

Sea Cadet Quarterly

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3, SEPTEMBER 2018





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Let our cadets take you on a journey around the country as they tell you about their experiences from summer training.

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ON THE COVER: Cadets from Recruit Training Illinois participate in firefighting training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes.

PHOTO BY: LT Adam Glaysner, NSCC

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

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THIS PAGE: Arizona Sea Cadets pay tribute to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. at the Arizona Capitol on August 29.
PHOTO BY: Jae C. Hong, Pool/Associated Press

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BUILDING LEADERS OF CHARACTER

“It is your character, and your character alone, that will make your life happy or unhappy. That is all that really passes for destiny. And you choose it. No one else can give it to you or deny it to you. No rival can steal it from you. And no friend can give it to you. Others can encourage you to make the right choices or discourage you. But you choose.”

Sen. John McCain

This summer, cadets from around the country joined one another to train. They ate, slept, and drank the Sea Cadet program, and in this issue, you'll read their stories of trepidation, persistence, and triumph. The details of their stories vary, but the result is the same. They are becoming leaders of character.

Even the most self-assured cadet will, at times, wonder if they have what it takes to complete a particularly challenging moment at training. The challenges they face during their time as a cadet will test them. But ultimately, what our cadets learn is that they can meet challenges and surmount them. As Zeeshan Parvez writes on page four, "if you build a solid foundation now and develop the ability to adapt early, every obstacle in your path will become traversable."

It's in the most challenging moments that we grow, that we develop the character that may determine our success against future barriers. To all the League Cadets and Sea Cadets, past and present, who spent their summers pushing past pre-conceived notions about their boundaries, I salute your efforts and welcome you to your place in the ranks of leaders of character.



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

Forever Part of the Sea Cadet Family

By **Kate McIlvaine**

Director of Communications, National Headquarters

Tanner Brach was inquisitive. As a boy, he asked his mother not why the sky was blue, but what made the sky blue. Tanner Brach was also a little mischievous. As a teenager, when his teacher stepped out of the classroom, he managed to navigate around the school's firewall and install Instant Messenger on all of the computers. The school suspended him, but upon his return, the principal introduced him to the information technology staff who were very interested in how he was able to pull off this feat.

He was smart and quick-witted, but like many kids, he struggled to focus and needed consistency.

When he was 11, his mother and father, Karina Brach and Gary Torello, enrolled him in the Navy League Cadet Corps. He became a member of Nautilus (SSN 571) Division in Groton, Connecticut, and this was when his life started to change.

"He became a different person when he put on that uniform," his mom remembers fondly. "The Sea Cadet program really changed Tanner." With his newfound self-confidence and respect for others, his eyes were opened to a bigger and brighter future – the Navy.

Eventually, Tanner and his mother moved, and while he left the Sea Cadet program, he did not abandon his desire to join the Navy. After graduating from high school and taking a hard look at his options, Tanner decided to go for it. He went to the local recruiting officer, enlisted in the deferral program, and did all of this to the surprise of his mother. "He was so proud of pulling himself up and doing something good with his life," recalls Karina.

Tanner enlisted after high school and served as an Aviation Ordnanceman aboard USS *Ronald Reagan* and USS *George Washington* before he passed away unexpectedly on August 7, 2017.

Tanner loved his family and friends, and after his passing, his mother learned of her son's many acts of kindness towards others who were in need. "That's how much Tanner loved and how much he had grown as a person. Compassion, empathy, commitment – that's my boy."

Tanner's story was brought to our attention when his mother created a fundraiser on Facebook to honor his memory. She started with a goal of \$200, and by the time it was over, she had raised more than \$3,500 for the USNSCC in Tanner's name. We are moved by Karina's words and actions, and we are honored that she and Tanner are forever part of the Sea Cadet family.

Remembering Tanner



From Sea Cadet to Special Ops to Scientist

By **Zeeshan Parvez**

University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D., Materials Chemistry
Tillman Scholar



Ever since my youth, I had always wanted to join the military and serve under one of the special operations units in the four branches. Having this goal in the back of my mind through my freshman year of high school, I began actively seeking organizations that could give me relative experience in this field. During an airshow visit, I came across

Mr. David Kerwood, the Commanding Officer of NCBC Battalion (in Rhode Island) who informed me about how the USNSCC could facilitate my goal. The main selling point was how the summer trainings could give relative experience in special operations by allowing me to work with the units I sought to join. Ever since that day, I was full throttle with the USNSCC.

During my time in the USNSCC, I learned a great deal from my home unit, NCBC Battalion, and through the summer trainings that I attended. The most influential of these trainings was explosive ordnance disposal, or EOD, school held at NAB Little Creek Virginia. The hardships that we faced and the camaraderie that we developed here was unparalleled. My fondest memory of this training was the free time that we had after a critical evolution, where our small class came together and talked about the day, our lives, and our aspirations in life.

After leaving the USNSCC, I joined the U.S. Marine Corps

and was selected to become a critical skills operator (CSO) in the Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC). During this time, I was assigned to perform foreign internal defense and unconventional warfare missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon completion of my four-year contract, I exited the military to pursue my Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree at Pennsylvania State University. Subsequently, I completed my Master of Energetic Chemistry degree concurrently with a Master of Business Administration degree at the University of Rhode Island. Currently, I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Materials Chemistry at the University of California Los Angeles, with an end goal of starting a business later down the road.

The USNSCC was truly the stepping-stone that launched my career and gave me the ability to handle difficult hardships that I faced in MARSOC and my academic career. It provided me with the ability to adapt to changing situations, regardless of how extreme the change. This allowed me to become a CSO in MARSOC at a very young age; make the transition from military to a difficult STEM field; pursue degrees at opposite ends of the spectrum in chemistry and business concurrently; and the ability to take calculated risks with high stakes.

My advice to cadets who are considering the military and/or college is to make the most of their time in the USNSCC and attend the summer schools that are related to their target fields. If you build a solid foundation now and develop the ability to adapt early, every obstacle in your path will become traversable.



Chief's Corner

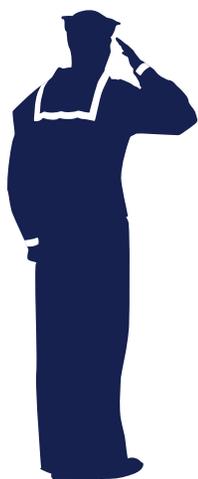
By Chief Petty Officer Bailey Phillip, NSCC
Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, Yuma, Ariz.

The Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron formed in March 2015. I was the first cadet to enroll, and I took full advantage of the opportunities with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. I was 14 years old, and I went to trainings every six months to gain my promotions, completed course-work early, and took on every job my instructors and officers gave me with immense pride. On April 11, 2018, I became the first chief petty officer from Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron.

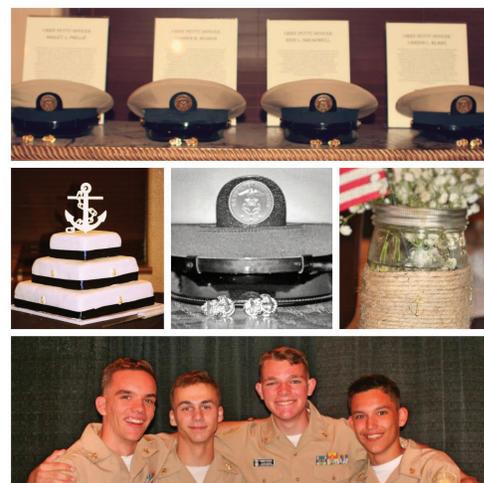
Being a chief, although only briefly before I graduated, was the pinnacle of my time in the Sea Cadets. I not only achieved everything I wanted from the program, but I had obtained the highest rank that I could and the experience to offer insight to my fellow cadets. I felt I had climbed the ladder only to return to the bottom to help the recruits and cadets to follow the path I had set.

Now that I have graduated both high school and the USNSCC program, I am well aware of the responsibilities in life and the choices I need to make to better myself as an adult and to become a productive, respectful, and excellent member of society. My experience in the USNSCC will forever change me.

To all the cadets, stay strong, stand tall, and hold your ground. Use this program to allow you to grow and recognize the potential you all have. Thank you, CO Bacon, for always being there for us all and molding us into who we have become. HOOYAH Yuma and I wish the best for you all!!



On April 11, Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron promoted four cadets to the rate of chief petty officer. Cadets Bailey Phillip, Tanner Hudson, Reid Breadwell, and Carson Blake were promoted together at a special pinning ceremony. These three cadets enrolled within six months of the formation of the unit. CPO Phillip has since graduated from the program and high school. CPO Hudson and CPO Breadwell are currently seniors, and CPO Blake is now a junior.



Former Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Koen Novinger wrote to his unit, Flying Tigers Squadron, from Navy Recruit Training. We think his words should be shared with every cadet.

"Cadets, I know some of you plan to join the military and you are planning to make it your career. If you are at all interested in military service, I recommend you stick with Sea Cadets. I am on Week 2 of boot camp and I am so grateful for Sea Cadets and all it has taught me. It has made boot camp easy and actually kinda fun. If you are a good cadet, you will be an even better sailor.

When you get to boot camp, you need to stay humble, but still strive to be the best. Keep up with your general orders, PT, and boot shining. Go to a bunch of different kinds of training and learn all you can. Sea Cadets is an amazing resource that you can use to better yourself and prepare for your military career. Keep with it and be strong, use your values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and keep with the best youth program in the world."

Our International Exchange Program

This year, the International Exchange Program (IEP) celebrated 20 years of worldwide impact. The director of this program, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Campbell, and his team have been there since the beginning, helping "broaden horizons and make the world a more understandable place."

Q: This year marks the 20th anniversary of our International Exchange Program. Where did the idea to start the U.S. version of the IEP come from?



Campbell: I attended the Canadian exchange as a cadet in the mid-1970s, and it had an impact on me. I enjoyed the friendships and meeting new people. Later, as an officer, I learned that the International Sea Cadet Association was forming just around the time I was the escort officer for the very first exchange to Japan. This was in 1995, and we didn't have many countries we exchanged with on a formal basis. I paid my own way to Japan, and so did the cadets. It was a very expensive training, but it lit a fire in me to make that type of experience available to all Sea Cadets. As soon as I got home, I started brainstorming.

Q: What were those first few years like?

Campbell: Well, it took several years to get it all off the ground. I engaged my friend, CDR Duncan Rowles, and we held several brainstorming sessions with the leaders of the nonprofits in my community. We had two large meetings with 80 people in attendance. We asked their opinions on a variety of topics. We left those meetings with a myriad of opinions and recommendations. Even Captain Michael Ford, the Executive Director, flew up to Hartford, Connecticut to see what was happening. I think he was impressed with what we had done. Once we were ready, I made the formal request to start the International Exchange Program. Previously, it was called the Foreign Exchange Program. I didn't like the name, so we made the change. Captain Ford said "yes" in July 1998, so that was when we were born.

We needed money, so we initiated a fundraising campaign that raised the seed money through direct requests to cadets and officers. We even gave out plank owner certificates and U.S. Navy monopoly games as a thank you. We hand-sorted a mailing to everyone in the NSCC. It was quite an undertaking. Once federal funding kicked in, the world opened up, and we were going strong.

Q: What would you say has been the most significant change in the IEP over the past twenty years?

Campbell: Two things: Federal funding put us in business and turned our program into a merit-based training. This allowed cadets from all economic backgrounds to participate in this scholarship program. Because of this funding we were able to initiate a selection process that found the best cadets to represent us overseas. Every year we make it better.

The second was the creation of the International Sea Cadet Association in 1994. This allowed all 20 member countries to coordinate the exchanges, best practices, and safety/security requirements so that both sides were comfortable with the arrangements. It changed everything.

Q: People may not realize that running multiple exchanges to several countries every summer requires a significant amount of volunteer effort. What does it look like behind-the-scenes when you send a cadet overseas? How critical is your team to the program's success?

Campbell: The IEP works so hard it is sometimes difficult to convey the com-

mitment. There is incredible coordination that must take place to get personnel from point A to point B when flying internationally. It takes thousands of hours every year to arrange all the exchanges, flights, insurance, risk assessments, training plans, and coordination with our partners for all of our programs. It is a year-round team that treats the effort like a part-time job. They feel great passion for the mission, and we never forget about the cadets. The selection process, the inbound, the outbound, the special educational overseas tours, the International Officers Leadership Academy and representing us at the International Sea Cadet Association means we work every single day. The commitment of this team always humbles me, and I learn from their experience.

Q: In addition to sending cadets overseas to participate in other nations' exchange programs, we host cadets from around the world in Newport, Rhode Island every summer. What is that experience like for the American Sea Cadets who staff this training?

Campbell: Well, I think it gives them great pride in representing the United States. They get to show our country to international visitors. They work hard when serving on the staff of the USA Exchange. I know they make friends that change their lives. Plus, we run a pretty tight ship with the best officers in the NSCC who understand the special skills required to work in that environment. The cadets learn how to run an efficient operation. When it's over, our cadets have a better understanding of the world without leaving our shores. The international cadets come to us, but they leave behind a wealth of perspectives and friendships.

Q: What are you looking for in a cadet application?

Campbell: We are looking for the same attributes that ensure acceptance to a military service academy except with one additional interest, the passion for travel and learning about our counterparts. The IEP is all about specialized education. Cadets are required to work hard in preparing for their adventure. Cadets need to do well in school, have a heart for volunteer work and get an excellent recommendation from their CO. The selection committee looks for those who spent time on their applications. This is a scholarship program, so it needs to be treated as such. Each exchange costs thousands of dollars, and we need to know that we've made the right choices. We want well-rounded cadets who feel that being the best is expected and that they'll always be asking "what's next?" We strive to find those who believe that we need to learn about those far away. It makes for a better citizen.

Q: With a shifting and globalizing world, cultural exchange is perhaps more important now than ever before. Do you think cadets and their escort officers return from their overseas trips changed? If so, in what ways?

Campbell: They all have amazing stories to tell, and they consistently tell us it has changed their lives. When cadets and officers return home, it is difficult for them to know where to start in describing the experience to their families. Geopolitical events influence what we do in the IEP. We work hard to give our cadets the best experiences possible. We know our cadets and officers return with a better understanding of the world and its people.

If I were to sum up what the IEP does, it helps to broaden horizons and makes the world an understandable place. If you've been somewhere on an exchange and later see a story about it in the news, you have a better understanding of why things happen. Through the years, cadets have gone on to international careers in the military and civilian workforce. I know of many cadets who have maintained friendships that started in the IEP. It's incredible what this program has done. 🌐

A big thank you to the IEP Team: LCDR Michael Campbell, NSCC; CDR Duncan Rowles, USNR (Ret); LCDR Jennifer Weggen, NSCC; LCDR Todd Dunn, NSCC; LCDR Dolly Stevens, NSCC; INST Lisa Stewart, NSCC; and Chris Tanguay.



An Amazing Adventure

By Chief Petty Officer Rory Kluesener, NSCC
 Pyro Division, Petaluma, Calif.
 International Exchange Program, Hong Kong

At the beginning of the summer, I anxiously looked at the IEP's website to find when the application packages would be released. After a seemingly interminable wait, I was finally able to apply and submit my application for the exchanges. Being given the option for a first choice country, I chose Hong Kong. The reason I chose Hong Kong was that if I only had one shot, I wanted to have the most drastic cultural change. I predicted that there would be fierce competitions between the countries and the weather forecasts showed thunderstorms and lightning. After being accepted, I prepared myself for a physically and mentally challenging training. What I received was completely different.

As soon as the plane touched down on the island of Chek Lap Kok, I looked out the window and was astonished by the beauty of the islands. The weather consisted of crystal clear skies and a cool breeze to make the humidity tolerable. As the days rolled by, the Hong Kong Sea Cadets were incredibly gracious hosts. Each of the six visiting countries' delegates were blown away by the city's beauty and the kindness of the sea cadet escorts provided by Hong Kong. In this densely packed city, we traveled through countless museums and historical landmarks learning the rich history of the locals. To my surprise, there was no marching, no competition, nor any stressful aspects of the training. The Hong Kongers were committed to giving us the experience of a lifetime; they succeeded! From boating through the Aberdeen Floating Village to climbing the 268 steps up to Tian Tan, Big Buddha, and Dragon Boat racing, we truly experienced the Hong Kong culture.

The most rewarding part of the Sea Cadet exchange was the ability to connect with not just the host country's cadets, but also other cadets from around the world. Every single night, many mini cultural exchanges were happening, ranging from games to food tasting. I felt incredibly privileged to have the ability to learn about the cultures of seven different countries within nine days. At the graduation/farewell party, countless tears were shed by both cadets and officers who attended this training, showing the adventure's powerful influence on us.

At the end of the training, the other American exchange cadet stated that Hong Kong was not her first choice, but she was confident that given the opportunity to choose again, it would be her first choice. I highly recommend this training to other cadets who are willing to dive into a completely different culture as I was. I will always remember this adventure and can confidently say it was the single most amazing experience of my life.



My Trip to Canada

By Chief Petty Officer Devon Golding, NSCC
 Escondido Battalion, Escondido, Calif.
 International Exchange Program, Canada

This training was a life-changing experience that took my Sea Cadet experience to the next level. We had opportunities to do and see so much. I didn't expect it, but we got to see wild orcas jumping in the ocean! It was so majestic – one of the most amazing things I've ever seen. We learned about their culture, customs, ceremonies, and social differences. It was interesting being able to show one another what our norms are.

Growing up in the States, I believe we live in the best country, and I am very patriotic. This international trip taught me we could learn a lot about what all the other countries have done and what has worked for them. There is always something new to learn from each other if you have an open mind.

A couple of the guys I met got close, and we called ourselves "The Boys." We were from four different countries and got along like brothers. We bonded and had a great time. We created a party on the second to last night at Quadra, getting everyone pumped up before we left. Our goal was to unite as one group and it didn't matter whose country it was. We would spread the patriotism. We all loved our nations individually. It's difficult talking about your country to others because by instinct you start saying yours is the best which easily gets others mad. The truth is there is no fact, only perspective. It's fun hearing about the stories that come from other countries and their norms. I absolutely would love to do another international exchange. It was such a fantastic experience.



Seeing the World as a Sea Cadet

By Chief Petty Officer Ian Fox, NSCC

Edward C. Benfold Division, Crystal Lake, Ill.
International Exchange Program, Trip to Peru

The saying goes, “Join the Navy and see the world.” I say, join the Sea Cadets, and you will have that chance and more. From my fledgling League Cadet days to my role as a chief petty officer of the Edward C. Benfold Division, my trainings have taken me from diving the warm waters of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to staffing Recruit Training at Camp Pendleton outside San Diego and back to my midwestern roots at bases in Great Lakes, Illinois, Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and Ft. Custer, Michigan. I even attended POLA aboard the either haunted (my vote) or not haunted USS *Hornet* docked outside San Francisco. But nothing prepared me to understand the diversity and fantastic world history that lies beyond our shores like the Sea Cadet International Adventure in Peru.

Three thousand plus miles away from home I saw first hand the incredible accomplishments of the Incan Empire some 500 years ago. The city of Machu Picchu, literally set in a mountainous valley in the Andes, was built as a testament to their understanding of mathematical and scientific concepts centuries before modern instrumentation proved them right. The entire trip was an immersion in a culture I had only seen in pictures. The Peruvians' warm, welcoming nature made our group of 14 cadets and five escort officers feel as though we were guests in their home and they were eager at every turn to tell us about their noble and illustrious history.

We visited the capital city of Lima, the historic town of Cuzco, the Sacred Valley, a whitewater rafting trip down the Urubamba River that no one will ever forget, and then the single most impressive sight my eyes have ever seen, the ancient city of Machu Picchu. Built stone by stone over 500 years ago and sitting on over 80,000 acres and almost 8,000 feet above sea level, it housed scholars and tradesmen, and because of its remote location set in the Andes Mountains, it remains aged but untouched today.

I can only say that the Sea Cadets have given me opportunities to see and experience things that will remain with me through my lifetime. I have grown as a person, as a traveler, and as a leader through each of my trainings but I would be lying if I didn't tell you that this Peruvian adventure was the single most, downright coolest trip I have ever experienced.

Thank you to our COTC, LCDR Dolly Stevens, for putting this amazing trip together, and to LCDR Jennifer Weggen (Ops/ Training Officer), LDCR Jeffrey Anderson (Division Officer), LCDR Sandi Chamyan (Medical Officer), INST Jennifer Warren (Escort Officer), and our Explorica tour guide Augusto Lescano for taking your time to make it happen and keeping us safe. I will forever be grateful for their leadership and the friends I made with cadets from every corner of the United States.



Two Brothers on Leadership

Sea Cadets and brothers, Chief Petty Officer Aaron Lequang and Petty Officer 1st Class Astin Lequang of Chesty Puller Battalion, share their wise thoughts on leadership.

Q: What's it like being brothers in the same unit?



CPO Lequang: As an older brother in the program, I felt as if I had the responsibility to show my younger brother how to be the very best even when at times I didn't know myself. I wouldn't say I had a more difficult time, but I didn't have an easier time either. I had my ups and downs in the program but through them, I developed the courage and tenacity to forge ahead. I knew I could always lean on my brother and shipmates for help or guidance when venturing into the unknown.



P01 Lequang: It is difficult to have an older brother that outranks me in the sense that it adds extra pressure to meet or exceed the rank, number of ribbons, and trainings completed that he has. However, it is also a blessing to have someone that has gone through the program before me because I can learn from his mistakes, as well as hear all his stories about his trainings.



Q: What makes a good leader?

CPO Lequang: From my point of view, an outstanding leader is one who sets the goals and boundaries on day one and enforces them consistently, who teaches their shipmates how to do something and make sure they understand it thoroughly instead of just yelling at them to complete the task when they barely know how, who seeks out opportunities that allow his/her shipmates to grow and thrive in order to develop the ability to surpass their leader in excellence. A leader must always look out for his/her shipmates, but he/she must also take care of recharging himself/herself mentally and physically so that he/she can most effectively fulfill the leadership role. What good is a leader who is burnt out? A burnt-out leader can't help his/her shipmates when they might need help the most. As a young leader, I endeavor to uphold these leadership factors with discipline and conscience every day.

P01 Lequang: I think leadership is hard to put into a "formula" because every leadership position will require some bending to get it just right. However, in my four years in

this program, I've come to understand that to lead, you have to listen to your followers. You have to understand what they bring to the table and be able to modify your direction to attain the best result. I just staffed the RT at McClellan AFB, and I have seen leaders on both sides of the spectrum. What I've noticed is that those who maintain mutual respect with their subordinates can get tasks accomplished faster and to a better quality than that of leaders who lead through fear and threats. Given, there is a divide between leader and friend. Being put into a position of seniority means that you have to make the less popular decisions, no matter how much your followers grumble about it. In other words, you are a leader because someone has put trust in you to choose the best course of action, not to pander to everyone's convenience. Steve Jobs put it concisely: "If you want to make everyone happy, don't be a leader – sell ice cream."

"What I've noticed is that those who maintain mutual respect with their subordinates can get tasks accomplished faster and to a better quality than that of leaders who lead through fear and threats."

Q: What does the USNSCC mean to you?

P01 Lequang: To me, the NSCC represents a chance to improve myself while making new friends and memories. My goal in life is to get that NROTC scholarship to pay for my college so that I can serve the Navy debt-free. The USNSCC has only affirmed that goal and made me sure that I was going to join, sooner or later.

CPO Lequang: The NSCC means a familial connection to every cadet you meet and interact with, forming a bond that can't be broken. To me, the NSCC is a connection to reality where you learn how to deal with life when a curveball is thrown at you, but as a Sea Cadet you must learn how to roll with the punches, take charge when needed and reflect when things go wrong. The NSCC gave me an overwhelming number of life skills like confidence, tact, humility, determination, and discipline. It demonstrated to me so many things that I would never have learned if I had decided to stay at home and watch YouTube all day!

First Time in Ocean, Cadet Saves Woman

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Edgar Nelson, NSCC
Cleveland Division, Cleveland, Ohio

I was at FAA Ground School at Norfolk Naval Base for my advanced training. The class was really tough, and I was looking forward to going to Virginia Beach on the weekend for time off.

I had not ever been to the ocean before, so it was something exciting to break up the training school. We were walking along the beach and heard a woman screaming for help. Two of my classmates, Cadets Platt and DiPasquale, swam out to the woman in trouble. They were having a hard time rescuing the lady, so I swam out with Cadets Cuadra, Hall, and Williams to assist. It took all of us to swim the lady back to shore. Zajac ran for lifeguards and helped drag us all back into shore. The rip-tide was strong, so we were all tired and others on the beach helped pull us in. The lifeguards came and took the woman to safety.



Proud to Be a Sea Cadet

By Chief Petty Officer Tiffany Wong, NSCC
Sacramento Division, Sacramento, Calif.

When a U.S. Congressman saluted me, it was the proudest moment of my life. It was June 21, 2018, in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Building on Capitol Hill. In my chief petty officer uniform, I was receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal that I'd earned 11 months ago. Right after that, another congressman from San Diego stopped me and told me that he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and praised me, saying "Thank you for your service!" It was an incredible experience, and I had never felt more honored in my life. Later on, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, even commemorated all gold medalists' achievements into the Congressional Record.

It's not easy to earn the Congressional Award Gold Medal. You need to fulfill requirements not only in voluntary service, personal development, and physical fitness but also in exploration or expedition. I am very grateful to Sea Cadets for helping me achieve my gold medal. I spent numerous hours of voluntary service with the Sea Cadets, from air shows and parades to performing with a Sea Cadet band for veterans and the public. Participation in Aviation, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and CyberPatriots also earned me a STEM Star, an extra honor granted to gold medalists. I'm especially grateful that my commanding officer, LCDR Curtis Gant, my Congressional Award adviser, guided me through my journey not only towards my Congressional Award Gold Medal but also becoming a chief petty officer.

Sea Cadets has shaped me to be the person who I am today. When I first joined the organization at ten years old, I was terribly shy. I could barely talk to someone on the phone, and wouldn't have even imagined what it'd be like to command a whole division. But when I became a petty officer, I had to fight to overcome my fear in order to lead. It was incredibly frightening for me. I'm thankful to all of the officers in our division who constantly pushed me to grow out of my comfort zone. Now, seven years later, I've become more at ease leading our division.

Over the past years, my family and I regularly share my positive experiences at Sea Cadets to friends and families and on social media. I was even able to recruit 33 cadets into our division. I'm proud to be a Sea Cadet!



My Summer Was Different From Yours – Unless You're a Cadet

By Seaman Apprentice Riley Galica, NSCC

Lonestar Squadron, Fort Worth, Texas
Recruit Training, Little Rock, Ark.

I was excited about going to Little Rock for Recruit Training, but driving through those gates at Camp Robinson, my nerves kicked in. I had prepared for this training for months. My personal struggle was with sit-ups. I could do push-ups all day long, but sit-ups? Ugh. Well, not only did I hit the minimum, but I got “national” for my PRT. I worked hard, and it paid off.

My seabag inspection was embarrassing because when I attempted to dump all my stuff on the table, I could barely lift it. After I passed the inspection, some other recruits and I got whisked away to our barracks. It was a very long, hot walk with that bag on my back.

Life at RT was nothing like my usual summer life at home. My first night was a bit of a mess. I never usually take a one-minute shower, nor do I shower with other people. I like my privacy.

On any typical summer day, I sleep in until about 10 a.m., but at RT, we woke up at 4:30 a.m. I don't mind working out; I just don't like to work out at 5 a.m. PT wasn't too difficult. I wasn't a huge fan of the line sit-ups, but I did like the square push-ups. Whenever we finished a mile, we would do a motivation check. We would yell at the top of our voices. Who doesn't like screaming at 6 a.m.?

At the end of training, we received honor company. We all hugged each other and yelled “HOOYAH CHARLIE!” I felt like I accomplished something, and it felt great. I made friendships across the U.S. I can't wait to do another training and if I could do RT all over again, I would.



Sailing Aboard *Appledore*

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Kelsey Ampe, NSCC

Darter Dace Division, Marquette, Mich.

Basic Sailing, Tall Ship *Appledore IV*, Bay City, Mich.

It's the morning of training, and the pre-training butterflies are just starting their warm-ups. But today it was more than just another training with new things to learn, new people to meet, a new place to sleep. For me, it was also a new leadership position: I was staffing for the first time. And little did I know this training would be a life-changing experience.

When I first boarded the *Appledore IV*, I was terrified. I'd a) never been aboard a Tall Ship, and b) never staffed a training. Upon arrival, the cadets and our families received a tour of the vessel we'd call home for the next six days. Once our families left though, we got down to business. We left Bay City, Michigan, sailed up to Alpena, and then down to Detroit over the course of the training. And there was a lot to learn, between the different lines, the lingo, and the crew's leadership; it was kind of overwhelming. But we quickly settled in and started working. We learned knots, coils, reefing, flaking, ship checks, and navigation, not to mention setting and striking (raising and lowering) sails. In those six days, I learned more than I thought possible. I made incredible, lifelong friends with cadets and crew alike. It was the training of a lifetime, and one I'd suggest to any cadet who is even the tiniest bit interested in boating of any kind. Not only did I learn a ton, but I also had fun, and discovered that I have a love and passion for Tall Ship sailing. I'm greatly looking forward to going back and hope that sometime soon, I'll be sailing as crew on a Tall Ship. I can't emphasize enough how incredible this training is. A huge "Thank You" to Bay Sail and the crew. You guys (and gal) are the best! A shout-out to officers too. Escort Officers for underway trainings are sometimes hard to find, so if you enjoy the Great Lakes, please join us!

Strong Bonds Formed While Underway

By Seaman Michael Medeiros, NSCC

Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) Division, Lodi, N.J.

Advanced Sailing, *Roseway*, Portsmouth, N.H.

For an Advanced Sailing Training, I spent one week living and working on the *Roseway*, an old 137-foot Schooner built in 1925. This ship used to be an old swordfishing vessel, but through the years it occupied many positions such as a pilot vessel and at one point, offered wealthy families a day of sailing, until eventually falling into the hands of the World Ocean School. Because the World Ocean School ran this training, all of the 16 cadets wore civilian clothes while at sea, and used first names for the duration of the training, along with having two civilian students on board with us. Throughout the week we learned pretty much all there is to know about the various things that go into maintaining and operating a sail-powered vessel. Each morning we raised sails and the anchor, and throughout the day, under direction from the deckhands, we did hourly boat checks to make sure the ship was in working order, stood bow watch, steered at the helm, and assisted in moving sails for different maneuvers such as tacking. We also had various classes throughout the day taught by the deckhands. We learned knots that we went on to use in many situations on the ship, learned how to find our position and where we would end up on a chart using coordinates, and other lessons like parts of the sail, what all the lines of the ship correspond to, and the rich history of the vessel. For the week, we all slept in the fish hold, otherwise known as "the fish." This compartment got its name because back in the *Roseway's* fishing days, the swordfish would be stored in the fish hold, which at the time was a large empty compartment. It has since been redone and outfitted with many small bunks for the visiting crew to sleep in.

Along with the daily tasks and classes, we had the opportunity to take part in some more adventurous activities. We were able to sit out on the Bowsprit, which is the long rod-shaped thing coming off the bow of the ship. We were also able to climb to the top of the 75-foot mast and admire the view from that height. We also had many other location-specific activities, such as a marine biology lesson on the Isle of Shoals, and whale watching on a bank off of Cape Cod. On the last day of the training, we put on our NWUs and sailed into Portsmouth, New Hampshire, participating in an event called "Sail Portsmouth."

All in all, I had a great time at this training. Because of how close everyone lives during the week, everyone forms strong bonds. I learned a lot of useful skills that I hope to use in the future. I hope my next experience at an advanced training is as exciting and informative as this one.



Teamwork in Action

By Petty Officer 1st Class Alyssa Vossen, NSCC

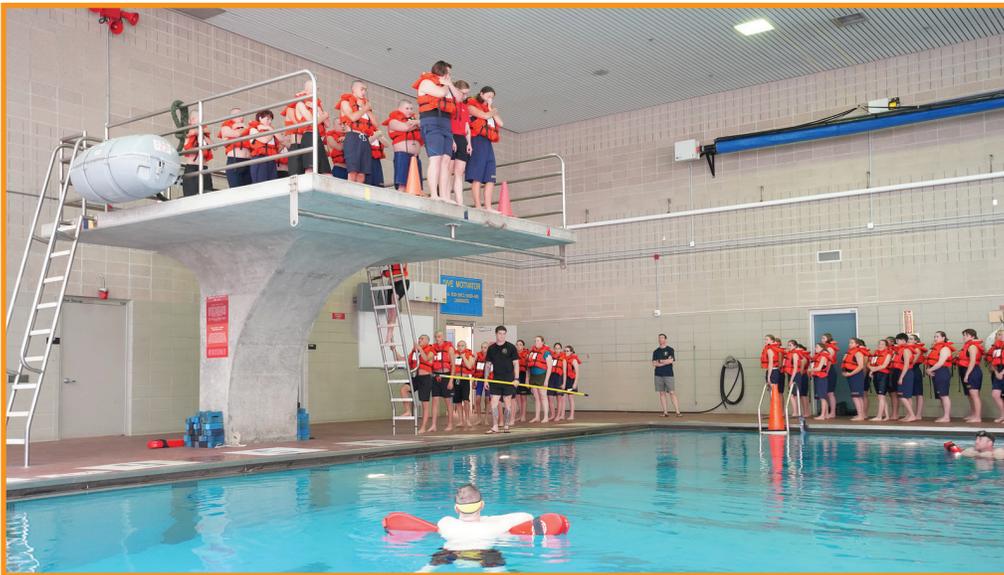
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.
Staff Cadet, Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

Recently, I was fortunate enough to be a staff cadet at RTIL 2018. The days were long and challenging, and I was tasked with shaping recruits into "basically trained" Sea Cadets. Before the recruits arrived, the officers spoke of how crucial it was to develop them into a single, unified team. What I didn't realize going into it was how moving and inspirational it is to see that teamwork in action.

On one of the first few days there, every division went to a combat pool and had to jump from a ten-foot platform into the water. Most recruits made it through quickly, but some did not. One recruit stood at the edge and was too afraid to jump down. I imagine she was feeling quite discouraged and embarrassed to be standing there in front of all of her shipmates, unable to complete the evolution. By this point in the training, the four divisions were distinct and separate from each other, but then something amazing happened.

Someone shouted, "Hooyah, shipmate! Hooyah, shipmate!" And the echo of hundreds of other recruits rang through the room in one great roar. Then there were shouts and cheers of encouragement until finally, she jumped in! There was no "Division 002" or "Division 006" at that moment. Then, we were all one unit, motivating our shipmate to do what we all knew she had inside of her.

This was merely one example of the teamwork I witnessed during my time as a staff cadet. I now know things like this are the only reason any trainings are successful, not just RTIL. No matter how much effort is put into preparing and training, triumph rests on everybody's ability to put their shipmates above themselves and gel into a single team.



LT ADAM GLAYSHER, NSCC

"Someone shouted, "Hooyah shipmate! Hooyah shipmate!" And the echo of hundreds of other recruits rang through the room in one great roar. Then there were shouts and cheers of encouragement until finally, she jumped in! There was no "Division 002" or "Division 006" at that moment. Then, we were all one unit, motivating our shipmate to do what we all knew she had inside of her."

This summer, I went to Recruit Training at Fort Devens in Massachusetts. Over the course of the 12 days of training, I learned a lot about leadership, especially on the subjects of communication and responsibility. I learned how important communication is, and even more importantly, the outcome if one is not taking their part in it seriously. On the topic of responsibility, I now know how to stay organized, pay attention to detail, and remain calm while in a leadership position. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to attend such a great training. What I have taken from my two weeks at Fort Devens, I will forever apply to situations that take place over the course of my life.

Seaman Apprentice-Trainee Olivia Iorio, NSCC
Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) Division, Lodi, N.J.



My USNA Summer Seminar Experience

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Jake Palisoc, NSCC

Peredo Battalion, Apra Heights, Guam

U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar, Annapolis, Md.

I joined the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps on Guam in 2015, and it is one of the best decisions I have ever made. Through the Sea Cadets, I learned about the United States Naval Academy and had the privilege to attend the USNA Summer Seminar in June. It was an unforgettable experience, and I made so many memories.

The main purpose of the Summer Seminar is to give prospective students the Naval Academy college experience including: campus life, academic aspects, physical aspects, benefits, life among peers, and the requirements to be accepted into the Academy. One of the main aspects I learned about the Academy is the commitment it requires of you as a student. In addition to your studies, you must also maintain great physical shape. Your first six and a half weeks at the Academy as a freshman, called Plebe summer, you are completely cut off from the outside world. Though it may sound overwhelming, what I experienced at the Academy was so fun and an encouragement to finish high school strong. From PT in the morning to Sea Trials, the Summer Seminar was unforgettable.

Another great aspect of the Academy are the bonds created with your classmates during your four years. I experienced this at the Seminar. I met so many amazing people during my summer experience and made friends and bonds that will last a lifetime. During the week we had a brief from Ryan Manion, head of the Travis Manion Foundation. Ryan Manion's brother, who was killed in action, attended the Naval Academy. Through her brief, I learned about how you are not only attending the Naval Academy for college, but you are also dedicating your life to a career in the US Navy.

On my way home to Guam, I had a layover in Japan and met a Naval Academy alumni. I was practically halfway around the world from Annapolis, and I ran into someone from the Academy. The Naval Academy has influence across the globe. From this experience of a lifetime, I hope to attend the Naval Academy. I encourage those interested in the Naval Academy to attend the Summer Seminar because it is an experience you will never forget.



From Nerves to Pride

By Seaman Apprentice Travis Armbrust, NSCC

Houston Division, Houston, Texas

Recruit Training, Pensacola, Fla.

Before I left for Recruit Training in Florida, I was nervous. I had doubts about my ability to get through. When I started packing my seabag though, I realized that this was a real thing that was happening and I started believing in myself again – not to say I wasn't still nervous. The real anxiety began when we started the drive to NAS Pensacola.

When we finally arrived, and I was being processed, I somehow calmed myself a bit. Minutes stretched into hours as I stood in line to turn in my service jacket and get my seabag checked.

I wasn't used to people barking commands at me all hours of the day, so it took some time to get accustomed.

I honestly thought PT was going to be a nightmare. They woke us up at 4:30 every morning, and we would be out on the field by 5 a.m. I didn't think I was going to do very well, but I ended up getting the best scores I've ever gotten. With the encouragement of my shipmates, I was able to take over a minute and a half off of my mile time!

It took almost a week to get used to this kind of lifestyle. At first, I wanted to go home, but once I started talking to other people, I learned how much I enjoyed being there. That gave me a bit of hope that I could make it through and maybe have a little fun doing it. So from that point forward, I made it my mission to do my absolute best at whatever I did.

Thanks to this encouragement, I did even better the second week. I passed the PRT and the final test with flying colors. Graduation finally came, and after all the practice we had done, we pulled it off perfectly. I was really proud of myself and my shipmates. Once I met up with my parents, I felt a sense of joy and relief.

When we made it home after the 11-hour drive, I collapsed into bed thinking about what I had just experienced, and what I had just accomplished, that not many people my age will get to do. I'm glad I joined Sea Cadets so that I can have more opportunities like this. I'm even considering returning to NAS Pensacola in the future to staff a recruit training.



The Role of the Coast Guard: More Than Just Port Security

By Lt. j.g. Miles Kushnereit, NSCC
 West Virginia Division, Red House, W.V.
 Coast Guard, Huntington, W.V.

My favorite part of the training was "driving the boat on the Ohio River as well as when we got to handle the different weapons the U.S. Coast Guard issues."

SN Christopher Zamora, NSCC

In June, we hosted a Coast Guard training with the local Coast Guard in Huntington, West Virginia. People may wonder why is there a Coast Guard presence in West Virginia, miles from the ocean. Well, during that week of training the cadets learned that there is so much more to what the Coast Guard does than just port security.

The Coast Guard in Huntington is a Marine Safety Unit, tasked with protecting the waterways from Morgantown, West Virginia down to Huntington, West Virginia and Ashland, Kentucky. They oversee maritime security, marine safety, recreational boating safety, search and rescue, waterways management, incident response, casualty investigations, and environmental protection missions throughout the Eastern Ohio River Basin.

During the training, cadets experienced the customs and courtesies of the U.S. Coast Guard by attending a change of command ceremony, hosted by the commander of the Sector Ohio Valley, Captain Michael Zamperini. He explained that the Ohio River is an asset to the nation's waterway system because of the barges that travel up and down these

ivers, providing essential goods for our economy.

The cadets also learned about different jobs in the Coast Guard and the maintenance and upkeep of the equipment used, including weapons, safety gear, boats, trailers, ropes, and uniforms. They also learned about the U.S. Coast Guard Academy from an officer who went to the academy not previously knowing anything about the military or the Coast Guard.

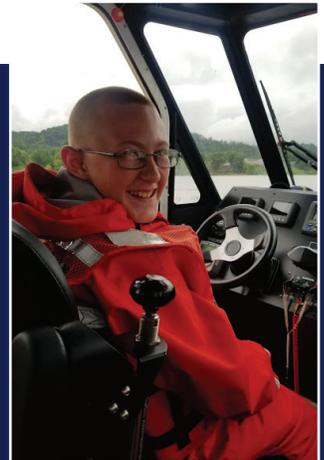
At the end of the week, the cadets joined the active duty and reserve crew on the river during training and operations. There, they learned how to navigate the river on the Coast Guard's impressive boats. The cadets used their Coast Guard PQS to ask the crew questions about how they operate and use specific tools.

On the last day of training, the cadets took the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Safe Boating Course that taught them the differences in recreational boats and what do to during certain situations. This information was vital and provided the cadets with the knowledge to navigate and travel the local waterways safely and responsibly. They were given a test at the end, allowing them to get licensed in other states if warranted.

Overall, the training was a success and gave these cadets the opportunities to grow their knowledge of the U.S. Coast Guard. They came away with a better understanding of the attributes and skills of these men and women who serve our nation.

My favorite part of the training was "when I got to drive the Patrol Boat and when we were learning to tow the other one with the different ropes."

LC2 Benjamin Benton, NLCC



One of the Best Trainings

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Jackson Uitenbroek, NSCC

Houston Division, Houston, Texas

Merchant Marine Operations, Galveston, Texas

This summer, I attended the Merchant Marine Operations training in Galveston, Texas. This is one of the best trainings I have ever been to.

For the first two days, we did classroom work. It had to be done before we could get to the fun stuff which included going to the San Jacinto Maritime Academy to use their bridge simulators. We had to complete specific tasks like entering and exiting different harbors in different classes of ships, including destroyers, oil tankers, bulk carriers, and container ships. The simulations varied in difficulty from easy ones where you only had to plot a short course to having to navigate through a tiny corridor where getting off course by just a little bit will run you aground. The hardest simulation had all the simulators put into one harbor. We had to communicate with each other on when we were going to enter and exit the harbor so we wouldn't have a collision. Although difficult, it was still really fun.

About halfway through the training, I had become accustomed to the routine and had bonded with the other cadets. I was having a lot of fun, but my favorite part happened later in the training when we went to a damage control simulator. The simulator we used was a shipping container with its top removed that is lined with pipes that have holes. Your goal is to stop water from filling the container up to a certain point. There is a mark on the door that is known as the "dead man's line." Once the water gets to that point, there is so much water in the room that you can't open the door. I enjoyed it because it allowed me to think outside the box to attempt to plug the holes. By the end, I was soaking wet.

We also went to many other places. We got to go to the Rolls Royce Center and saw the thrusters that are used on jack-up rigs. We went to the Coast Guard station in Galveston where we simulated a search and rescue mission. We plotted a search pattern, and we went out on a small boat and executed the search pattern to try and find a marker that represented the silhouette of a human head in the water. The best part of that was getting to drive the boat during this search pattern.

Merchant Marine Operations was one of the best trainings I have ever been to. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot. I recommend this training to everyone.



Cadet Enjoys STEM Training at West Point

By Petty Officer 1st Class Olivia Orban, NLCC

Training Ship Tomcat, Selfridge, Mich.

STEM Training, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Want to go on a really cool training next summer? I recommend the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workshop at West Point Military Academy. This four-day training was jam-packed with exciting experiments and interesting lessons. While most of the day was spent learning, there was a lot of hands-on activities such as drawing with 3D pens, creating, controlling, and battling virtual reality tanks, creating our own light bug, and so much more.

We learned about 3D pens and printers before writing and drawing with them. We learned how engineers and scientists are working to create organs and other body parts out of 3D printers. We were taught how to build, control, and then battle our own virtual reality tanks against other STEM workshop participants. My favorite activity was creating our own light bug, a microbot that follows a concentrated amount of light, like a flashlight. We followed step-by-step instructions that were similar to those in a LEGO kit. We did all the placing and soldering of the pieces ourselves.

My experience as a League Cadet helped me at West Point. I had already learned how to properly execute military commands (attention, at ease, dress right, facing movements, etc.) and because I knew these things, I was asked to help teach the other participants. After teaching them, I was asked to lead a knockout drill.

Overall, the STEM workshop was a lot of fun. I learned a lot, but I also enjoyed helping to teach. Every day was filled with wondrous new activities and learning about different types of engineers. I had a lot of fun on this trip, and I didn't want to leave, I personally plan to return next year as a STEM ambassador. As an ambassador, I can help out a lot more, come up with cool and exciting new games, and tell my own engineering story on the last day. I would recommend this training to any cadet looking into the engineering field, or any cadet that doesn't know what they want to be.



A Unique Advanced Training in D.C.

Our History and Heritage Training is a seven-day training focused on introducing cadets to our country's rich history.

In the warm, humid days of July, an advanced training was filled with adventure, education, and wonder. Cadets hailing from as far as California to as close as Massachusetts traveled to New York to embark on seven-day training focused on **History and Heritage** in Washington, D.C.

At the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, we were able to witness the Changing of the Guard. Four cadets, CPO Ceytera Berthold, PO2 Stuart Simpson, PO1 Zachary Gay, and I, had the honor of taking part in a wreath-laying ceremony. The overall experience was humbling knowing that hundreds of thousands of lives were lost for the freedoms that we have today. What an incredible experience we had as a group. I will have lifelong memories of this training.

I am proud to be part of the USNSCC and a member of the **Cpl. Kyle Carpenter Division**, and I am excited to see what the future holds for next summer's training.

**Petty Officer 2nd Class
Eric Gollinge, NSCC
Cpl. Kyle Carpenter Division,
Farmingdale, N.Y.**



By Seaman Sydney Lin, NSCC
Van Voorhis Memorial Squadron, Las Vegas, Nev.

This summer, I attended an advanced training in Washington D.C. However, this was not a camp like your regular training. It was the U.S. Naval History and Heritage training. During a week, I learned so much about naval history and the history of the United States in general. I got to see so many monuments, museums, and experience things that I usually wouldn't be able to if I just visited D.C. with my family on vacation.

Even still, the training was tough. We had to make sure our uniforms were perfect. If there was one wrinkle, IP, or a small stain, we would have to fix it quickly. Hair was also a big problem for me. Before coming to the training, I was nervous because I have thick, long hair. But after practicing every day at the training, I could do a near-perfect bun fairly quickly.

We got to do a lot of fun things. For example, we got to see the Washington Monument, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial when there were barely any people there because we woke up early to maximize our day. We went to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to see how money is made, the Korean War Veterans Memorial to honor those who have served, and we even got to take a tour of the White House in our dress whites! At many of the places we went, we talked to veterans who had served in wars. It was fascinating to hear about their experiences. We also toured the U.S. Capitol, watched the Marine Barracks Evening Parade and witnessed the Changing of the Guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. I learned so much during this camp and had a lot of fun and made quite a few memories. It was an unforgettable summer training.



A Training Unlike Any Other

This summer, League Cadets and Sea Cadets were offered the opportunity to attend a one-week training at the National Flight Academy (NFA) in Pensacola, Florida.

The **National Flight Academy** was built to emulate an aircraft carrier, so all the windows were either closed or had a picture of the sea painted on. Around 8 p.m., the lights would turn from white to red since red helps the eyes adjust to the darkness. Every day, we would plan missions, communicate on the comms, and practice flying on the flight simulators.



One of the trainings we did was the **Tampa Air Rally**. The Tampa Air Rally was a two-person flight simulation where you virtually visited four airports and had to complete challenges. You

had to take pictures of two targets, pick up cargo, touch and go, and fly through a course in the shortest amount of time. Unfortunately, my partner and I didn't win, but it was still a great experience. Throughout the week we went to the **Naval Aviation Museum and Hangar Bay 1**. Our chief told us some facts, like why some of the Japanese soldiers had swords (they were officers) and how the tailhook of airplanes worked (a giant hook that catches the rope as they are landing). The highlight of my training was going to see the **Blue Angels** practice, they flew with precision and was a great example of expert flying. A big thanks to the Sea Cadets for sponsoring this training!

Seaman Samuel Lin, NSCC
Van Voorhis Memorial Squadron,
Las Vegas, Nev.



By **Chief Petty Officer Pamela Martin, NSCC,** and
Petty Officer 3rd Class Alessia Velasquez, NSCC
Seminole Battalion, Altamonte Springs, Fla.



This summer, we attended an aviation training at the National Flight Academy, recently opened to the Naval Sea Cadet program. The building that was used for the training had unique decor, the people we were allowed to work with kept us open-minded, and the special missions we were given the task of completing all equaled up to a great experience. The amount of knowledge and learning opportunities provided at this training stood out to both of us.

When we arrived, the first thing we both noticed was the building used for this training. The name given to the building was *Ambition*. The reason for this was to help give character and realism to our experience here. Outside, it looked and felt like we were about to enter an aircraft carrier. Inside the building, the walls were painted grey and they had numerous posters on the wall to make it feel like we were in an actual aircraft carrier. The simulators used in this training were even given the virtual view from an aircraft. The instructors took the time to make everyone's experience here as realistic as possible.

While we were finding our way through the building, we noticed that not everyone was a Sea Cadet. It turns out there were hundreds of people from all over who came to attend the same training. The Sea Cadets that attended this training traveled from all over the United States and as far away as Guam. After we settled in, we were told to meet our teams and arrange ourselves accordingly. In each team, there were about 18 people. After we all formed our teams, we were given the task of finding our co-pilots and starting our missions.

Each day, we were given numerous missions to complete as a team. The missions included rescuing downed pilots, putting out fires on other aircraft, air shows, and moving supplies from country to country to help provide for hurricane relief. We did not complete each mission as planned, but every time our team failed, we all grew stronger and smarter. One of our favorite missions we completed was an air show. It was similar to a Blue Angels show, but the planes were coming from an aircraft carrier in the ocean. We had to create a fun and creative way to show off our flying skills and planes. However, this was easier said than done. None of us crashed our planes, but we needed to improve our barrel rolls.

The Aircraft Carrier *Ambition* is an experience we will never be able to obtain from anywhere else. We appreciate the NSCC for sponsoring this training and allowing us the opportunity to attend this particular training. We highly recommend the NFA training to anyone interested in aviation or ground school.

League Cadets Use Their Photojournalism Skills to Tell The Story of Training

League Cadets from around the country joined together at Camp Arbolado in California to learn how to use photography and their words to capture the essence of League Cadet training.

"I loved the whole training because I made a lot of friends. ... I think I might make a career out of photojournalism. Thanks to LTJG Wright and INST Hewitt, I really loved Photojournalism."

LC2 Mary Plaster, NLCC
TS Stan Morris, Las Vegas, Nev.



LC2 Tyler Hutton, NLCC

"My photojournalism experience was interesting. It brought a whole new level of independence I had never experienced in Sea Cadets. The ability to roam around and freely take pictures was very relaxing, but also stressful because you are required to export a certain amount of pictures every day to your highest skill level of photography. Photojournalism taught me many photography skills I would have never learned by myself, and now pictures I have taken in the past seem amateur."

LC3 Brandon Nguyen, NLCC
TS Orion, Mountain View, Calif.



LC4 Annie Dinh, NLCC



LC3 Cristian Salazar, NLCC

Learning the Art of Photography and More

By Seaman Apprentice Rebecca Julka, NSCC
HMCM William R. Charette Division, Bethesda, Md.
Photojournalism, Reisterstown, Md.

Before arriving at this training, I often disregarded photography as an art. I never viewed it as something involving much thought, and only required basic knowledge of how to operate a camera (which I lacked). Society as a whole seems to concede on perceiving photography as solely a form of communicating through images and serves to create an aesthetic or to be visually appealing, and since it is not crafted by hand, is incapable of conveying a message or evoking emotion. Photos allow liberties to be taken with perspective and depicting events in a distinct manner. I've learned that the art of photojournalism consists of providing a fresh perspective and capture emotion in addition to displaying real-life images on camera. There is an element of decision in photojournalism, and a good picture does not depend on whether someone is fortunate enough to take one or not. Immediately taking photographs with no prior experience has enabled me to realize this firsthand.

Another revelation I have had regarding photojournalism is the importance of preserving memories in the form of photos. Our best moments in life cannot be experienced again. Although photos do not revive the actual memory, they can capture and perpetually preserve these events. **Every time I took a picture during this training, I thought of the family and friends who would be reassured of their loved one's safety and also be informed of what activities they were participating in. Photojournalism is more than just documenting events; it can weave these events together to tell a story, in such a way that cannot be expressed through words.**

Photojournalism has also opened my eyes to issues beyond the art of photography. I have acquired new values that I know will improve my quality of life and may be applied to many other areas of life. This issue surrounds my lack of a willingness and an ability to allow myself to start things. Like many others, I am a habitual procrastinator, and it is very difficult for me to complete assignments and projects by the deadline because of the "I'll do it tomorrow" mentality. However, when I finally take the initiative to begin something, I discover I do have the potential to finish the assignment successfully, and I can make progress. The format of this training that consisted of learning through experience forced me to allow the creative process to flow naturally, and not to be overly concerned when starting.

This training may be one of the most memorable I will attend, and I am so glad I selected this training as my first advanced training. It has been enlightening for my conception of what art is, as well as made me review my current habits.



"Out of everything I photographed, I enjoyed taking pictures of cadets doing team-building exercises the most. When cadets are communicating and leading each other to solve a problem, that shows the USNSCC at its finest. Without the Sea Cadets, I wouldn't have the dream or even the interest of pursuing photojournalism as my career."

Seaman Apprentice Cole Farrington, NSCC
Travis Manion Battalion, Flemington, N.J.



SA Kritika Oli, NSCC



P02 Hunter Hulsebus, NSCC



SN Raul McMurray, NSCC

The Challenges of Navy League Orientation

By Recruit Cadet Joshua Reid, NLCC

R.D. Stethem Battalion, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Navy League Orientation, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

I attended League Cadet Orientation this summer, and before going, I anticipated it being more of a fun trip since that's what everyone told me it was going to be and others there agreed with me. However, it turned out that the training was not what I had anticipated. Not saying that it wasn't fun, but it was very different from what I had imagined. My initial thought on the first day was that it would be easy for all of us to socialize. It didn't actually turn out that way, and we had to learn to earn each other's trust since we all from different groups.

I would say the first and third days were the most challenging. The first day was hard mostly because we were new, we all had to adapt to the rules, the people in charge of us, and mostly, to our fellow cadets.

The hardest thing about the third day was merely cooperating with everyone. We had a hard time keeping quiet on that day, so that's why it was the hardest. One thing I really liked was there was great food every day, and if you got in trouble for something, the blame would usually disperse through all of us, so I learned that we had to be united in the good times and in the bad times.

What I really think others will find interesting are the things we learned and did throughout the course. We learned Morse code. We learned about the Navy's past. We practiced CPR. Did you know that when administering CPR if you were to hurt the person in some way accidentally, the law protects you since you were trying to offer them help? Of all the activities, my favorite things would have to be knock-out and the bearing tests.

All of that was really fun, but still, you had things that were a little more intense. We were expected to secure and organize all of our stuff in a locker, we had to be tidy, we always needed a small notebook to write things down, and when we were told to be quiet, we had to obey or face the consequences. Though there was a lot of rules, there was also a lot of fun, and everything was worth it. On the last days, they weren't as hard on us since by then we were transformed and had gained the leaders' trust.

At graduation, we felt accomplished, and the Pearl Harbor commander addressed us. Overall, I liked being there, and if I had the choice, I most likely would do it again.



"Navy League Orientation was a great learning opportunity. I think all cadets should try it. I did – and I came out in one piece. Even though I was nervous at the beginning, I stayed and ended up being awarded Honor Cadet. If you like challenges, then this is the thing for you!"

Recruit Cadet Colin Beason, NLCC
R.D. Stethem Battalion, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



Our Experience: Fleet Week 2018

Cadets who had the privilege of participating in Fleet Week New York share their thoughts about their unique experience.

P01 Lucy Bashion, NSCC

Fleet Week 2018 was one of the best experiences I have had in my Sea Cadet career. As a 17-year-old, I was able to board the USS *Arlington* in Norfolk, Virginia, and experience life at sea with members of the Navy and Marine Corps. How one perceives a training also has to do with the other cadets there with you. I had the most fantastic time thanks to my fellow Sea Cadets and our leaders, LCDR Treacy and LCDR Myles.

From helicopter landings, firefighting, USO shows, navigating the maze of hatches and pressurized doors to whale watching, Fleet Week instantly became my favorite training of all time. By the end of the week when we reached the pier in New York City, I did not want to leave. I did not want to get off the ship where I spent multiple days learning about the different jobs the crew does while underway, as well as where I made long-lasting friendships.

P03 Sonia Kloss, NSCC

While my friends were preparing to take tests, I was preparing to ship out with the Navy. When my class was learning logarithms, I was learning how to fight fires at sea. I asked my friend what I had missed in social studies; she said they had watched a movie. I had watched a hovercraft come aboard a ship in the middle of the ocean. There is nothing more mind-boggling than looking back on what I had the privilege of doing in comparison to what I would have been doing had I stayed home. Fleet Week New York is hands down the most rewarding experience I have yet to have.

CPO Chloe Caso, NSCC

When I joined Sea Cadets five years ago, little did I know that I would be spending my last training aboard an active Navy warship. Little did I know that I would see first hand the landing of a USMC landing craft air cushion (LCAC) in the belly of a cutting-edge amphibious transport dock. Little did I know that I would participate in a foreign object and debris (FOD) walk, helping keep the flight deck safe for helicopters to land. Little did I know that I would get to know some of the most inspiring men and women I have ever met, the Sailors and Marines of the USS *Arlington*.



USNSCC Leadership Experiences Prove Invaluable

By Petty Officer 3rd Class
Elena Chronopoulos, NSCC

Massachusetts Bay Division, Boston, Mass.

When I heard that a local school, Malden Catholic, was opening its inaugural all-girls high school, I was very excited but also a little intimidated to apply to this long-standing all-boys school.

That changed when I read their motto; “Today’s outstanding students. Tomorrow’s outstanding leaders.” I thought to myself, “Leadership? Are you kidding me? I’m already part of the best youth leadership development organization there is – the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.”

Over 300 girls passed the entrance exam to Malden Catholic, but I was pretty sure none of them had received the multiple week-long trainings that I had. While attached to the Massachusetts Bay Division, I attended trainings from Recruit Training at Ft. Devens, to Coast Guard training in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, to EMS training at the Navy War College. Those experiences and so much more, allowed me to apply to Malden Catholic with confidence.

I wrote an essay explaining my experiences and accomplishments with the USNSCC. I also wrote that I would bring leadership to Malden Catholic. During the oral interview, I could not stop referencing the USNSCC. I talked about trainings (RT and EMS) and events (such as boarding the USS *San Juanito* and volunteering at the Veterans DAV 5k run).

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is the pride and joy of my life. It has assisted me in achieving my goals. Being part of a program “driven by leadership” and applying to a high school that “strives to produce leaders,” I was accepted into Malden Catholic High School.

STEM in the San Bernardino Mountains

By Lt. Gene Anastasi, NSCC
Region 11

From July 15 to August 4, an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Work Center was transformed into the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Science Center. This transformation was made possible through the generosity of the U.S. Forest Service, and a host of donors and volunteers.

The first group of cadets attended the “Underwater Robotics” class. The curriculum of this training includes Naval Architecture, electrical theory, electronics, hydrodynamics, and structural design. The primary objective of this training was to build, test, and perfect their navigational skills with the SeaPerch Underwater Robotic Vehicle. Also, each team is interviewed to prove they have mastered the science of each aspect of underwater robotics. The winner of this competition earned the privilege of competing at the 2019 International SeaPerch Challenge.

Each cadet built and tested a complex, multi-output power supply to perfect soldering skills and study electronics. Mechanical design skills were learned and applied through the building of a lightweight bridge, 18” long and capable of supporting the maximum amount of weight without failure. In addition to the standard curriculum, an introduction to 3D printing was included. Each cadet was allowed to bring their laptop and using the basic “TinkerCad” program, they designed a component of their choice and printed it in addition to all the other projects they had to complete.

The shared use of the building and grounds contributed significantly to the successful completion of the training. The USNSCC thanks the following for making this training a success: Louis Garcia, the Smiley Park Community, California Highway Patrol officers Donald Anastasi and Alton Gunnoe, the Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association, Tracy Lenocker, John Snedden, Dave Esquer, Aaron Scullin, Mike Scullin, Terisa Bonito, and the U.S. Forest Service and the local administration for the use of the OHV facility.



Sea Cadets Compete in International Robotics Competition

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). In June, Sea Cadet teams from around the country participated in the 2018 International SeaPerch Challenge at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The international competition included more than 170 teams. They faced several engineering challenges in their competition along with STEM exercises that gave them a chance to show off their creativity and ingenuity.



Competing was a fun way to test how your design stood up to other people's designs. It was interesting to see what other people thought of that your team didn't and what you could incorporate next year. Our team didn't live close to each other at all, so meeting up was hard. I figured out that I am much better at the physics and theoretical side than I thought I would be.

P02 Isabel Cameron, NSCC
Gold Country Division, Sacramento, Calif.



I was very excited to compete this year at the National level for the SeaPerch Competition. I wasn't able to attend the previous year so being able to compete this year in Boston was an amazing experience. Some issues my team faced were associated with floatation and the wiring connecting to the vertical motors. For the challenge, our SeaPerch's floatation was perfect and did reasonably well picking up the weighted cubes and rings. For the obstacle course on the second day, we sped through four of the rings until our Perch began to sink. Our Perch had electrical issues that we, unfortunately, could not fix on the pool deck. Not only did I have fun in the competition but being able to visit another part of the country for free was an amazing part of the experience. I would highly recommend this program to other cadets. Be creative and have fun!

P03 Andrew Bursch, NSCC
Gold Country Division, Sacramento, Calif.





SUMMER TRAINING SNAPSHOT

This summer, **5,095 cadets** graduated from trainings in **33 states**, Washington, D.C., Guam, and Puerto Rico.*

RECRUIT TRAINING & ORIENTATION

1,343
RECRUIT
TRAINING

1,987
TOTAL

644
NLO

Cadets trained in a variety of advanced training subject areas:

Aircraft Maintenance, Aviation, Coast Guard Shipboard, Cutter Operations, Coast Guard Shore/Boat Station, Advanced Dive, Basic Dive, Culinary Arts, Petty Officer Leadership Academy, Advanced Medical, Basic Medical, Medical Field Operations, Ceremonial Honor Guard, Field Operations, History and Heritage, Basic Music, Operational Specialist, Photojournalism, STEM, Vehicle Maintenance, NLCC Leadership Academy, Advanced Sailing, Basic Sailing, Basic Seamanship, EOD, SEAL, SWCC, Firefighting, Lifeguarding, Marksmanship, Master-at-Arms, Search and Rescue, Basic Seabee, Navy Shipboard, Small Boat Operations, Advanced Submarine School, Basic Submarine School, and Special Operations.



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1,267 ESCORT OFFICERS

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50,193 TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING DAYS



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Kate McIlvaine
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