lucky individual in that my parents and I were able to move to the United States when I was just 11 years old. I was young enough to pick up English and catch up with my classmates by the time I was a high school student. I had the opportunity to attend a great high school due to the sacrifice and hard work of my parents. I also consider myself very lucky because I was part of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The Sea Cadets made me who I am today and helped me achieve my goal of becoming a naval aviator.

I first heard about the Sea Cadets from a Navy Recruitment Office when I was about 14 years old. I saw a commercial on TV of an F-14 getting launched from an aircraft carrier and immediately called the number on the screen asking how I could become a Navy pilot. The recruiter asked me my age and quickly told me that I could not join the Navy because I was too young and, instead, I should look into the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. At that time I had no idea that this would shape my future.

In the five years that I spent as a Sea Cadet at The Sullivans Division in Buffalo, New York, I learned how to follow, how to think on my feet and, eventually, how to lead. The program

provided a challenging environment with physical fitness, leadership and academic goals. In order to get promoted to a higher rank, we had to complete the same academic training material as our counterparts would in the fleet. Rank was not just a chevron on the sleeve; you were placed in a position of responsibility over your peers and expected to take charge and lead.

The first summer as a Sea Cadet, I had the opportunity to attend boot camp in Lakehurst, New Jersey and later, aviation training at NAS Norfolk; where I learned about different airplanes and helicopters on base and the same Allison engines and propeller that powered the C-2A Greyhound, the airplane that I ended up flying in the fleet. As a Sea Cadet, I also had the opportunity to train with SEAL Team Two at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Virginia where I was challenged both physically and mentally. Later on as a C-2 pilot, on multiple occasions the SEAL and EOD teams jumped out of my plane on various training missions over San Diego Bay.

The officers and mentors of The Sullivans Division taught me the discipline and drive necessary to succeed. USNSCC provided great role models for me to emulate and pointed me in the right direction to reach my goals. The Sea Cadets taught me what it means to be an American, helped me become a U.S. citizen, get accepted into the United States Naval Academy, and provided the fundamentals that I needed in order to succeed there as a midshipman. Because of all I learned in the Sea Cadet Program, I did well at the Naval Academy and was able to get the coveted flight school slot after graduation and achieved my dream of becoming a naval aviator. For that, I will be forever thankful.

Our Motto: ‘If Not Me, Then Who?’

By Chief Petty Officer Connor Wheatley, NSCC
Travis Manion Battalion, Flemington, N.J.

The fallen service member who inspires me is Marine Corps 1st Lt. Travis Manion.

Even before becoming a member of the Travis Manion Battalion, I was well aware of who Travis was and what he represents. Growing up in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, I was frequently in neighboring Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where Travis grew up. In November 2011 — my eighth-grade year — I learned of Travis Manion and his story. While attending a Naval War College Foundation dinner, I was seated next to Travis’s father, retired Marine Corps Col. Tom Manion. Throughout the rest of the night I learned of Travis’s story and how he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Travis Manion was born in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina on Nov. 19, 1980. At the age of 10, Travis and his family moved to Doylestown, Pennsylvania. From there he went on to attend La Salle College High School, where he participated in football, wrestling and lacrosse. Travis excelled in both academics and athletics, which played a large factor in his acceptance to the United States Naval Academy. After graduating from high school, Travis began his studies at the academy. After four years of hard work, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. After graduating from the top of his class at The Basic School, he was assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. Travis deployed on one tour of duty, came home and was selected, due to his experience, for a second tour of duty.

On April 29, 2007, Travis made the ultimate sacrifice in Al Anbar province of Iraq. While searching a suspected insurgent house, he and his men were ambushed. Travis then

led the counter attack against the enemy. While aiding and drawing enemy fire away from his wounded Marines, an enemy sniper fatally wounded him. Travis is a hero.

The main reason Travis inspires me is his character. From the time that he was a little boy, Travis always had a warrior mindset. He was strong and chose sports that challenged him both physically and mentally. As he grew up and entered high school, his focus was unparalleled. Instead of slacking off and losing sight of what

“Travis is a hero. The main reason Travis inspires me is his character. From the time that he was a little boy, Travis always had a warrior mindset.”

was important, he just put that much more effort into his academics and athletics, but most specifically, wrestling. I am a wrestler, so I know there is a unique mentality that you gain from the sport. Travis had that mentality. It’s a mentality that you carry with you for the rest of your life that teaches you to never quit, never give in, and it reminds you that you are never out of the fight. The fact that someone could think so selflessly in the midst of chaos just reassures me that Travis is the type of leader that everyone should aspire to be. Not only is he the leader that I aspire to be, but the path he followed to become a Marine is the same path I wish to follow.

In my eyes, Travis is the epitome of what you look for in a Marine officer. I will leave with the words that Travis lived by and are now our battalion’s motto, which my shipmates and I strive every day to live by: “If not me, then who...”



Courtesy of Travis Manion Battalion

Members of Travis Manion Battalion visited Manion Hall at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. The hall was dedicated in honor of Manion in 2009.

Unit Inspired by Namesake's Heroism

By Petty Officer 1st Class Nicholas Lange, NSCC
Lt. Michael Murphy Division, West Sayville, N.Y.

Lt. Michael P. Murphy, namesake of the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps based at the Long Island Maritime Museum in Sayville, NY, was a U.S. Navy SEAL killed in action while attempting to save the men under his authority against the Taliban in Afghanistan during Operation Red Wings. Severely wounded and still under enemy fire, Murphy ran out from his position of cover in order to be able to receive a signal to radio back to headquarters for support. For his selfless and unparalleled heroism, Murphy became the first member of the U.S. Navy since the Vietnam War to have been awarded the U.S. military's highest decoration: the Medal of Honor. His other posthumous awards include the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Murphy's story was featured in the recently released Hollywood film "Lone Survivor," starring Mark Wahlberg and Taylor Kitsch.

Inspired by Lt. Michael Murphy's valor and filled with overflowing patriotic good will, a group of likeminded individuals came together in 2012 to form and commission the Lt. Michael Murphy Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. These plank owners of the newest addition to the USNSCC family had one specific goal as top priority: to ensure that Michael Murphy's selfless bravery would never be forgotten and that his legacy would continue through the training and enrichment of Long Island's finest youth, America's future leaders.

With the support of the entire Murphy family, the

Murphy Sea Cadets have devoted a great deal of time to ensuring that the Long Island community knows about the true valor of their local hero. The Murphy Division campaigned and succeeded in getting the Patchogue-Medford High School — where Michael himself attended — renamed the Lt. Michael Murphy Campus and were honored to have taken part in the renaming ceremony. The Murphy cadets spread their influence throughout Long Island, working with a plethora of veterans' associations and devoting countless hours of voluntary public service to organizations including the American Legion, the Suffolk Police Veterans Association, the Ronkonkoma Rotary Food Club, the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project and the U.S. Coast Guard Long Island Chiefs Association.

To the cadets of the Lt. Michael Murphy Division, being a Sea Cadet isn't just a once-monthly experience. Rather, the Murphy cadets use every day to spread Lt. Murphy's story and maintain his legacy. It is truly amazing what he has inspired in each of the cadets: the pride for their country, the sense of selfless responsibility and the tireless dedication to the American principles upon which our country stands. They may be young in years, but these cadets have a keen understanding of the profundity of Lt. Michael Murphy's valor. Their admiration for him and for his family and their dedication to preserving his legacy is now and will always remain steadfast.



Cadets from the Lt. Michael Murphy Division stand guard next to the Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to Murphy for his bravery and ultimate sacrifice during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan. The medal, loaned to the division by Lt. Murphy's family — who are supporters of the division — was on display during a recent outdoor movie fundraiser showing of the Hollywood film Lone Survivor.

My Thoughts on America's Veterans

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Luke LaVanway, NLCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.



The sun has yet to rise as I roll out of bed to prepare for another week-end of drill. As a cadet in Wolverine Division, I am expected to report prepared. As I shine my boots, press my pants, polish my belt buckle and precisely roll up my sleeves, I think how difficult the tasks I must complete are before I even start drills. Other people are still sleeping while I am struggling to get the sleeves rolled up right on my cadet Navy Working Uniform.

Then I realize that my situation is not unique. Young Americans from many generations before mine have followed the same routine.

They too had to prepare for the day at hand. My preparation for drill pales in comparison to the great responsibilities our veterans faced. These young men and women had to endure long hours standing watch, completing trainings, spending months away from family and experiencing the harsh realities of war — men like my

great-uncle, who served in the depths of the ocean aboard a submarine, and my grandfather who woke up each day in basic training to the sound of a World War II reveille. My great-uncle rushed out to meet the wounded in a MASH unit in Vietnam, while my great-great-uncles sailed on transport vessels during World War I. My namesake, my great-great-great-grandfather, Luke, loaded his musket for Union picket duty and my sixth great-grandfather joined Ethan Allen, falling prisoner to the British and spending years in captivity. I appreciate all those in my family who served our country to make it a better place for me.

My family's experience is like that of many American families. We do our best to show our appreciation for our veterans through family memories, photos, stories, parades, and sometimes, sad ceremonies. As a country, we honor the sacrifices of our veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. So how can I — one cadet — show my appreciation for our veterans?

I can honor them by making sure my boots shine, my pants are pressed, my belt buckle is polished and my sleeves are neatly rolled. I will wear my cadet uniform proudly as I stand at attention with respect for our veterans, both young and old.

9/11 Memorial: A Place of Remembrance

By Seaman Dylan McGettigan, NSCC
John T. Dempster Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.

"Is freedom anything else than the right to live as we wish? Nothing else." (Greek philosopher Epictetus, 55—135 C.E.) Living as we wish is not a free luxury to which we are entitled. It is a gift for which we must be exceedingly grateful after we have paid its hefty cost. The price tag for freedom is achingly dear. It is paid in sacrifice by America's gallant men and women who serve as its first responders, law enforcement and armed forces.

One of our nation's most visible scars that vividly shows the price we have paid for our freedom is located in New York City. It is the spot where the World Trade Center, a symbol of prosperity and economic vitality for the free world, once stood. My Sea Cadet unit recently visited the 9/11 Museum and the World Trade Center Memorial in the Big Apple. As we approached this reverent place of remembrance, a hush fell over my unit as we stood in awe of the memorial itself. It is comprised of two massive waterfalls and reflecting pools that are built exactly where the twin towers stood. The reflecting pools are surrounded by bronze panels that are inscribed with the names of every person who died in the

attacks. Our silence continued as we entered the museum.

From the Sept. 11 memorial and the "Survivor Tree" — a pear tree that survived the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks and was nursed back to health — to the exhibitions containing actual parts of the twin towers and documenting the events of the attack, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum humbled me and my fellow cadets.

Although this trip was not my first to the museum and memorial, it was an extraordinary honor to visit with my Sea Cadet unit. Walking around in my dress uniform in this solemn yet auspicious place with my fellow cadets made me realize that we, along with thousands of other young men and women in the world, are the promise and hope of building a better future where terrorism, brutality and prejudice are not tolerated.

The visit reaffirmed the reason I joined the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps — teamwork, camaraderie and good citizenship are all values I strongly believe in and want to practice daily. Perhaps if we all strived to meet these principles, there would never be a need for a memorial again.

9/11 Heroes Displayed Navy Core Values

By Seaman Jenna Kugel, NSCC

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

I was a little under four years old on Sept. 11, 2001, and I did not completely understand what had happened. My extent of knowledge of the event was that many loved ones were lost because of terrorist attacks. I could see the pain on people's faces after they heard the news. As I got older, every year I learned more. At 17 years old, I thought I had a relatively good understanding of 9/11, but I couldn't have been more wrong. This trip to the museum completely changed my perception of the atrocities that took place. The exhibits at the museum contained voicemails of those who died on that day, survivors telling their stories, actual video footage and artifacts. I personally did not know anyone who passed away on 9/11 yet I was overwhelmed with emotion while walking through the museum. The focus of the museum was not only to keep the history of 9/11 alive but also to remember and honor everyone involved including the heroes who sacrificed their lives on that horrific day.

Before going on the trip, I expected that I would leave the museum very depressed, but surprisingly, I exited feeling proud to be an American. This is because I learned about how the country became unified on this day. Even though it meant putting their lives at risk on Sept. 11, policemen, firefighters, EMS, members of the military and all emergency first responders selflessly saved the lives of others. It was this bravery and altruism that really got to me. In Sea Cadets we

always talk about the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment, and it was evident that the 9/11 heroes showed all of these traits. At a time when everyone was scared, these heroes did not put their own needs before those of others. This extended to civilians as well. In the museum, they had an audio clip of a man who worked in the World Trade Center explaining that there was an injured person calling for help as he was trying to escape the building. He easily could have gone out of the building as soon as possible to ensure his survival, but instead he had the courage to turn around and assist the injured person out of the building. Because of his selfless acts, he was responsible for saving this man's life. There were other stories of rescuers who bravely saved the lives of others, but many did not survive.

The response to 9/11 from all citizens is what makes me proud to be an American. Americans were presented with a terrible atrocity, yet the country managed to react quickly and immediately help others. As we were walking around New York City in our dress blues, several people came up to us and said, "Thank you for your future service!" Some people even asked to take pictures with us. I had great pride and felt very privileged to be wearing the uniform that so many heroes have worn in the past and today. Now I have a much better understanding of 9/11 and also a more patriotic outlook due to the great altruism that was presented on that dark day.



Courtesy of John T. Dempster Division



Sutton, center, ensures that his fellow midshipmen have their gear prepared for a march.

Courtesy of Midshipman Austyn Sutton, USNR

Lessons Learned As a Sea Cadet Prove Useful in Naval ROTC

By Midshipman Austyn Sutton, USNR

As a Sea Cadet, I often remember a few times when I asked the question, “Why on Earth are they making us do this?” Although, even as a current U.S. Navy Midshipman, I must admit that I still ask that question every now and then. However, as time progresses, I am able to connect the dots and see how my time as a Sea Cadet prepared me for my initial exposure to the “Big Navy.”

Perhaps the most important, in my experience, is taking the initiative. As leaders in the fleet, it is expected that we be able to think on our own. As a Sea Cadet, I remember my leading petty officer getting rather heated over why the trash can was full. Looking back, it wasn't the overflowing trash that frustrated him, but instead, the lack of initiative for someone to fix it. Now, in my current capacity, I still don't empty the trash can, but I look for solutions to problems that can be fixed before they become an issue.

Another connected dot is the importance of appearance and situational awareness. As a Sea Cadet, what's wrong with a little bit of a 5 o'clock shadow? Or a slight wrinkle in my whites? Well, I found out that appearance is another stepping stone on the path to success. Whether you realize it or not, you are always being observed and evaluated in our line of work. Last year, I recall an instance when I was approached by my commanding officer, a Marine Corps colonel, and asked to complete a task. As a freshman, I had no experience with what he had asked of me. However, the colonel mentioned that he had noticed my ability to properly maintain my uniform as compared to a few

of my fellow shipmates. The colonel assumed that, if I could take care of myself, I could take care of the job.

Finally, I want to address the importance of clear and effective communication. As I assumed additional leadership roles in Sea Cadets, I ran into a few issues where a job was never completed or completed improperly due to a misunderstanding between myself and my peers or subordinates.

In a leadership position, it is important to clearly state the who, what, when, where and why of a mission. The limiting of confusion and outlining of clear goals and objectives will have the effect of completing the task correctly as well as shining a positive light on you as a leader and those who completed the task as followers.

In short, catch yourself the next time you ask, “Why am I doing this?” Take a second, step back and examine the larger picture. Although a task as simple as ironing your shirt or taking out the trash may

seem useless now, it will prove invaluable in forming habits of confidence, initiative and leadership.

“As a Sea Cadet, what's wrong with a little bit of a 5 o'clock shadow? Or a slight wrinkle in my whites? Well, I found out that appearance is another stepping stone on the path to success.”

Midshipman 3/C Sutton is attending Texas A&M University at Galveston on an NROTC scholarship. He is attached to Katy Division of Katy, Texas as the training officer and is a former Sea Cadet chief petty officer with the Central Maryland Corsairs Squadron of Camp Springs, Maryland.



Photos courtesy of Ensign Joe Strantz, NSCC

Villanueva, center, observes during his unit's tour of USS *George Washington*.

USS *George Washington* Tour in Guam

By Seaman Recruit Daniel Villanueva, NSCC
Peredo Battalion, Apra Heights, Guam

This past month my Sea Cadet unit was given the rare opportunity to take a tour on USS *George Washington* (CVN 73). I was really excited to hear this news, because two weeks before we were not able to take a tour of it during its prior visit.

On the first glimpse of the aircraft carrier, everyone was speechless because of how huge it was. Once we arrived, we were even more amazed at how big it really was. It made me realize how big and the important role the U.S. Navy plays in our military, especially when they have 10 more carriers the same size as USS *George Washington* or bigger.

We walked onto the carrier and were able to see the various planes, helicopters and equipment that Sailors were working on in the hanger deck. Going into the internal areas of the carrier showed us how cramped living in a carrier

is and how dangerous it could be if you are not careful of where you step — especially on the stairs. On the flight deck, we were able to get up close with the aircraft and learn about their capabilities and the special role each aircraft has. We were shown various versions of the F/A-18 Super Hornet and also learned what it takes to launch and land an aircraft on a carrier and the various systems that were used for its protection, such as the radar tower. They also explained in detail some of the parts of the F/A-18, such as the landing gear and how it functions.

Overall, I was glad we were given this extraordinary experience. Now I can see the responsibilities that a U.S. Navy Sailor has on their shoulders and all the hard work that is put into their deployment. I thank all these Sailors for their service and the many sacrifices they make to keep us safe.



SeaPerch Trials and Tribulations

By **Midshipman Janssen Decker, NSCC**
Battleship Wisconsin Division, La Crosse, Wis.

The SeaPerch is a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) project that is promoted by the Office of Naval Research to interest youth in STEM. It comes in kits of one basic design, and cadets are encouraged to modify the model. It runs on a 12-volt battery and utilizes an electrical cable linking the control box to the apparatus. Each pair of wires is used for powering a different thruster. The device can go fore and aft, ascend, surface and dive – and is capable of 360-degree maneuverability underwater.

Our unit received the first SeaPerch kits in January 2013. The unit tried different ideas for modifying the SeaPerch. For instance, in an attempt to increase the speed of the submersible, they enclosed the propellers, which created a water-jet effect. The outcome proved undesirable. Research found that the angle of the enclosure was too steep — lesson learned. Future projects discussed include equipping a SeaPerch with a torpedo apparatus or giving it amphibious capability.

In May 2014, Battleship Wisconsin Division assisted the Coast Guard Auxiliary with vessel safety checks. During a slow period, SeaPerches were brought out to operate from a pier on a backwater of the Mississippi River. The murkiness of the water confined them to surface operations, and after awhile the cadets experimented by zip-tying two crafts together for more thrust. This required a leader to direct both operators to keep the SeaPerches in sync. The commanding officer noticed a wooden post floating toward the ROVs and ordered the use of the vessels to push it to the shore. With the leading petty officer coordinating the effort, the wood was soon moved to the bank where it was retrieved.

Upon inspection it was discovered that two large lag bolts were protruding five inches out of it. SeaPerches protected our waterway from this vicious pollution that might have caused untold damage to people or property had it floated into the main channel of the river.

SeaPerch Testing at the Naval Academy

By **Lt. Cmdr. Catherine Coble, NSCC**
Training Ship Reina Mercedes, Annapolis, Md.

In November, the League Cadets of Training Ship Reina Mercedes launched their SeaPerch ROVs, at the testing tank in Rickover Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy. The six SeaPerch kits were fabricated by teams of cadets.

This summer, Petty Officer 1st Class Mia Russo made contact with Dr. Angela Moran while attending the academy's STEM Camp. As our ROVs reached completion, Petty Officer Russo arranged with Moran to use the tank. Moran supervised the launch and supplied floats for the cadets to capture with their vehicles. She was also ready to repair those motors that detached themselves. The cadets maneuvered their ROVs through hula-hoops suspended in the water and scooped up floats.



Photos courtesy of Training Ship Reina Mercedes





Courtesy of Petty Officer 2nd Class Devon Golding, NLCC

A League Cadet Talks SeaPerch

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Devon Golding, NLCC
Training Ship Kit Carson, Escondido, Calif.

If you would have said to me on the day I started building a SeaPerch that I would end up in Mississippi at a national competition, I would have thought you were crazy, but that's exactly what happened. I am a 12 year old League Cadet and I want to share my SeaPerch story.

It all started with building a SeaPerch over a weekend in February. I came into the armory and there were white boxes with "SeaPerch" in bold letters on top, laying on the floor. Our imaginations went wild not knowing what SeaPerch meant. We learned quickly that we were going to be making underwater remotely operated vehicles and that was really cool. I was very proud of how well it turned out.

Once our SeaPerches were tested and buoyant, we practiced to get ready to go to the regional competition. We practiced every week at my house. My dad made the obstacle course and heist and we would put them in our pool to practice. We spent a lot of time making our poster. My partner had really creative ideas and we worked well together. The day of the southwest regional competition finally came and we were all really nervous and excited. It was a two-hour drive to Los Angeles, where the competition took place. As soon as we got there, we unloaded, signed in and went straight to practice runs. We did well in the poster presentation and I was top League Cadet for driving the obstacle course.

Me and two other cadets from my unit were super lucky and got invited to go to the National Competition in Mississippi to support the Sea Cadets who had taken first and second place in the regional competition. We drove up to L.A. over two weekends to help create the team poster and

help the drivers practice. Our job as League Cadets was to come up with a huge list of questions that could be asked in the poster presentation. Then during the week we would Skype with the other groups who were up in L.A. and ask them questions again and again for practice. It was great getting to know the other cadets and learning interesting science facts.

When it was time to go to the airport to fly to Mississippi, I was really nervous. At the competition, we were pretty much runners whenever anyone needed anything. The of-

ficers spent a lot of time teaching us better ways to say things. We all helped each other do whatever had to be done. Finally it was our team's turn and we cheered them on from the bleachers. It was cool to be texting my family back home who was watching it on TV at the same time. Our

team could have done things differently and things broke, but we learned from our mistakes. It was a great experience just being able to go to Mississippi, but being with the Sea Cadets it made it 10 times more fun. On last day we got to go sightseeing and learn about Mississippi. It is very different than California. It was so green and old.

I can't wait for SeaPerch season to start. We are going to rebuild some of our SeaPerches from last year and do some serious modifications from all we learned at competition. I went to an Orientation for the Naval Academy and I really like how many technology programs they have, so I feel like the SeaPerch program is giving me the foundation I need to build on to get to the Naval Academy.

Keep an eye out for me at competition. I'll be the one going for first place!

“Keep an eye out for me at competition. I'll be the one going for first place!”

Making Memories at Sailing Training

By Seaman Susan Le, NSCC
Seal Beach Battalion, Seal Beach, Calif.

This summer I attended sailing training at Fiddler's Cove in San Diego, slept on the USS *Midway*, sailed out of the marina, got a ton of bruises, sailed for two and a half hours straight, capsized some boats, met some very cool people, and got hit in the head by a boom. That was my week in a nutshell.

Coming to this training, I was nervous out of my mind. I didn't know how strict or uptight the staff were going to be, or what the group of Sea Cadets at this training were like, or if I would be the only person that barely knew the difference between portside and starboard. To be honest, I was feeling very nervous since this was my very first advanced training.

After driving two hours to get to the USS *Midway* and bracing myself for this week-long training I got out of the car with my sea bag and garment bag and walked to the meeting location. I said goodbye to my family and after what seemed like HOURS, I and 11 other cadets were told to grab our gear and head up to the USS *Midway*. The males and females were split up in their different berthing areas and after seeing the size of our barracks, I was beginning to feel bad for myself. The beds are stacked three high and each cadet was given two lockers and one bed section (stacked three beds high). The first night, we were told to sleep in the middle bunk, and while lying down, the distance between your forehead and the bottom of the bed on top of you was about six inches. You could imagine how many of us bonked our heads that morning.

On the first official day of training, we spent some time in the classroom with our sailing instructor, Harry, as he went over some terminology that we would need for sailing. I, being the idiot I am for not knowing ANY sailing jargon, was miserably confused at this point. Harry went on about what point of sail we would be on, close reached, close hauled, beam reach,

broad reach, runs, IN IRONS, running rigging, standing rigging, the jib sail and main sail, cunningham, boom vang, outhaul, halyard, keel, tiller... the list went on. As I tried making some acronyms to barely learn some of these words, Harry was ready for us to get on the water. That first day, we sailed with Harry and some other sailing instructors, practicing our tacks and jibes, which are the basics of maneuvering your boat through the water. We practiced our zig-zags and curves around Fiddler's Cove on Capri 16.5s and were feeling sort of comfortable steering the boat around.

The second day of training, Harry was ready to take us out of the marina! We were split into groups of three and were ready to get out in the open waters. That day, we were basically running sailing exercises, like making clockwise circles and then doing some figure-eights around the buoys. The wind was harder on us that day than the day before, so it was definitely harder for us new sailors to steer our boats in the direction we wanted to go.

The next day, we practiced capsizing exercises. These were to prepare us for in the situation when our boats tipped over on their sides, we would know how to quickly and efficiently climb back into the boat and continue sailing. The tipping over the boat part was easy, but it was bringing it back upright that got some of us struggling. There was this move called the "Step Over" where after tipping over your boat, you had to step on the boat's keel enough for it to tilt back over and then step over the side and back into the boat without getting wet. I tried the "Step Over" about three times and I got wet. All three times.

During the last two days of training,



Le (left) having fun at sailing training.

LT J.G. Crystal Cox, NSCC

we went on two- to three-hour long sails each day.

My favorite part of this entire training was when we swam in the ocean and then had a bonfire. It no longer was a seven-day training for Sea Cadets, but more so a week on the beach with your friends. The Sea Cadets at this training were so unbelievably friendly and welcoming and we all got along so well. After pruning up in the ocean, we headed back up to the showers and cleaned up for dinner on the shore. We laughed about our fun memories and talked about what we hated and loved about the training. Then we set up the bonfire and busted out the marshmallows, chocolate and crackers. The saddest part for me was sitting next to people that I knew I might never see again since they were from different states and units. We told stories and talked for hours before it was time to head back to the *Midway*.

In that one week, we shared inside jokes, embarrassing stories, experienced great things and bonded. This training taught me more than I thought I would learn in one week, as well as gave me a handful of great memories.



Cadet Pursues Dream of Flight

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Blaine Bradley, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

For most, the sky is the limit. But for a pilot, the sky is home!

I'm locked into my five-point harness, parachute strapped firmly on my back, surrounded by steel and glass. I turn the key and then — sluggishly at first — the engine turns, then faster until it growls to life. The propeller spins wildly! After some brief communications with ground control and the tower, we taxi to our starting point at the end of the runway, which was laid out like a long ribbon before me. We wait. Before long, the radio crackles with a man's voice and we get our clearance for takeoff. It's my turn! I hold my feet hard down on the rudder pedals that also function as the brakes when we are on the ground. I run the engine up to full power, the engine roars and the aircraft shudders and trembles, anxious to get in the air where it belongs.

My heart begins to race. I am given the command to release the brakes and I follow that command. The plane lurches forward like a dragster and I am pushed hard back into my seat. Our speed increases and the sound of the wind is now noticeable even above the roar of the engine and the sound of every heartbeat I hear pounding in my head. Slowly I pull back on the stick and the plane leaps off the ground like a cheetah jumping to catch its prey. Out of the front windshield I can only see sky now, the ground is nothing more than a



Courtesy of Petty Officer 2nd Class Blaine Bradley, NSCC

memory I left behind the tail of the plane. As I climb out higher, farther and faster from Mother Earth, I look out of the cockpit, I feel as if I am sitting on the tip of a knife cutting through the big blue sky. I know right then that this is the first moment of the rest of my life, that just like this bird of steel and glass, I am meant to be in the air! Like the pilot poet, John Gillespie Magee Jr., said in his famous poem "High Flight," I felt as if I could put out my hand and touch the face of God.

An Early Morning Ship Commissioning

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Elisabeth Wayne, NSCC
Chesty Puller Battalion, Watsonville, Calif.

Sea Cadets are no strangers to early mornings. However, meeting with about a hundred other cadets in darkness the morning of the USS *America* (LHA 6) commissioning, there were only two things that could wake up a sleep-deprived cadet: coffee and a sweet ship. Luckily, we had both.

As sunlight began to illuminate the new ship with red, white and blue piping announcing the celebration, all the Bay Area Sea Cadets ushered in high-profile guests, handing out programs and leading attendees to their seats. An impressive group of speakers, from the president of Ingalls Shipbuilding to the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) spoke to the crowd of around 10,000 people. Afterward, tours of the ship were available, and rumor was that SECNAV's birthday celebration was also held aboard the ship.

It was a privilege to wear a uniform at this prestigious event. Ceremonies like these remind us how lucky we are to be given the opportunities we have, and they encourage so many Sea Cadets to go into the Navy and Marine Corps when they graduate.



Courtesy of Chesty Puller Battalion

Wayne (center) stands in formation at the USS *America* commissioning.

SS Lane Victory Restoration Project

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Jaclyn Chávez, NSCC
Desert Storm Division, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

In October 2014 my unit sent off five cadets eager to learn new tools and widen their knowledge of construction along with many other experiences aboard a vessel. We were informed that we would spend four weekends aboard the SS *Lane Victory* to create a classroom for Sea Cadets all over the United States to use. All the cadets, including myself, had a rocky start adjusting to the ship and its way of operating, but once we were more comfortable and confident about what we were doing, construction took off and headed in a whole new direction.

In the first construction module, we learned how to install iron beam. Since it was our first time it took us the whole module to cut our first and second beam to the proper size and to raise it to its final destination on the ship. First, we measured the iron beams to see if they were the correct size to fit the space given. The beams were a bit too long so we brought out the miter saw to shorten the beam to the length needed.

In the second module of the training, we finished putting up all four beams and were able to install lights on the beams as well. We had help from an electrician who showed us the proper way to handle wires. Throughout that weekend we cleared the soon-to-be classroom floor so we could have more space to move about and operate effectively. We developed a system within that time to move the work



Courtesy of Lt. j.g. Eugene Anastasi, NSCC

Chávez (far right) and fellow cadets working with iron beams.

process along quicker. In the end, every cadet had the chance to work with all the tools and equipment that were being used on the site including, learning how to operate a forklift. In the final module, we nailed down plywood to the entire floor area and painted it.

This training taught Desert Storm cadets to work as a team and lean on each other to not only get an order done, but also get it done as quickly and effectively as possible. A few wise words that were repeated by Lt. Eugene Anastasi throughout this training were: "You shouldn't be scared of the machines or tools. If you know how to use it properly and understand the hazards, you will be safe. Trust your shipmates to watch for unsafe conditions, work safe."

Chess: The Game of War

By Seaman Recruit Seth Lee, NSCC
Marianas Division, Santa Rita, Guam

Chess, some people have said, is like playing war, except without all the tragedies that follow. This strategic game tests your mindset and ability to make the right decisions in a short amount of time. It helps you to form the ability to think rationally at appropriate times, so that your soldiers, or chessmen, will prevail in victory. Chess is a fun brain game that can help improve or boost your thinking ability, how to plan ahead or take charge of the moment.

There are many positive outcomes of chess, which is why I would encourage chess to be implemented into the Sea Cadet program. It could help instill in cadets the mindset of strategic thinking for a future in the military, college, or other professions.

It also teaches patience and discipline in that the game can be fast- or slow-paced. While playing, you could be in a tight spot and you would have to wait for the given moment

to make your move. Chess, to some people, is boring, but what you make out of it will determine how fun it can be.

Chess instruction was part of the Marianas Division's plan of the month for November and I was fortunate to play a match against one of the chess instructors. Although I don't play often, I found myself swept up in the moment, wanting to challenge my opponent to the best of my ability.

I stretched my imagination and visualized toppling castles and conquering Queens and Kings. And with some strategic moves and a bit of luck, I prevailed! It's a great feeling of accomplishment.

I think most cadets would enjoy the challenge of playing chess. Perhaps tournaments could be held between divisions to promote critical thinking and good old-fashioned "want to win" fun. What would be more fun than winning bragging rights and representing your division in a game of war?

From the Air Force to the Sea Cadets

By **Ensign David Pritzker, NSCC**
Lone Star Squadron, Fort Worth, Texas

I retired from the Air Force in 2008. I was not a Medal of Honor awardee; I had only received the Commendation Medal. I did not do anything other than go to work every day wearing the uniform of the United States Air Force. I deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom and I served with honor and pride — I was a United States Airman. My retirement was nothing to gawk at — I slipped away almost unnoticed. I got another job and work for my family and loved ones. When one of my sons joined the Air Force Reserve and the other went active-duty Navy, my chest swelled with pride at both. My godson, John, wanted to join as well, but he was only 12.

It was my wife who found the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and told John about it. John and his family were going through a difficult time while dealing with the effects of his father's recent surgery to have a brain tumor removed, but John still wanted to see what the Sea Cadets were all about. We sat through the commander's introduction to the program and we could see the excitement in John's eyes.

John joined, and shortly thereafter, the Lone Star Squadron asked if the parents wanted to help and become leaders. My wife suggested that we should do it. "I just got out of the military," I told her. But we joined and soon I was back in the military and my pride swelled again. I had new purpose and new meaning. John was shining and becoming a man thanks to the Sea Cadets. We went to the Navy League Orientation together; he as a cadet and I as a leader. What memories and

what fun! During my time at orientation, I took classes and I made a friend.

John is now a Sea Cadet, having turned 14. His father's tumor has returned and is inoperable, but John has helped his father during his blackouts by taking his pulse and making sure he is comfortable and breathing. John has been in the hospital a lot with his father and he stands tall showing what the Sea Cadets have been teaching him: to be calm and be a leader.

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps is more than a youth organization. They instill and refresh pride in one's self and in one's country. Each time the unit performs at a ceremony, such as "Wreaths Across America," or a color guard, and of course when the cadets perform in a parade, the community notices them. The Lone Star Squadron instills pride and that pride infects those they come in contact with.

I thought I was only helping John when we went to see the Sea Cadets, but it seems I needed help, too. I needed the Naval Sea Cadets and they made a place for me. They brought me back into the military family that is the Navy and the Naval Sea Cadets. This Air Force technical sergeant (sorry — this ensign) would like to thank you for that and to thank you for bringing the light back into John's eyes.

This program is honoring the community and honoring veterans and the reason for serving. To see pride and honor in our children's eyes speaks volumes about what the Sea Cadets do and why they do it.

A Night at the Lone Sailor Awards Dinner

By **Petty Officer 1st Class Anna Ou, NSCC**
HMCM William Charette Battalion, Bethesda, Md.

Each year, the Lone Sailor Award is presented to Sea Service veterans who continued to succeed in their civilian careers while upholding the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment. Last September, Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Grigg and I had the honor of attending the Lone Sailor Awards Dinner.

Throughout the evening, we had the opportunity to meet and speak with distinguished Navy leaders such as Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael Stevens, Rear Adm. Bruce Loveless, and retired Rear Adm. Bill Thompson. Each of them encouraged us to serve our country and pursue our goals. After everyone sat

down, the award presentation began.

It was amazing how much each recipient accomplished and how much their time at sea changed their lives for the better. Being that it was a dinner, we were also served food during the ceremony (which was absolutely delicious). Personally, the highlight of the evening was afterwards, when Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michelle Howard met with and coined us.

In all, the dinner was the experience of a lifetime, and I am grateful and honored to have attended. If you are a cadet, I would definitely recommend that you experience this event yourself.



Ou (left) and Grigg (right) show off the coins they received from Adm. Howard.

Courtesy of USNSCC Headquarters

ISCA Is Your Organization

By Lt. Cmdr. Michael Campbell, NSCC
Director, International Exchange Program

The International Sea Cadet Association recently held its conference at CFB Esquimalt in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. ISCA, as it is commonly known, is composed of 20 member countries that come together once a year to exchange knowledge through international exchanges.

The biggest benefit of membership comes with exchanging with other countries and developing best practices that enable cadets from diverse backgrounds to interact comfortably and learn the valuable lessons of being part of our global community. In a nutshell, ISCA makes exchanges better.

ISCA was founded in 1994 and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a founding member. Each year, I represent all Sea Cadets from the United States at the annual conference. We discuss risk assessments, programming, new initiatives and safety. Having a personal relationship with all delegates means that problems are kept to a minimum, programming is rich and diverse, and challenges may be solved with a quick phone call.

As a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, the International Exchange Program is available to you. Find more information at <http://iep.seacadets.org> and start that "Adventure of a Lifetime!"



Courtesy of International Sea Cadet Association

Representatives from 14 countries participated in this year's International Sea Cadet Association conference.



Ensign Dawna Stewart, NSCC

From left to right: Petty Officer 1st Class Christian Hoffman, Chief Petty Officer Gary "Trace" Henderson, Chief Petty Officer Kurt Bajor and Australian Navy Cadet Matthew Benfer during this summer's exchange.

Cultural Immersion During Exchange

By Petty Officer 1st Class Christian Hoffman, NSCC
Edson Division, New Haven, Conn.

As the sun began to rise in the sky over Canada, eight national anthems, one after another, echoed throughout the bay. Within the next hour, I was immersed in a variety of activities ranging from man-overboard drills in the frigid Pacific water, sailing through the rusted skeletons of a shipwreck, or driving an Orca-class patrol vessel. Each of the following days consisted of a unique training experience that immersed the international cadets in new-found knowledge or culture. We learned about Canada's unique culture, especially in the Vancouver area, as well as their military traditions. As the training progressed, we also learned about the distinct cultures of our international shipmates. Cultural immersion was constant, whether learning how to write our names in Chinese, tasting salty Swedish candy or learning the subtle differences between a British and Australian accent.

After 18 days, our group of 34 strangers merged their cultures and became a collective family. From the celebratory opening dinner, to farewell tears at the airport, the exchange

was a resounding success that will be remembered for a lifetime. The already amazing experience was made even more memorable by the efforts of Escort Officers Ensign Dawna Stewart and Instructor Brandon Chandler throughout the training. Finally, a large thank you is due to the head of the International Exchange Program, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Campbell, without whom this would not have been possible.

“Cultural immersion was constant, whether learning how to write our names in Chinese, tasting salty Swedish candy or learning the subtle differences between a British and Australian accent.”

The Importance of Finding the Right Team

By Seaman Recruit Emily Lo Vece, NSCC
Manatee Division, Yankeetown, Fla.

I don't really remember a time when I didn't have a horse as my best friend and teammate. My sports team has always been my show horse and me. At one time, there were four of us, three horses and me, but I was still the only human member. If I had just one dollar for every person who thinks riding is not a team sport, well let's just say it would buy a lot of hay. Being part of a team in which only one member speaks English provides unique opportunities to develop good communication skills. Working with horses is speaking a language built in silence; not everyone has what it takes to learn and speak that language. You have to be patient, always try looking at things from the horse's point of view and recognize that basic needs like food and water can really influence your partner's mood. It takes a lot of hard work to build a good team, but the reward of top performance, positive peer recognition and friendship that goes beyond mere words is definitely worth the effort.

I think being part of different kinds of teams is important for a lot of reasons. Every team experience can teach skills so vital for success throughout a person's lifetime. While extremely different from my show jumping sport, Sea Cadets is a place where you can find your spot on the team. I am

still a relatively new cadet, but being a part of the Manatee Division has already shown me that this is a group of people who are working together to make a positive impact on society. By building confidence in each other, our cadets are also becoming stronger individuals. This mutual feeling of unity among everyone creates a respectful, hardworking and highly motivated group. It is the very definition of an effective team, some might say. We come together to practice functioning as a unit, being physically fit, and undertaking activities to give back to our community. I am particularly looking forward to participating in the Servathon event to help Manatee Division reach our goal of raising funds for trainings. I have faith that as a team we can accomplish this goal and any other challenges that may arise. After all, reaching common goals is what teamwork is all about.

I believe that whether we are talking about sports or Sea Cadets or any other type of team, finding the right one can make all the difference. I am proud to say that the Manatee Division of the USNSCC is the right team for me. Coming toward the end of the year I am very excited for Recruit Training. I think my team has prepared me well, and I certainly hope to make them proud.



Photos courtesy of
Seaman Recruit Emily Lo Vece, NSCC

My Meeting With VCNO Adm. Howard

By Seaman Mason Haynes, NSCC
Patriot Division, Oklahoma City, Okla.

On Oct. 18, my shipmates and I had the privilege and honor of meeting the Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michelle Howard during the Navy's Birthday Ball at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Adm. Howard taught us a lot about the Navy's core values of honor, courage, commitment. She was an excellent speaker and was well-versed in Oklahoma heritage as well as naval history. My shipmates and I were very impressed by her patriotism and courage.

The highlight of the evening was when she graciously accepted my challenge coin that was awarded to me by Lt. Cmdr. Donna Snodgrass for completing an advance training of Seamanship/Marlinspike at the USS *Batfish* (SS 310) in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The Patriot Division will never forget meeting Adm. Howard. She was kind enough to speak with the cadets personally and ask several questions about the Corps. She was kind, gracious, professional and exemplified Navy excellence.



Haynes presenting his
challenge coin to
Adm. Howard at the Navy's
Birthday Ball.

Courtesy of Patriot Division

USNA Visits for Interested Sea Cadets

By Lt. Douglas Cabarle, NSCC
(USN, Ret.)
U.S. Naval Academy
Blue and Gold Officer

The U.S. Naval Academy is an excellent training and educational opportunity for young men and women, but it is not for everyone. While some young people will thrive in the academy's environment, others will not be able to deal with the fast pace, the discipline, the regimentation, or some other aspect of the program. It is important for everyone to discover this early rather than later, so please take advantage of the visitation opportunities available. Official invites include the Naval Academy Summer Seminar, Candidate Visit Weekends and the Summer STEM Program. The Athletic Department offers summer sports camps that are great opportunities for young athletes to hone their skills while getting to experience academy life and meet midshipmen and coaches. All of these programs are highly competitive and provide a comprehensive perspective of the Naval Academy.

One program in development is for Sea Cadet candidates across the country to drill with Annapolis Division using locally arranged training orders. On a recent drill, cadets from Akron Battalion had the opportunity to tour the yard, visit the USNA Museum, attend an admissions briefing, and talk with prior Sea Cadets and current Midshipmen about strategies to strengthen their applications. We even had time to catch a football game.

If you are interested in visiting USNA as a Sea Cadet, please have your chain of command contact me for details.

Golding (center) took part in a mud run with her unit. The run raised awareness and funds for Operation Homefront, an organization that provides assistance to military families.

Striving to Be My Best

By Instructor Michelle Golding, NSCC
Escondido Battalion/Training Ship Kit Carson, Escondido, Calif.

On Oct. 18, our Escondido Battalion and Training Ship Kit Carson cadets and staff participated in a mud run to raise awareness and funding for Operation Homefront, which helps military families who are in need of emergency assistance at home. Generally, we think about our exciting field trip drills in terms of what a great opportunity they are for the cadets. This drill was an amazing opportunity for the cadets and their staff to work together to demonstrate their physical capabilities as well as teamwork across the ages.

I was overweight when I became an instructor almost two years ago and I felt somewhat hypocritical telling cadets to be healthy when I was not living the healthiest lifestyle I could. About six months ago I decided to take my own health more seriously and began a clean and healthy eating and exercise lifestyle change.

I have since lost 20 pounds. I feel strong and have energy to spare. It felt fantastic to be able to run and climb and do most of the 40 obstacles in the course.

The Sea Cadet program is not just about the opportunities it provides to our youth; it also inspires our staff to be the best role models we can be for the next generation. As my son is now entering manhood, we enjoy running or biking or hiking together and he will take all these physical activities into his lifestyle in the future. Most importantly, I feel that I am now a role model for striving to be my best. Now I enjoy doing PT with the cadets and we joke: "If Instructor Golding can do it, you can do it!"

So, I challenge all parents and guardians: are you striving to be the best role model for these cadets? If not, make a choice to take a chance and change!



Courtesy of INST Michelle Golding, NSCC



Courtesy of Lt. Cmdr. Brian Kobleur, NSCC

A group of commanding officers from around the country met at Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Great Lakes, Illinois to discuss ways to align our Recruit Training with the Navy's best practices. (See story at right.)



Courtesy of International Sea Cadet Association

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Campbell, NSCC (center), Director of the International Exchange Program recently received the ISCA Award for Inspirational Leadership from David Yates (left), Chairman of ISCA and Commodore Rabi Ahuja of the India Sea Cadet Corps (right).



Dan Higgins

Instructor Ken Steffey of Centurion Battalion was the recipient of the CyberPatriot VI Coach of the Year award. It was presented at the Air Force Association's National Convention in September. From left to right: George Muellner, AFA Chairman; Instructor Ken Steffey; Jerry White, Vice Chairman Aerospace Education; Scott Van Cleef, Vice Chairman Field Operations.

Working With the Navy for Excellence at RT

By Lt. Cmdr. Brian Kobleur, NSCC
Commanding Officer, Recruit Training Ill.

Commanding officers and executive officers from many of the USNSCC's Recruit Trainings from around the country met at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes with one mission: to understand the Navy current methods for best training recruits and to adapt these methods to our own program. As commanding officer of Recruit Training Illinois (RTIL), held annually at RTC Great Lakes, I was privileged and honored to organize and host the first USNSCC Recruit Training Command Leadership Conference for the 26 officers who attended. Understanding the challenges we face and the need for consistency within our program, the Navy enthusiastically supported us in every way imaginable.

Capt. Doug Pfeifle, commanding officer of RTC Great Lakes, kicked off the conference with a passionate and heartfelt welcome. Integrity, he said, is the most important quality to instill in new recruits. By personal example, we can teach recruits the importance of integrity and show them that no one can take it from them but themselves. "Integrity," he said, "is not a result, but a choice."

On Friday, the Navy gave us the VIP tour normally reserved for visiting admirals. We toured Battle Stations 21, observed a capping ceremony marking the official transition of four divisions of recruits into Sailors, attended recruit graduation for 792 of the Navy's newest Sailors, and toured the entire base. We followed a recruit's journey through the 58-day training cycle, including barracks life, the Combat Pool, Freedom Hall where recruits receive physical fitness training, the Small Arms Marksmanship Trainer, the Firefighting Trainer, and the USS *Marlinspike*, where recruits learn basic shipboard skills they'll put to use in the fleet.

On Saturday and Sunday, the

Navy provided a series of briefs from officers and Recruit Division Commanders, who are the senior petty officers and chief petty officers charged with training more than 41,000 recruits annually. We learned how recruits are trained, why they're trained the way they are, and how we can adapt those methods for use in promoting consistency and professionalism in our own program in support of our goal of increasing the quality of our finished product — a smartly disciplined, physically fit, basically trained Sea Cadet.

The balance of our time at RTC was spent covering a variety of topics and adopting consistent goals and best practices. We came to agreement on a variety of areas that which will result in enormous benefits to the cadet recruits.

This Recruit Training Command Leadership Conference is important for several reasons. For one, we updated our training methods and brought a renewed sense of professionalism to the task of training cadet recruits. We also deepened our relationship with the Navy, as we have a shared mission for developing young people to prepare them for service to their country. As a testament to how important the Navy believes our shared mission is, we have been invited back annually for further discussions.

What made this conference successful was the behind the scenes work by many talented and dedicated people, as well as open, willing participation by attending Sea Cadet officers, whose passion is developing character in young people by volunteering their time commanding the recruit trainings we run across the country. We look forward to training the USNSCC's newest recruits and truly providing the USNSCC fleet with the very best trained Sea Cadet recruits ever!

Have Dreams, Discipline and Fun

By Petty Officer 1st Class Marc Russo, NLCC
Training Ship Reina Mercedes, Annapolis, Md.

Imagine going through your day and only hearing part of what your friends and teachers say. How would you feel if you missed the punch line to the joke? Or imagine someone calling your name in a crowded cafeteria but not knowing where that sound came from.

Two to 3 percent of the population doesn't have to imagine these situations, because they live them. They have auditory processing disorder (APD), a disorder that occurs when the ears and brain don't fully coordinate. Someone with APD has trouble understanding directions, often cannot hear himself, and may have speech difficulties. He might smile and nod but miss out on the joke, or he might not respond when you call his name.

I know, because that someone is me. Every day with APD is a struggle. But if I am going to accomplish my goals, I know I have to take responsibility for this disorder.

In second grade, my teacher insisted I had attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), saying, "It's the worst I've ever seen." My parents knew that wasn't right, so we turned to Kennedy Krieger Institute for help.

After a series of diagnostic tests, a Kennedy Krieger audiologist diagnosed me with APD — not ADHD.

The staff at Kennedy Krieger designed a plan to help me succeed both in and out of the classroom. For example, the plan recommends I sit near the front of the class to see and hear my teachers more clearly. If teachers need to get my attention, the plan recommends they lightly tap me on the shoulder. And in some cases, the plan recommends teachers

allow me extra time on tests.

Still, having this disorder doesn't excuse me from anything. I dream of becoming a biomechanical engineer and building prosthetic limbs and artificial organs. To get to that point, I have to stay disciplined and focused.

I take action by minimizing distractions and choosing my activities carefully. For example, I am on a swim team and swim four to six days a week. Sometimes I cannot hear the coach giving directions, but it doesn't stop me. I still work on improving as a swimmer and having fun competing.

I'm also one of the highest ranking officers in my Navy League Cadet Corps unit. I get to work with military officers, develop my leadership skills and give orders to the newer cadets.

I learned one of my most important lessons while working with a Navy SEAL. He said, "The three keys to success are: have dreams, have discipline and have fun." At first, I didn't understand what that meant. The more I thought about it, I realized those are words to live by.

If I am going to accomplish my dreams of becoming a biomechanical engineer and improving people's lives, it will take self-discipline and focus. I have to remember not to doubt myself and that it takes time to meet my goals. Even though it's a struggle to live with APD, it shapes who I am. I wouldn't want it any other way.

This article appeared first in Kennedy Krieger Institute's Potential magazine, which can be found at potentialmag.kennedykrieger.org.

Unit Inspired to Help Others

By Petty Officer 2nd Class William Eberle, NSCC
NSCC Aegis Division, Fort Dix, N.J.

During late September and throughout most of October, Aegis Division participated in a community service collection drive called Socktober. Socktober was initiated as a national challenge by the YouTube persona Kid President. The goal of the drive was to try to give back to the community, support the homeless and demonstrate that the Internet and social media can be used productively.

At our September drill, the officers of our unit presented the challenge and, from there, they challenged each of us to collect as many new packages of socks as possible by thinking outside of our means to get socks. They challenged us with a goal of 200 packs of socks, which we exceeded greatly by collecting almost a thousand pairs of socks and over 250 packs of socks.

As the leading petty officer of Aegis Division, it made me very proud to see that my shipmates were able to not only collect so many socks for those in need, but also come

together like this to benefit the community.

With a new understanding that we have the power to help others, the unit is conducting another group effort this winter. As an effort to show deployed troops our thanks, the unit is creating care packages that will hopefully make their time there a little easier and a little happier. We hope that the care packages will lift some spirits and help usher in the new year on a good foot for the members of our armed forces.

When spring arrives, the unit is planning to incorporate some training time with the Coast Guard Auxiliary out of Burlington, New Jersey as they work to clean up the Delaware River.

From those of us at Aegis Division, we hope that our fellow Sea Cadets and League Cadets across the country will try to support their communities in order to help make a better home for all of us. We challenge each unit to think outside of the box and see what is out there to help others.



“Have you ever wondered what it is like to feel truly patriotic; to really have pride in your own country? If not, I encourage you to ask a first responder of their most memorable story, or ask a servicemember about their experiences in their own careers, or even go to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City to know what true pride and true patriotism feels like. You may learn a little something about yourself that you had no idea was there.”

- Seaman Thomas Kessler, NSCC of John T. Dempster Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.

Photo of the Quarter



Gainesville, Fla. — Liberty Division presented and retired the colors at the Alachua County Veterans Day Commemoration.



Courtesy of Liberty Division

Fair Winds & Following Seas

Please join us in bidding a fond farewell
to Headquarters staff member
Evelyn Tadle.

Since 1988, Evelyn has been a joyful and essential member of the Headquarters staff. As a former volunteer and parent in the organization, she has dedicated over 25 years of her life to the Sea Cadet community. Evelyn, you have touched many lives and will be deeply missed. Fair winds and following seas as you transition into retirement.

BEAT THE CROWDS
& Support the NSCC

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