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U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Volume 2, Issue 4, December 2015

Sea Cadet Quarterly



Alison Lucerne

Grateful to Honor Nation's Veterans

By Seaman Apprentice Luke Lucerne, NSCC
John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.

As a new Sea Cadet with just three months under my belt, I have been surprised at the numerous opportunities to work and learn with my division. Among these new experiences was my recent chance to march in Philadelphia's first Veterans Day parade, where I was fortunate to be charged with the responsibility to help carry the John T. Dempster, Jr. Division's enormous 50- by 30-foot national ensign.

We marched in cadence through the streets of Philadelphia with our division banner in the front, followed by our division's high-ranking cadets, and then me and my fellow cadets carrying the flag in the rear of the formation.

As we marched through the streets of Philadelphia, I felt the extreme honor of holding our nation's flag as both citizens and

veterans alike clapped in appreciation. Tugging the substantial weight of the Star Spangled Banner that flowed out behind me, my heart swelled with pride for the opportunity to hold the flag that so many Americans have fought and died for.

While our youthful division marched, I glanced around at the veterans who stood along the streets and was overwhelmed by the sense of gratitude that was expressed by those who have actually served our country, reinforcing my hope that one day I will also have this honor.

As we neared the end of the parade, I felt proud to be a John T. Dempster, Jr. Division Sea Cadet, and grateful for the opportunity to honor those who have risked their lives fighting for the freedom and independence that embodies our great country.

From the Field



Courtesy of TS Lorraine Hughey

California

A League Cadet participates in a Veterans Day ceremony.



Courtesy of 1124th Construction Battalion

Georgia

Cadets hang out with Navy divers at the Blue Angels Air Show.



Courtesy of Battleship Missouri-Hawaii Division

Hawaii

Cadets greet Sailors during USS *Houston's* homecoming.

Letter from the Executive Director

By **Capt. Henry J. Nyland, USN (Ret.)**
Executive Director, National Headquarters

As 2015 comes to a close, we remain most thankful for the people who make our program so great: the cadets who demand the best from themselves and those around them and our commanding officers and all the volunteers who support, mentor and provide fun opportunities at every drill and training event. We thank the parents, grandparents and other family members who stand in support of their cadet, driving them to and from drill, and encouraging them to set goals and work to achieve them. Our program only works because we are a community — a Sea Cadet community — filled with cadets, officers, volunteers, parents and alumni.

We thank you for being part of our community and supporting our primary goal of developing cadets into great Americans. Happy holidays and here's to a new year filled with growth and training!



INST Maria Fajardo, NSCC

Nyland, Rep. Bordallo and Stephen Bunting spend time with cadets during the inaugural meeting of the Military Youth Programs Congressional Caucus.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

By **Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Kowalski, NSCC**
Gulf Eagle Division, Punta Gorda, Fla.

As the leading petty officer of the Gulf Eagle Division in Southwest Florida, I write with regret that our Commanding Officer, retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Louis Carloni recently passed away. Having been part of our unit for a long time, he was able to teach me and my fellow cadets about what it means to serve our country and how to conduct ourselves with Honor, Courage and Commitment. He was dedicated to our division and called us his kids. He was excited that we would be moving our drill location to the USCG Station Fort Myers Beach in January. He worked hard to make that happen and we will honor him and make him proud in all that we do. The impact he left on us and many others will never be forgotten.



Louis Carloni (left) with his "kids" at the annual Navy League luncheon in September.

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

International Exchange Program:

iep.seacadets.org

Meet NHQ

Say hi to Chris Collins, our new executive assistant. Chris joined our team in September and is from Fairfax, Virginia. She likes DIY projects and spending time at the beach in the summer and at the movies in the winter. When she's not at NHQ, she's daydreaming about visiting the Amalfi Coast in Italy, her favorite vacation spot — so far! Since joining our team, she's been very impressed by the dedication of everyone in the field. Welcome, Chris!



Chris with her little friend, a future Sea Cadet



Mark Schadly

Washington, D.C.

Cadets run the Navy Mile on Pennsylvania Ave.



LTJG Linda Wright, NSCC

California

Col. Lewis L. Millett Division honors the victims of Sept. 11.



Courtesy of Manatee Division

Florida

A cadet from Manatee Division helps with a dragon boat race.

Mission Up

In Honor of Our Commanding Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Louis A. Carloni, Jr.

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Summer Dobbins, NLCC
Gulf Eagle Division, Punta Gorda, Fla.



I have been in the NLCC for almost two years. It is a fantastic program that provides many opportunities for my future. The annual Navy SEAL Muster in Fort Pierce, Florida is one of those opportunities. I attended both this year's and last year's event.

Unfortunately a tragic event took place this year. It was the first day of our weekend — Saturday, Nov. 7. Gulf Eagle Division was in the area of the SEAL Leap Frog helicopter demonstration and local sheriff's K-9 presentation. While securing a safe zone protecting spectators from pyrotechnics, our Commanding Officer Lt. Cmdr. Louis Carloni collapsed.

This was one of the toughest things I have ever had to face. Every one of us worried, but showed no fear as the ambulance took our leader away. One instructor from our unit went with him and the other stayed with us to ensure that we would stand strong. As time slowly passed, we waited for an update. Soon, surrounded by our fellow cadets from other divisions, we would find out that he had passed away.

The Navy SEALs signed a flag for our CO and took a picture with Gulf Eagle Division. What an honor! They asked if we were okay, and told us to contact them if we needed anything. Our commanding officer had fallen on their ground and he would not be forgotten.

Given the choice to return home or to continue our duties, we remained and carried out our mission. We were there to do a job. The next morning at 6 a.m. on the beach adjacent to the Navy SEAL museum, where training is still conducted to this day, a ceremony was held for fallen SEALs. The cadets assisted with holding flags from all 50 states during the sunrise ceremony. We stood guard by shadow boxes representing the fallen SEALs.

The museum felt that Lt. Cmdr. Carloni should be honored as well, even though he was not a SEAL. His flag led the procession and flew proudly on the beach



Photos Courtesy of PO3 Dobbins, NLCC

PO3 Winslow, from Gulf Eagle Division, holds the signed flag during the Navy SEAL's memorial sunrise services.

that morning. Lt. Cmdr. Carloni was a wonderful man and mentor. He taught me the true value of discipline. He encouraged pride, self-respect and service to country. He stressed the importance of family.

I will attend the muster next year with Honor, Courage and Commitment. I ask all cadets who are provided opportunities like this to take them and fulfill them! This is a life lesson I will never forget.

In honor of Lt. Cmdr. Carloni, we say "Mission up!" as he would never let anything fall or fail! #MISSIONUP



The Navy SEALs and the Leap Frogs parachute team pose with Gulf Eagle Division members after dedicating a flag to the memory of Lt. Cmdr. Carloni.

Chief's Corner: Battle Buddies

By Chief Petty Officer Ruby Stith, NSCC
Trident Patrol 65 Squadron, Point Mugu, Calif.

I've been in this program since October 2011. If I were to give any advice based on the many conversations I've had and trainings I've been to, it would be to stick with your battle buddy. I know many cadets who would roll their eyes and say, "yeah, whatever" to that, but it's more than just having to stay with somebody for what seems like forever. Your choice of battle buddy can determine your course in your Sea Cadet career, so choose wisely.

They are a second set of arms for when you have to move or lift something that you can't do by yourself. Your battle buddy could be the person who saves your neck by keeping you from falling asleep in a training classroom. Your battle buddy can be a gold mine of information when you have a question, or could provide your first lesson in leadership. They can be a listening ear when you need someone to talk to and a helping hand when you need one. They are your motivator when you say "I can't" or "I won't" and can help change that mind-set to "I can" and "I will."

The battle buddies I've had the pleasure to have met over the course of years of training are still some of my good friends today. Whether at a SCUBA training, Recruit Training, or even at a regular drill, your battle buddy is, simply put, your lifeline. As a cadet, I would often tell myself that I had to act like the kind of battle buddy everybody wants in his or her life. Even now, as a chief I still aim to be that. Set the standard and good battle buddies, wise mentors and even greater opportunities are sure to follow.

U.S. Congressman Visits Colo. Unit

By Seaman Benoit Gorgemans and Seaman Apprentice Susan Izzo, NSCC
Lexington Division, Aurora, Colo.

The Lexington Division Sea Cadets met Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.) in October 2015. For many, it was their first opportunity to meet a member of Congress. Coffman, a passionate supporter of our armed forces and veterans, serves on both the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and is also the only sitting member of congress to have served in both the Gulf War and the Iraq War.

After officially welcoming Coffman aboard, cadets had the opportunity to engage in an insightful question and answer session. Cadets were impressed with his prior service in both the Army and the Marine Corps, and enjoyed hearing his views about the importance of the Veterans Administration. The discussion then dove into the pressing issues making news across Colorado and the world, such as immigration, foreign policy with Russia and ISIL, the impact of legalizing marijuana and the skills needed in future military personnel.



Left: Lexington Division cadets welcome Rep. Coffman with full naval ceremonies.



Right: The congressman was very impressed with the cadets' levels of respect, knowledge and engagement.

INST Shelley Beaver, NSCC

Alumni Spotlight: Admiral Michael Rogers

How Admiral Rogers' love of the Navy took him from Sea Cadet to Admiral

By Admiral Michael S. Rogers, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command;
Director, National Security Agency; Chief, Central Security Service



Ever since I was a boy I wanted to be a naval officer. I've always been an avid reader and a voracious consumer of stories about sailors and the sea. Nothing could deter me from going before the mast, as it were.

At 13, I joined the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. My family lived in Chicago, an inland city but one with a serious port facility on

Lake Michigan, which ocean-going ships can reach by way of the St. Lawrence River. The Sea Cadets, of course, only fueled my excitement about the Navy — from boot camp to swim calls and jumping off the cat walk of one of those very old, very tall hangars at Glenview Naval Air Station in Glencoe. At a time when the appeal of military service had temporarily reached a low ebb in American society, I found the sailor's calling to be one of action and adventure. It struck me as not merely a job or even a profession, but as a calling. One was expected to know the fundamentals of seamanship and the basics of one's trade, of course, but one also had a vocation, even a duty, to learn how to work with one's shipmates as a member of a crew — a team that gives life to a ship and represents the heart and the brain of that vessel as a fighting force. I studied manuals

and took tests like my fellow cadets, but what I really learned was that we were only as good apart as we were together.

My favorite memory is taking an old turbo-prop Navy transport (I think it was a C-54) up to a two-week exchange program on Vancouver Island, at Esquimalt Navy Base. We sailed aboard a Canadian patrol boat along the coast of British Columbia. It was absolutely beautiful. My not-so-favorite memory, but a vivid one nevertheless, was going to Great Lakes for our week of mini-boot camp and living in the recruit barracks. Everything else looks good after boot camp.

Upon graduating from Auburn University and Navy ROTC there, I was commissioned in the US Navy and spent my first five years as a surface warfare officer watching the Soviet fleet in the last decade of the Cold War. In 1986, I applied, and was accepted, to change my specialty in the Navy from surface warfare to cryptology, or signals intelligence. I never thought then that I'd be where I am today, Commander of US Cyber Command and Director of the National Security Agency. I had heard a little about NSA, which seemed wrapped in mystery. Cyber Command, of course, did not even exist: "cyberspace" back in the 1980s was literally something that one read about in science fiction. What brought me here was love of country, of service, and of the Navy.

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



Admiral Michael Rogers greets Sea Cadets from Central Maryland Corsairs Squadron at an annual Armed Forces Day event. Admiral Rogers is a former Sea Cadet and spoke to cadets about how the Sea Cadets helped him make the decision to pursue a career in the Navy.

Our Congressional Caucus Kicks Off

With our friends the Young Marines, we are excited to announce the formation of the Military Youth Programs Congressional Caucus! Co-chaired by Reps. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) and Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), this caucus was created to educate its members about our organizations, advocate for continued congressional support and ensure that our programs thrive well into the future.

A big thank you to our local units who participated in the ceremony, to the offices of Reps. Hunter and Bordallo who worked hard to make this happen and to all of our supporters in Congress!



Co-chairs Reps. Bordallo and Hunter with Sea Cadets and Young Marines during the Nov. 18 event. (Photo courtesy of Young Marines)

My Experience at the Caucus

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Ashley Mathieu, NSCC
Annapolis Division, Annapolis, Md.

I was honored to attend the caucus, but to be a part of the color guard was even greater than I had hoped for. One of the great experiences about going to the event was meeting other amazing people from the Young Marines, League Cadets, and even other Sea Cadets. At the event, I heard an inspiring speech delivered by a Young Marine and I learned what the Young Marines are all about. Chief Petty Officer Jessica Perry also gave a speech that opened my eyes to the possibilities of what I can do as a Sea Cadet.

As a rifleman in the color guard I was able to become friends with a Young Marine. She was the lead rifleman and she was at the front of the color guard. The color guard consisted of two riflemen, the national ensign carrier, the carrier of the Young Marine's ensign, and the carrier of the Sea Cadet's ensign. Another Sea Cadet from Chattanooga Division sang the national anthem. Two Young Marines led us in the Pledge of Allegiance as well.

At the event, we heard from two members of congress and while listening to them, I realized that many people work to make Sea Cadets and the Young Marines what they are today and to give us the opportunities we have. Without these opportunities we would not be all that we can be. They allow us to try new things, become leaders and grow as individuals.

I believe the biggest thing I took away from this event is we are not alone. Yes, we are part of one division, but many more exist across the globe and when we work together, we can achieve something even greater than we could alone. When we come together, we are powerful. It's not just the Sea Cadets — it's everyone: the Young Marines, the League Cadets and more. All the armed forces come together to form something greater — and so do we.

"All the armed forces come together to form something greater — and so do we."

A New Appreciation for Supporters

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Makenna Snidow, NSCC
Annapolis Division, Annapolis, Md.

On Nov. 18, my fellow shipmates and I traveled to the nation's capital to participate in a color guard event and to speak to the Congressional Military Youth Programs Caucus for future funding of the Sea Cadet and Young Marines programs. The caucus' main purpose was to support these two programs, which provide many extraordinary opportunities for our nation's youth.

At this event, I was able to collaborate with cadets from several Young Marines units in the area. Without much time to practice, and having never met each other before, members from both the Young Marine and Sea Cadet units were able to quickly come together as a team and execute the presenting of the colors at the start of the caucus. This was an impressive feat, since each organizations has different techniques they use to present colors. However, relying on our previous training we were able to successfully accomplish this task. Being able to come together with other fellow youth organizations for a program that is so important to me was an amazing experience. I was able to understand the views and ideas of these cadets and learned more about their program.

During the caucus, testimony was provided by a Young Marine sergeant major and by Chief Jessica Perry, a Sea Cadet from Annapolis Division. In their statements they spoke about what the programs meant to them and the opportunities they have afforded them. Being able to hear the co-chairs, Reps. Duncan Hunter and Madeleine Bordallo, talk about the importance of the youth programs was very inspirational.

Attending the caucus and interacting with all of the new cadets I met made me realize how proud I am to be a part of a program that develops and inspires thousands of children and teens across the country to become better citizens and leaders and made me even more appreciative of the people who continue to lobby for funding.



INST Maria Fajardo, NSCC



Courtesy of Young Marines



Stephen Bunting



INST Maria Fajardo, NSCC

Clockwise From Top Left: Cadets gather in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill; PO3 Snidow and SgtMaj Michael Borka chat after the event; Bordallo speaks to the group about the importance of youth programs; CPO Perry provides her testimony during the event.

You can encourage your local representative to support the Sea Cadets by joining the Military Youth Programs Caucus.

Visit www.seacadets.org/legislative-affairs for more information.

Let's Talk: Cadet to Congressman

A cadet from Escondido Battalion asks U.S. Representative Duncan D. Hunter (R-Calif.) about the way forward for technological development in his home district in Southern California.

Dear Congressman Hunter,

In our modern world, technology has become an increasingly large presence in American life. We use our phones for alarms. We schedule our meetings on tablets and record our lives on social media for all to see.

Going off of this, how is the 50th district integrating itself into a world that is rapidly approaching singularity? As technology becomes more efficient, it can, and has replaced jobs that we as Americans once did on the nine to five. My dream is that San Diego as a whole can develop a hub of technology and creative venturing and entrepreneurship, much like the Bay Area has accomplished in its relationship with Silicon Valley.

I am a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a youth organization that is structured along Naval guidelines and strives to instill the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. If there was one thing that was constantly emphasized in my tenure as a Sea Cadet, it is the idea that the U.S. military is the greatest fighting force in the world, and I believe that one reason America's military is at the top is due to our focus on developing technology in pursuit of America's interests.

The U.S. military has a history of working with civilians and the private sector in developing revolutionary advancements. The Wright brothers sold their plane designs to the Army in 1909. In the 1960s, the Department of Defense commissioned the creation of ARPANET, the predecessor of the World Wide Web. I believe that if we as San Diegans can transform this city into a Southern Californian version of Silicon Valley, we can create thousands of new jobs and provide a stable source of income for the city. Going on this, can San Diego develop a technological private sector that works hand-in-hand with the U.S. military that can benefit the interests of both San Diego County and the DOD?

Congressman Hunter, it is quite an awesome opportunity to be able to write to you. I hope to hear back from you soon, sir.



Petty Officer 3rd Class
Ryan Pisueña, NSCC

Dear Petty Officer Pisueña,

Thanks for reaching out to me with your questions — it's great to hear from such a dedicated young man. As the co-chair of Military Youth Programs Caucus, I've been able to interact first hand with Young Marines and Sea Cadets like yourself, and I can assure you that what you're learning as a Sea Cadet will stay with you the rest of your life and help prepare you for the challenges ahead.

There are a number of ways — especially in the defense industry. But probably the main one that comes to mind is Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). This is a technology that's revolutionized the way wars are fought. Twenty to thirty years ago, UAVs were the stuff of science fiction. Fast forward to today and you've got the Secretary of the Navy saying that the Navy's most recent fighter jet, the F-35, should be the last manned fighter that the Navy will ever buy. That's pretty impressive, and keep in mind that this technology is designed and built in San Diego.

I agree with you that San Diego has the potential to become the Southern California version of Silicon Valley, and we're making crucial steps in that direction. San Diego is home to some of the most important private sector companies that provide critical support to our warfighters, and these companies bring thousands of jobs to the San Diego area.

That being said, in order to attract more private sector companies, specifically technology companies, to the Department of Defense (DOD), the government has to first make this appealing to the private sector. As it stands today, the DOD is such an unmanageable bureaucracy with arcane rules and over-burdensome regulations that technology companies regularly shy away from trying to navigate the process to have their product or system purchased by the DOD.

And in my oversight role as a Congressman, I see it as my responsibility to help cut through the red tape so new technologies—which often come from San Diego—can be incorporated into the DOD so our servicemembers have the best technology available in order to protect our country. It's unacceptable that there are technologies that the private sector has at their disposal that the DOD won't have for years—we've got to change that. And I'm glad to be able to say that in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, the House Armed Services Committee, which I'm proud to serve on, made acquisition reform one of its top priorities. We made some critical changes this year, but this is going to be a long fight, and we have to keep pressing the DOD for necessary reforms. 



Rep. Duncan Hunter
(R-Calif.)



It's A Small World After All

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

Oftentimes clichés seem to be just phrases, nothing of real meaning or application, but just catchy phrases. However, I find “it’s a small world” to be very real. I came to this conclusion a few weeks ago and immediately knew the story needed to be shared with my fellow shipmates.

It started with my grandparents. They are volunteers at our local hospital and see many tired faces each Friday, as people sit in the lobby waiting for a family member in surgery. One morning, a man by the name of Mr. Jerry Lutz happened to be one of those faces... wearing a Navy hat. Having been in the Navy himself, my grandfather inquired whether Mr. Lutz was in the service or retired. Mr. Lutz replied that he had indeed served in the Navy. In fact, he was in the service for thirty years and retired as a captain. Before they knew it, they’d gotten into a deep conversation about their experiences in the Navy. In this conversation my grandfather heard Capt. Lutz mention the “USS *Hornet*”. Cue the “It’s A Small World After All” song — this summer I stayed on the *Hornet*!

As it happened, I stopped by my grandparent’s house that night for dinner. At the table, my grandmother casually mentioned how at the hospital that day they met the man that saved the *Hornet*. My reaction to this was the exact opposite of casual. I think I might have even jumped out of my seat; I had to meet this guy! The *Hornet* was one of the best parts of my summer and there was no way I was going to pass up the chance to meet the man who made it possible for me to stay on that ship. In the middle of dinner I begged my grandmother call Capt. Lutz to ask if he would see me. After a brief phone call it was settled. I was going to speak with Capt. Lutz the following week to find out the *Hornet*’s story and to thank him for saving the great ship for generations to come.

Arriving at Capt. Lutz’s house, I found that we were both equally excited to meet each other. I briefly told him about

my fantastic experience on the ship and then he began to tell me the story I’d been waiting to hear.

It started in 1995 when Capt. Lutz was approached and asked if he would help the initiative to save the *Hornet* from being scrapped. He was successful in accomplishing this mission by using his skills in management and statistics to overcome the obstacles in preserving the ship. The greatest issues included obtaining funds to rebuild and finding people to help with all the aspects of the project. The first two years (1998 to 1999) of the *Hornet*’s life as a museum “were not easy breezy,” said Capt. Lutz. They struggled to get enough visitors aboard to pay off the debts owed on the repairs. Luckily, Capt. Lutz was creative and came up with three ingenious ways to solve this financial issue. The first of these solutions was the Big Band Dances, which were successful fundraising events. The second idea was to allow conferences and events to be held on the *Hornet*. The third — and most relevant to the USNSCC — was the Live Aboard program that still thrives today. As a matter of fact this is the program that enabled our POLA training to be aboard the *Hornet*. Who would have thought that 17 years later all of Capt. Lutz’s efforts would benefit a cadet from Florida like me? Apparently he did.

Capt. Lutz said, “The world and the Navy have been good to me. I saw saving the *Hornet* as my opportunity to give back quietly.” That is exactly what he did. One might notice that there is not a single mention of retired Navy Capt. Gerald Lutz on the entire ship. This is because Capt. Lutz restored the ship with no intention of putting his name in lights, but purely to give to a cause greater than himself that would impact generations forever. That message is the one I am trying to share with you, my shipmates. “Honor, Courage and Commitment” is not about seeking to glorify oneself. These Navy core values are telling us to give back to our great nation as Capt. Lutz did in saving the USS *Hornet*.



Left: USS *Hornet* pierside.

Right: Capt. Lutz prepares to board USS *Hornet* for a ceremony.

Read more about SN Lo Vece’s experience aboard USS *Hornet* in the September 2015 issue of Sea Cadet Quarterly here: <http://bit.ly/1XCZVNO>



Reaching New Heights

By Chief Petty Officer Christian Hirsch, NSCC
Monadnock Squadron, Peterborough, N.H.

I have been hiking mountains in New Hampshire with my father since I was three. However, in September, my father Ensign Joshua Hirsch and I participated in a 10-member, 10-day expedition to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. At 19,341 feet, Kilimanjaro is the highest freestanding mountain in the world. It is also one of the “Seven Summits,” as Africa’s highest peak.

Of the ten people on the team, my teammate Andre and I were the only teenagers. Each member of the expedition team had a specific job in order to make the trek run smoothly. My father was a climbing leader and the team chiropractor, and I was a radio leader. My job as radio leader was to maintain communication between all members of the expedition. We also had a support team of 51 people to help us up the mountain, which included four guides, porters, cooks, and other necessary staff.

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro was the most challenging and rewarding experience of my life. We climbed the Machame Route, which is classified as the second most difficult route, but we did it in 10 days instead of the typical seven. We took more time because four out of the 10 group members, my father included, had a heart condition. We wanted to make the hike more comfortable for everyone by spending more time acclimating to the elevation, rather than pushing our bodies into constant altitude sickness.

Knowing that I wouldn’t be back at sea level for 10 days, and dealing with high altitude and all the issues that would cause, was psychologically hard on its own, but other factors made this trek even harder. Because Kilimanjaro is a volcano, there was ash everywhere. The ash made it hard for me to

breathe, which was already difficult due to the altitude, so I wore a buff over my nose and mouth the entire time. The ash made me cough so violently that I had to lie down the entire day on our rest day, midway into the trek. The chef made me a special tea of ginger and garlic at every meal so that I would feel better. He called it my “dawa,” which is Swahili for medicine. Another factor that made it difficult was the lack of appetite that high altitude causes. After the fourth day on the mountain, I began to get really sick. I was on my hands and knees vomiting, and the smallest amount of food would make me either full or extremely nauseated. While this is difficult at any time, it was especially bad because without food I had no energy.

The hardest part of the entire trek was our summit attempt on the eighth day. We woke up at 2:00am, ate breakfast, and started hiking. We were one of many groups attempting summit that morning. At this point most of the groups had already left high camp, so when I looked up toward the summit, I could see a trail of lights going all the way up. I was wearing three layers on my legs because it was very cold, but when I started hiking, I quickly overheated. I had to take off the outer layer, and my mid layer was soaked in sweat. Then I tried to drink my water, but my hydration bladder hose had frozen. So, I had to take out a bottle every time I wanted to drink water. This was very difficult, as every sip of water took three breaths, and each breath was a precious commodity as we gained altitude.

As we continued upward, climbers that had started before us were being carried down by their porters because they were very sick and couldn’t make it to the top. That was a

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Previous Page: The view of Mount Kilimanjaro through the jungle.

Top Left: Hirsch and his father, ENS Joshua Hirsch, NSCC at the bottom of the mountain. Top Right: Hirsch (*left*) and his teammate, Andre, at the top of Barranco Wall getting their first glimpse of the peak. Below: Hirsch and his father at the summit. (Photos: Tracie May)

Continued from page 10

scary sight to see. By the time the sun came up, I lost my focus and stopped breathing deeply, and I completely hit the wall. With four hours left until we reached the summit, it became a challenge every single second. It was the hardest thing I have ever experienced in my life, and I knew that it was mind over matter. At this point, my body was beyond done and did not want to continue, but I kept pushing myself. Every single step I took caused my legs to burn or cramp because of the lack of oxygen. My guide, Elias, helped me by reminding me to breathe deeply. He rubbed my back, and then he took my pack on his back along with his own. When I reached Stella Point, the second highest point on Kilimanjaro, at 18,700 feet, I had to lie down. Elias told me to

sit up because it was bad to lie down, and I wouldn't be able to get up again. From this point, there was only one grueling hour left until summit. By the time I reached the summit with my father, I was extremely tired and disoriented, but I felt extremely accomplished.

I learned a lot on this expedition, but the most important thing I learned is that the mind is a powerful tool. Even if you're tasked with something difficult, if you put your mind to it, truly push and never give up, then you can accomplish almost anything. One day I will serve our country as a naval officer, and what I learned through this experience on Kilimanjaro will help me with any challenge that is thrown my way. 🧭



The Navy Mile

By **Recruit Cadet Ben Powell, NLCC**
Viking Division, Purcellville, Va.

I woke up at 4 a.m. ready for the day ahead. As Hurricane Joaquin was moving out to sea, the inaugural Navy Mile was on. Muster was at a windy and chilly 6 a.m. at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Navy Mile was to be my first race and the Viking Division had volunteered for the pre-race set up. My thoughts went to being competitive and fast.

As I watched the races I took special notice when paraplegics and wounded warriors ran the course. I was struck by their great attitudes, courage, commitment and sacrifices. I can say I was humbled and proud to be a part of this Navy life.

Then I saw a woman with a cane racing alone on the course and thought, “She shouldn’t finish the race alone.” I caught up with her and we completed the course together. She told me that she participates in 40 races a year. She does all of this with a disability.

The final race was Sea Cadets and League Cadets. At the starting line Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Michelle Howard gave a speech that motivated us



Powell enjoyed Admiral Howard’s motivating speech at the Navy Mile event along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

all to proudly represent the United States Naval Sea Cadets Corps. We all finished to a cheering crowd!

I realized that day that we can accomplish things we never thought possible in life. I will take the lessons I learned at the Navy Mile and not only apply them to my Sea Cadet life, but also to my daily life, always remembering to do everything with Honor, Courage and Commitment.

Don’t Forget to Read the Welcome Letter

By **Seaman Sam Stoepfel, NSCC**
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.



Before you go on Sea Cadet trainings it’s always really important to read the welcome letter that the Commanding Officer for the training has taken the time to write. All the information you need will be in the letter, including the seabag list and graduation details.

I LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THE HARD WAY.

I went to Recruit Training at Great Lakes this year. My dad asked me many times to read the welcome letter and I didn’t. I just looked at the subtitles and then read what I thought I needed to know. My dad knew I didn’t read it all, so he made me read the whole letter to him out loud all the way to Great Lakes.

I should have learned my lesson, but I didn’t. After boot camp I had another training, Photojournalism Training at Fort Custer, and again, I didn’t want to read the letter. I didn’t want to read it because it was so long. So, I missed a lot of information — really important information — and I ended up being a day late for the training... all because I didn’t want to read it.

The reason why it’s so important to read the welcome

letter is because your actions in Sea Cadets may affect other people in your division. The feeling that I’d let everyone down is really bad. I’d messed up the officers’ plans. I let my parents down too.

Trust me, it’s not a good feeling knowing that you screwed up big time. It’s a terrible feeling knowing you let so many people down. Just read the letter; it is so much easier. It will have every single thing you need to know.



Stoepfel (left) eventually made it to Photojournalism Training and had a great time learning about long exposure techniques.

Fort Custer Photojournalism

Watching the Blue Angels

By Seaman Apprentice Jon Ruzich, NSCC
RADM Richard O’Kane Division, Vallejo, Calif.

On the weekend of Oct. 10, I was lucky enough to participate in San Francisco’s Fleet Week with the O’Kane Division. While I was there I had the wonderful opportunity to observe the Navy’s Blue Angels in action. I absolutely loved the show. It was marvelous — my first airshow and the first time I ever attended Fleet Week. I was very impressed with what I saw even before the Blue Angels came out to perform.

As I was gazing up into the bright blue sky and watching the planes flying over the shimmering water of the bay, I admired the amazing formations and intervals they were able to fly at and how sharp and precise they were when they executed these maneuvers. Other things that I liked about the show was how beautiful the planes were, especially on that beautiful sunny day that it was. I was able to get a very good look at them because of how low they were flying. I loved how loud the planes were and how they made the ground shake under me. It was almost like an earthquake. What an amazing experience!

For my first airshow, I must say that I was very impressed with what I saw while I was there. Thanks to our amazing commanding officer, Lt.j.g. Stephen Wymer, we were able to experience this wonderful event. I hope I am able to receive the same amazing opportunity next year.



Virgil Cabrera

Ruzich watching the Blue Angels performance at San Francisco’s Fleet Week.

Lead By Example: The Foundation of Great Teamwork

Teamwork is a group of people working together to achieve a goal.

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Rea Smith, NLCC
TS Robert M. Wicklund, Petaluma, Calif.



A *good* team will work together, however a *great* team must cooperate efficiently and effectively to achieve its objectives. In order for any cooperative effort to succeed, the leadership must create an environment for success. A team is a reflection of its leaders and their leadership. If your division doesn’t have a good leader, teamwork will be lacking. Good leadership means that each member will benefit from

the success of the team.

Good leadership also means that team members are stronger together and must depend upon each other to accomplish the team’s objective. From the officers to the senior petty officers, the better the leadership, the better the team.

However, poor leadership can compromise the structure and order of the division or Training Ship.

For example, imagine a senior petty officer who is always agitated in his or her bearing. Have you noticed that the junior cadets under their command are irritated and do not quite listen, perform, and execute orders as they should?

In my opinion, it doesn’t matter what rank you have; you must always *lead by example*. Those three words can change the atmosphere of a division or training ship. Keep in mind that leaders are not born. Leaders are made and are influenced by those who lead and have led them.

Ask and answer these questions for yourselves. Do you want people to follow you? Do you want to show recruits the path they are on? Do you want to be an example?

As a leader, you have to be the one to set the example and standard for great teamwork as you lead your division or training ship. You will see your team flourish if you do!

Cadet Enjoys Marksmanship Training

By Seaman Davis Bagley, NSCC
Darter-Dace Division, Marquette, Mich.

During this training season I went to two trainings: Recruit Training and Advanced Marksmanship and Master-At-Arms (MAA). I'll be talking about my great experiences at marksmanship and MAA, which was a training that my division hosted.

We were there for five days, and thirty cadets from all over the country came to participate in this training. It was as real as it gets! The first thing we did when we got there was organize into squads. We then learned how to safely handle a firearm in our safety briefing and how to clean the weapons that day before we went to the range. After we did that portion the officers told us to change and we were off to shoot. We marched in formation everywhere we went.

The first time we went shooting we shot pistols. An instructor was there to show us the ropes on shooting different kinds of pistols. The next day we were off to shooting rifles and Coast Guard personnel were there to teach us, which was awesome. Later that night we went back to the range for night ops. We learned how to use flashlights with the pistols and low light shooting. This wouldn't be our last night op. The rest of the days were spent with shooting on the move safely. We would move forward, laterally, and diagonally.

Next, we qualified in pistols and rifles. For rifle qualification, we had a course set up where you and a fire-team buddy moved in tandem taking your targets out as quickly

and smoothly as possible. Next, for pistols we shot steel targets. We did the same with shotguns. Although it turned out that we couldn't qualify with them, it was an awesome experience anyways because I had never fired a shotgun.

The last night we did rifle night ops with night vision scopes. It didn't take long, but that night seemed like our graduation night because we got to watch our instructor use a 40-millimeter grenade launcher with practice rounds. That was really loud! The last day we spent doing MAA training and were taught how to defend ourselves. This was also a really enjoyable day because we got to actually spar with each other and I really enjoyed it. We also did beach PT with Coast Guard interdiction team members!

I really liked this training and would recommend it to anyone seeking this kind of high intensity training. I loved meeting new friends and liked to see all of the people with the same interest in weapons and defense as me. Next year they are planning to add a Personal Security Detail event where you train to protect a dignitary, and work as a team to extract them from a threat. It felt really good to test myself and see what I was capable of with the proper training. Next year can't come fast enough for me!

The Upper Peninsula Training Contingent has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/356500021219805/> or 2015 NSCC UPTC SBAKA.

Face Your Fears and Push Forward

By Seaman Apprentice M. Worsham, NSCC
Houston Division, Houston, Texas

I recently went through a terrifying and exhilarating experience. A recent drill with my division featured a ropes challenge and team building exercise. I started out on an unsteady log, which was suspended in the air. At this point I just knew I was going to fall, my heart was racing and I was scared. I made it across once, but couldn't handle the trek back, so I rappelled down. When my feet touched the ground I was so relieved.

I proceeded onto my next challenge, the tight rope, which looked even worse than the log. I started climbing the pole, with the fear still following me. All of a sudden, I stopped. I couldn't go any farther. I closed my eyes and took a deep breath because I was feeling lightheaded. I was so terrified. I finally got my composure by singing in my head, and continued up the pole. I finally made it to the wire, which was

when the real panic set in. I kept telling myself "NO, NO, NO" and "I can't do this." The instructor told me that in order to get down I had to go on the wire and rappel down. So I stepped out on the wire, with fear trying to take over, but then I realized it wasn't so bad. I could do this. I crossed the wire to the end and rappelled down.

The minute my feet hit the ground, relief hit me. I was never so happy to be on the ground. I also felt proud, exhilarated, inspired and grateful. I was proud because I had accomplished the training. I was exhilarated from the fear, and grateful that I didn't fall or give up completely. I was inspired by my fellow cadets and instructors, who cheered me on and gave me the courage and support I needed. Given another chance, I will have some fear, but also the courage to face those fears and push forward.



Courtesy of SN Collins, NSCC

Training on a Legend

By Seaman Magnus Collins, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

She was commissioned in May 1943, and was sent into the Pacific in 1944. She served her country for four tours, earning 19 battle stars and campaign stars over the course of three wars, and she was my home for six of the best days of my life.

Training aboard USS *New Jersey* was a dream come true. To be able to live, work, eat and sleep on one of the best battleships in the world was absolutely amazing. As sailors on USS *New Jersey*, we were able to tour most of the ship, including places that regular visitors do not have access.

Highlights of my training included firing the 5-inch and 40-millimeter guns, man overboard drills and trips to the second oldest battleship in the world, the USS *Olympia*, and a World War II submarine. We slept in racks that many brave sailors had slept in before. We participated in simulated drills in the weapon systems room, working the computers and radar equipment.

Our crew of cadets was also fortunate enough to hear the experiences from a veteran, who managed to survive the USS *Forrestal* fire. The staff who so generously gave up their time made the experience extremely worthwhile, and the opportunity to meet cadets and make new friends from all over the country was absolutely overwhelming. Staying in touch with new friends and planning trainings to see each other again is another advantage to taking part in summer trainings.

I did four trainings this summer: RTIL, seamanship aboard the *MANATRA*, Seabee training and seamanship aboard USS *New Jersey*. RTIL reminded me of how capable I am, and the leadership in my division was supportive, making my time at recruit training a positive experience. Sailing aboard *MANATRA* was a unique and rewarding adventure. Learning new skills and refining old ones were valuable lessons. Man overboard drills in Lake Michigan were fun and a time I won't forget. Seabee training reaffirmed my belief that with the proper training anything is possible. The Seabee's "can do" motto is one I know I can live by. While all of the trainings were awesome, being a part of the history of USS *New Jersey* was incredible.

We, as cadets of the USNSCC, are fortunate for the opportunities available to us. We get to see new places, meet new people, learn new things and be a part of history. I would tell any cadet to take advantage of all the opportunities you possibly can; as my parents remind me, four years in the USNSCC is a really short time compared to the rest of your life.

Visiting Other Units: Why It's Important

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Lucas LaFave, NSCC
Darter-Dace Division, Marquette, Mich.

As a Sea Cadet, the biggest problem I've run into was a lack of variety. The unit-level training was fun, especially in the beginning. But as drill after drill passed, it just felt like repetition and going through the same old motions. March, practice your 11 General Orders, practice your signal flags, practice this and practice that.

I always thought to myself: how can I make drills more fun and keep them educational for new cadets? The answer to me was simple: visit other units and see what they do.

I have had the pleasure of visiting several units in Michigan: Michigan Mountaineers Division in Grayling, Chosin Division in Mount Pleasant, Great Lakes Division in White Lake and Wolverine Division in Monroe. I was also a cadet at United States Division in Lansing for well over a year. I have even been to a Young Marines drill and a Civil Air Patrol drill and participated in a joint drill with Sea Cadets, Young Marines and JROTC cadets. Next year we hope to add the Civil Air Patrol.

So what benefit does this provide an individual cadet, officer or even a whole unit? There are so many! I have learned many ways to instruct and teach cadets, particularly recruits, all they are required to know quickly, yet effectively. Learning these things opens up room for other fun activities. What fun activities does my unit now do that I have learned from others? We do a lot of team building exercises, leadership courses and confidence builders, many of which I picked up from other units.

In addition to bringing these activities back, you will also successfully develop a positive relationship between hundreds of cadets in your state as both an individual and as a representative of your home unit. Doing things as simple as this may open the path for future joint drills with two or more units or a Joint Service Occupation Command drill which could include the Young Marines, Civil Air Patrol and JROTC to see how other branches do what they do and how they do it.

It is extremely important to develop yourselves not only as cadets, but as young adults. The NSCC is the tip of the spear of youth organizations, turning out some of the best cadets this country has to offer. Do it for yourself, your unit, your shipmates, and to better the NSCC as a whole. We need this crucial communication so every unit is not just out on its own "island" by itself. It is possible to get out there and see other cadets in addition to just going to your winter and summer advanced trainings. Get out there, and visit a unit. Best of luck to you, shipmates.



LaFave (left) teaching cadets from United States Division how to take out an enemy roving patrol in unison.

Eagle Scout and Sea Cadet Uses Leadership Skills to Mentor Cadets

By Seaman Apprentice Michael Wang, NSCC
Peredo Battalion, Apra Heights, Guam



I have been a Sea Cadet in Guam for the past year, in addition to being involved in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). After years of training and experience, hard work and determination, this November I attained the designation of "Eagle Scout". The skills I learned and developed in Sea Cadets and Boy Scouts have helped me to become a better leader, especially in mentoring younger League Cadets in Guam and working with my fellow Sea Cadet shipmates.

The experiences I had becoming an Eagle Scout have deeply influenced the leadership characteristics I have developed and rely upon as a Sea Cadet. As a Boy Scout, I had the unique opportunity of attending the World Scout Jamboree this summer in Japan and on top of that, I also held the position of Quartermaster for the Far East Council Troop. During the two-week camp, I coordinated with youth and adult leaders from each patrol on what was needed and what we can do to improve overall as a Troop. However, that wasn't the most challenging part of being the Quartermaster. The most

challenging part was setting up our campsite early in the morning and doing clean up checks at 5 a.m.

I have brought these leadership traits to the Sea Cadets due to the fact that I am one of the older Sea Cadets on Guam. I use my leadership skills to mentor the younger Sea and League Cadets, motivating them to push harder during the drills and annual recruit training. As a leader in these two organizations, Sea Cadets and BSA, I've enhanced my teamwork skills, work ethic and leadership traits.

Ariz. Cadet Attends Orientation in Guam

By Able Cadet Garvey Blackwell, NLCC
Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, Yuma, Ariz.

I am a 12 year old that lives in Yuma, Arizona. At 11, I joined the Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, which is a new squadron, as the first female League Cadet. I spent May and June at drills in Yuma then traveled to Guam for the summer to visit my father. I had the opportunity to train with the Guam Sea Cadets and attended NLCC Orientation with League Cadets from the Marianas Division and TS CDR William C. McCool.

My training with the Guam Sea Cadets started during my second weekend in Guam. I arrived at the ADM Dewey Sea Cadet Center anxious and excited. Once inside, I was welcomed by Lt.j.g. Joe Strantz, the commanding officer of TS McCool, and he explained what to expect at the drill. I fell into formation with the other Sea Cadets. It was a full day of marching and PT. I had only four drills with the Yuma Sea Eagles Squadron before arriving in Guam. I learned that this Guam Squadron had been around for about 10 years and some of the cadets had been there for several years. They had movements I had not seen yet! The cadets quickly showed me how to march better and how to perform the various commands that I had never heard. This was going to be awesome!

After two drills with the Guam Sea Cadets, I had the opportunity to attend League Orientation, a five-day camp. At first I was not sure if I wanted to attend, but Lt.j.g. Strantz encouraged me to try it since three of the female cadets I met from drills would be attending as well. I was motivated by the schedule as it was daily training, PT, drills and site visits. I got my NWUs and dress uniforms issued and packed up for the League Orientation. I was excited but really nervous, as I had not been away from home more than one night. This was going to be a challenge, but my parents and Lt.j.g. Strantz felt I was ready to do this.

At the camp, the four girls shared separate quarters so we settled into our room, had inspection on our gear, and got our racks sorted. The NLCC Orientation was run concurrently with a separate Sea Cadet Recruit Training Contingent (RTC). The Sea Cadets had been there for five days before the League Cadets arrived, so they helped me figure out how to set up for the next five days. The first order of business was to head over to the barbers for military regulation haircuts. Fortunately, I only observed this. Then we went to chow at the Seabees' chow hall. Our afternoon was a visit to the U.S. District Courthouse in Guam, meeting with the U.S. Marshals, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Secret Service. I was looking forward to this, as my goal is to work with the FBI, the Marshals or another agency in the U.S. Department of Justice. This had been a good start to the boot camp, but I was looking forward to my bed. That was not to be for many hours as I had watch that night until 1 a.m. This was definitely not something I had done before and I had to do it twice! It was weird walking around while others slept and noting what was happening in the watch log.

The next couple of days included drills, inspections, studying the syllabus, and training, but we had many site visits



Above: Guam Sea Cadets pose for a group photo after hiking the Spanish Steps. Below: Lt.j.g. Strantz, Rep. Bordallo and Blackwell's parents congratulate her upon completion of League Orientation.

also. My favorite training was with the Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team. We had the opportunity to see robots and to work with them using computers. We saw how things were transported and learned about how the organization worked including safety and fun things that happen. The one activity I liked the least was a team-building hike in the rain at a coastal canyon referred to as Spanish Steps, but the beach was great.

Before I knew it, the boot camp was coming to an end and we were practicing for graduation. My parents were there to see me receive my certificate from Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam). But our graduation ceremony was not the last thing we did. We also marched in the 70th Annual Guam Liberation Day Parade the day after graduation. There were so many military men and women that it was like a sea of soldiers. I was proud as we marched past the review stand and held our salutes.

League Orientation in Guam was a challenge! I made it through, learned a lot, marched a lot and did more PT than anyone would want, but I was so glad I attended. I made some great friends that I may see again this coming summer. I learned that I could do more than I thought I could.

My experience with the Guam Sea Cadets motivated me and helped me. I will reach the rank of able cadet at the Yuma Sea Eagles Squadron December Award Ceremony. I am the Leading Petty Officer for the Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron's Training Ship Sandburg. I attribute part of my success to the training, support, boot camp, and experiences I had with the Guam Sea Cadets. After League Orientation in Guam I had a lot more independence, knowledge, experience, and skill. My experience with Guam Sea Cadets was amazing.



What Sea Cadets Has Done for Me



By Petty Officer 3rd Class Aldin Wright, NSCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

I'm often asked, "What has the USNSCC done for you in your life?" This is a complicated question. Not because it has done nothing, but because it has done everything.

When I joined the USNSCC at the age of 16, I wasn't sure what to expect, but in all honesty, it was one of the best decisions I have made to date. Right away, the second I took my oath, it seems as if I went to bed and woke up at Naval Station Great Lakes ready to start RTIL. It was a very tough 10 days being away from family and in constant stress, but if I could go back right this second and do it all over, I would. Soon after I went on my first summer training as a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed seaman apprentice. Looking back I thought I was at the peak of my training capabilities, but the reality is my journey had only just begun.

This summer I went to Petty Officer Leadership Academy at Central Michigan University, and I have to say that out of my entire Sea Cadet Career, this was the greatest choice I could have ever made. I met some of the most amazing people, and shared some of my most cherished memories there. At first I didn't know if I was even capable of being a leader, but within two days the role naturally overtook me. I loved to motivate and instill learning while maintaining an enjoyable leadership atmosphere. At the end of the week

I had not only made friends, but a family. To my surprise, I was awarded the title of honor cadet, but I believe every single cadet at the training deserved that title. Not only did we all become better individuals, but we became a greater team, one that could conquer any obstacle that crossed our path. I will never forget that training for it made me an entirely different person in my leadership capabilities and confidence.

Now after only being on this earth for 18 years I can already say I have accomplished so much, and yet I have so much further to go. This summer, I swore into the U.S. Marine Corps and will be leaving for Parris Island on June 6, 2016. I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt that I am more prepared mentally, physically and emotionally then I ever could have been without this program. I have gotten jobs, acquired knowledge and developed keen skills that I otherwise would not have attained. It has helped me to better prepare for my future and has molded me into a more elite leader.

I feel from the bottom of my soul that this program is one of the greatest things that a young adult can do in their teenage years, and I am so glad I had the chance to be a part of something so much bigger than myself.

At a Glimpse



Dunlap Division of Mobile, Alabama is excited to announce the promotion of Christopher Townsend to chief petty officer. Chief Townsend is the first cadet from Dunlap Division to progress to the rank of chief petty officer, the highest rank in the Sea Cadet program. Chief Townsend began his Sea Cadet career three years ago as a 14 year old, and immediately began training to get where he is today. Bravo Zulu, Chief Townsend! We look forward to many more cadets from Dunlap Division following in your footsteps.

Cadet Earns ‘Wings of Gold’ and So Much More

By Lt. Cmdr. Tommy Blackshear, NSCC
Regional Director, Region 11-7

I enrolled my niece Krystal Vancil and her siblings as Sea Cadets in 2005 in an effort to improve their lives. They lived in a difficult environment and conditions were not improving, so ultimately, in August 2008 I decided to become their foster parent.

In particular, Krystal was a pretty good cadet, but her difficult childhood had negatively impacted her. Fortunately, she was a good student, which allowed her to meet the 3.0 GPA prerequisite for acceptance to the Flying Midshipman Association/Naval Sea Cadet Corps/USS *Midway* Museum’s FAA Ground School training evolution in summer 2009. The FAA Ground School is a two-week academic course that prepares a cadet to pass the written FAA ground school test, enabling the cadet to take flight lessons, if desired.

However, the acceptance process also requires approval from the training’s commanding officer, which in this case was me. Originally, I said Krystal was not likely to be a candidate for the ground school because I wasn’t sure if she could handle it. Krystal promised to maintain good behavior, but I was skeptical. Krystal only attended to prove me wrong, and at the time she had no interest in becoming a pilot.

Over the nearly two weeks of the ground school, Krystal and 14 fellow cadets, endured 10-hour class days, warm weather, enlisted coffin racks and learned to like coffee. Krystal became determined to graduate from the class, and the daily testing was evidence of that determination. Krystal and her shipmates did a good job of keeping up on the subject matter. Occasionally, the use of basic jet cockpit simulators gave the cadets opportunities to use their new knowledge.

All through the grind of these daily classes, exams, and late night studying, Krystal strove to excel in an effort to

achieve good grades, finally passing the FAA test with a 90%! Upon graduation, Krystal and her shipmates celebrated their rare achievement, and then departed the *Midway* Museum, with a new school year soon beginning.

After deciding a large mainstream high school was not the best place for at-risk foster kids I enrolled Krystal and her siblings in a charter school — at an airport of all places. Flabob Airport, in Rubidoux, California, was the location for a charter/homeschool combination, with a definite aviation emphasis. This school had a good introductory aviation science program, great academics, and was filled with great teachers.

After the airport management shared with him Krystal’s story of her foster child status, high score on the FAA written test, and Sea Cadet membership, Mr. Ray Stits, a kindly gentleman who had previously sponsored flight lessons for young people, offered Krystal the opportunity to earn a private pilot’s certificate, with lessons and fees completely paid for. The only catch was that Krystal had to agree to complete the course, since many previous students had not completed their lessons. Krystal and I agreed to his proposal.

Because the flight school was located at the same airport as Krystal’s school, she was able to attend flight lessons up to three times weekly. Five months later, Cadet Krystal Vancil became certified as a FAA Private Pilot, and was awarded her Naval Sea Cadet Corps “Wings of Gold”.

Krystal is currently enrolled at the California Maritime Academy in their Mechanical Engineering degree program. Her goal is to become a naval officer and fly the Navy’s P-8A Poseidon. She is still enrolled as a Sea Cadet as an adult member, and assists with cadets whenever she’s able.

At a Glimpse



“In October, the James M. Hannan Division took part in the 240th U.S. Navy Birthday Ball providing “arrival honors” and presenting the colors before the guest of honor, Vice Admiral Robin Braun. During the presentation of the colors, I held the position of left rifle. I felt it was an honor that I was provided the opportunity to carry out the task because I believe it is very important to maintain proper naval standards and customs. I am very proud to be a part of the Sea Cadet program as it has provided me with a multitude of skills that directly support my plans to join the Navy and become a Seabee.”

Seaman Trey Bennington, NSCC

James M. Hannan Division, Garden City, Mich.

Unit Goes Green With Help from Donor

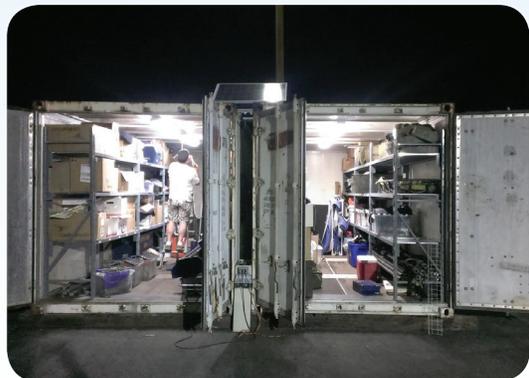
By Lt. Cmdr. Pamela Silver, NSCC
Regional Director, Region 11-2

Betsy Ross Division and Bryce Canyon Division are two separate all-male and all-female units that drill at the same location, usually on the same days, at the Patrick Henry Army Reserve Center in Van Nuys, California. The units faced a challenge in that there were no lights in the Conex boxes that house uniform items at their location on base. Monday evening drills can run into darkness without lighting, making it challenging for cadets to get uniforms for their next event.

So, a family member of Bryce Canyon Division — who chooses to remain anonymous — stepped forward to donate his expertise in the solar energy field in order to add solar lighting to both of the boxes. According to Commanding Officer Lt.j.g. Gerardo GarciaMontes, the donated materials included “an off-grid hundred watt solar power kit system, 12V batteries, an inverter and four 120V light fixtures with two LED lamps.”

The cadets of both units are no longer pressed to “beat the sun coming down,” when they drill on Monday evenings. Additionally, they are seeing first hand the way innovation in solar power works, while using natural resources.

A special thank you to that silent donor and Sea Cadet supporter.



Courtesy of LCDR Silver, NSCC

Sea Cadets Support SEAL Muster

By Lt.j.g. Billy Dover, NSCC
Commanding Officer, Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.

This Veterans Day weekend marked the 30th anniversary of the National Navy SEAL Museum in Ft. Pierce, Florida, which is the home of the Navy SEALs. The museum hosts an annual SEAL Muster event to honor our past and present special warfare members. The Sea Cadets have assisted with many past events and were asked to assist the museum and staff in making it happen this year.

A lot of preparation goes into this weekend, which many cadets consider the ultimate “event of the year”. It not only honors the special warfare members, but also educates the public about this great community of the armed forces. This year during the three-day event there were over 250 cadets and 30 escorts making it happen.

Friday consisted of a lot of practice for the ceremony and next day’s demonstrations. The cadets had the opportunity to talk with two Leap Frog parachute team members after their practice jump. They explained how their equipment works and one lucky cadet had the opportunity to wear some of their gear. The cadets then had the opportunity to meet and interact with the guest speaker WWE star, Titus O’Neil, and then tour the museum.

Saturday began at 5 a.m. As some cadets assisted with registration and helping the crew set up the 11th Annual SEAL Challenge 5K Run/Walk, the remaining cadets completed physical training. Cadets then assisted with the SEAL Muster, carrying flags, assisting the World War II Special Operators, maintaining security for the landing zone and the parade field. This day was full of demonstrations, including the Leap Frogs bringing in the nation’s flag as the national anthem was sung by a retired veteran, K-9 teams, demolitions, helicopters and more. There were guest speakers, music, food and lots of camaraderie among the cadets and spectators alike. Saturday evening the cadets enjoyed PT on the beach then finally a scavenger hunt inside the museum during which they looked up information from the beginning of the UDT to the current day SEAL history.

The SEAL Muster culminated on Sunday with a memorial service to fallen special warfare members and families. This sunrise service is a time of great respect to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and those who have passed this year. Every cadet present was proud to be part of it.

Being able to serve the National Navy SEAL Museum staff and our past and present special warfare members was an honor for all cadets and staff who attended. This truly showcases the idea of Honor, Courage and Commitment and the motto that “the only easy day was yesterday”.

This article is dedicated to Lt. Cmdr. Louis “Skip” Carloni, Jr. and the Gulf Eagle Battalion. On Saturday, Nov. 7, as the SEAL demonstration was going on, Carloni collapsed and later passed away at the hospital. Upon hearing the news, his cadets, while in shock, resolved to continue their service to the veterans present. I know that Lt. Cmdr. Carloni is proud of them and we thank him for his service to the U.S. Navy and the USNSCC.

We wish to thank the units that served during this event: American Veterans Division, Centurion Battalion, Enterprise Division, Gulf Eagle Battalion, Thomas Norris Battalion, Palm Beach Division, Spruance Division and David McCampbell Battalion.

Bravo Zulu to 2015's Sea Cadet Leaders

Bravo Zulu to our cadets who achieved the ranks of chief petty officer and petty officer first class this year!

Chief Petty Officer:

Abel, Amy	Haugabrook, Langdon	Sleeter, Jacob	Diener, Aaron	Mihalcik, Jared
Alatar, Gavin	Heard, Nathan	Sleeter, Joshua	Doyle, Kaitlyn	Modrich, Rebecca
Anglin, Bradley	Hirsch, Christian	Smith, Robin-Andrew	Dutschman, Ryan	Montgomery, Brandon
Arnold, Cole	Holman, Blake	Snyder, Melissa	Eberle, William	Mooney, Samantha
Arrisueno, Jorge	Hoy, Austin	Sobers, Kashka	Edwards, Jacob	Mooneyham, Tristan
Arter, James	Jackson, Seth	Standaert, Brendan	Ferrell, Hunter	Morell, Andrew
Atchison, Cameron	Joh II, Frederick	Steffey, Peter	Fischer, Brenton	Morgan, Harley
Azevedo, Trent	Keenan, Gunnar	Stith, Ruby	Fitzpatrick, Zachery	Morton, Alexander
Baker, Austin	Kehoe, Xander	Stockbridge, Nicholas	Gallagher, Patrick	Nagel, Jessica
Bertulaitis, Eric	Kent, Jordan	Strawbrich, Johnathon	Gardebled, Ryan	Nickell, Cooper
Bevens, Jared	Kephart, Cory	Taboada, Zachary	Gerstenberg, Inna	Nogueras, Kelsey
Biddle, John	Khuat, Dominick	Taylor, Zackary	Graves, Benjamin	Novinger, Koen
Bjorkland, Gunnar	Kilmer, Kevin	Tomlinson, Nathan	Graves, Nicholas	O'Brien, Hunter
Blejwas, Andrew	Kirkham, Cyrus	Townsend, Christopher	Green, Dylan	Ochoa, Salina
Blizzard, Zachary	Klein, Alexander	Treacy, Monica	Grifka, Zachary	Offield, Zachary
Booth, Nathan	Kluesener, Liam	Vergara, Kristoffer	Gupta, Sambhav	Olsen, Brisco
Bradley, Blaine	Kolton, Joshua	Vickers, Kimberly	Gutierrez, Jesus	Ortiz Jr, Manuel
Breslin, Liam	Kusturin, Katherine	Wallace, Jacob	Haley, Joseph	Panik III, John
Brewer, Cameron	Lacombe, Frederick	Wellman, Meghan	Harris, Timothy	Phipps, James
Brown, Aaron	Lebron, Travis	Weyhe, Jackson	Heis, Miranda	Powell, William
Brown, Derrick	Lee, Zachary	Wheatley, Connor	Hermanson, Arlan	Precourt, Samuel
Bueno, Mark	Lidawer, Jeffrey	Whitehead, Byron	Hermsen, Luke	Ramirez-Alvarado, Chase
Cea, Brandon	Lindstrom, Kathleen	Zygarewicz, Jared	Holmes, Jared	Riffle, Tamera
Ceberos, Francisco	Lydon, Patrick		Hopkins, Jacob	Robertson, Dylan
Chartier, Edward	Mackey, Donte	Petty Officer First Class:	Howe, Evan	Rutledge III, Andrew
Chen, Sean	Manasco, Joseph	Ajoue, Daniel	Hunt, Devin	Salazar, Jesus
Churchill, Joshua	Marcoux, Sierra	Allen, Robert	Jackson, Bailey	Sarel, Shawn
Clare, Dylan	Matheson, Ian	Almeida, David	Jackson, Garrett	Schmidt, Parker
Clark, John	Maxfield, Lucas	Aquino, Giannpierre	Jensen, Caleigh	Schroeter, Emma
Clark, Stephen	McDonald, Connor	Arter, Justin	Jirik, Izak	Schumaker, Maxwell
Coleman, Riley	McDonnell, Curtis	Bixby, Jacob	Johnson, Nolen	Shalha, Tarik
Coon, Elijah	Melton, Robert	Bodily, Troy	Jones, Kelli	Shaw, William
Cruz, Brandon	Montenegro, Alina	Boelman, Andrew	Jones, Noah	Shore, Broderick
Dao, James	Morales, Savier	Bohnenberger, Frederick	Kania, Alex	Sleigh, Ian
Deuel, Justin	Muehleman, Matthew	Bramlett, Jack	Karnthong, Abram	Soriano, Ian
Dobel, Mikaela	Munford, Matthew	Broderdorf, Benjamin	Kassman, Austin	Sprague, Rory
Dudley IV, Sherwood	Nagle, Lee	Brown, Courtney	Kowalski, Joseph	Strasser, Adam
Eberspeaker, Jeffrey	Nguyen, Peter	Brown, Joseph	Kozlowski, Stephen	Swanson, Carl
Edmunds, Kaleb	Otte, Ryan	Brown, Ryan	Kulczynski, Matthew	Taboada, Sophia
Esquivel, Daylan	Ou, Anna	Bryan, Noah	Kulow, Isabelle	Tannahill, Noah
Forrester, Kayla	Overton, Maria	Burgos, Robert	Lagman, Daulton	Tran, Adam
Foster, Adam	Pagtalunan, Jesse	Burns, Kolin	Larkin, Johnathan	Vance, Emily
Foster, Benjamin	Paiva, Jacob	Caldwell, Michaela	Leahy, Hannah	Vazquez, Christopher
Fox, Connor	Palmer, Andrew	Cardenas, Kiarra	Leaman, Benjamin	Velez, Miles
Frederickson, Hunter	Perry, Jessica	Cervantez, Daniel	Lewton, Rebecca	Votypka, Alexander
Freitas, Katrin	Plunkard, Phillip	Clark, Daniel	Lieb, Blake	Wagner, Joel
Gallant, Matthew	Purcell, Andrew	Clingenpeel, Laura	Liranzo, Gabriel	Wallace, Noah
Gamboe, Carson	Reid, Ian	Cornella, Dominico	Lo, Nicolle	Wilson, Gray
Gilmore, Sam	Ritchie, Clare	Curcio, Donato	Loc, Lyle	Wintenburg, Thomas
Glantz, Logan	Robinson, Tracy	Custer, Kyle	Lowder, David	Wisshack, Jacob
Glaysher, Jacob	Roy, Christopher	Dahm, Noah	Marez, David	Worthington, Elizabeth
Godby, Madeline	Schell, Gavin	Dante, Stephen	Marine, Nicholas	Wright, Nolan
Gonzales, Stephanie	Serdinsky, Charles	Davenport, Christopher	Martens, Matthew	Yaeger, Harrison
Goulart, Jenna	Shaw, Katharine	Davis, Christina	McVay, Justin	Yonkers, Maxwell
Grifka, Elizabeth	Sicolo, Gianluca	Davis, John	McWilliams, Cameron	
Harris, Karina	Silva, Santiago	Davison, R'lanna	Mejia, Alexander	
	Slasinski, Chase	Debolt, Glenn	Melo, Esmeralda	

Happy Holidays to Our Wolverine Family Around the World

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicholas Mayes, NLCC
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.



At our October drill, we — the League Cadets from Wolverine Division — decided that we should send letters and gifts to former Wolverines who have gone into the military. We also decided to send a package to one of our friends stationed on USS *Ronald Reagan*.

First, we wrote some letters, and then our officers drove us to the store to buy toiletries and other small things such as candy, art supplies and Christmas ornaments. We then bought seven boxes to put everything in. It was fun going shopping for these items and packing all the items into the boxes — though making them fit was quite a challenge.

The reason we did this is because these people are in other countries far away from home. We learned from our officers that the hardest part about being in the military is being away from home even though most people would think it's the fighting. That's what made us think that we should send the boxes to people we know that are far away from home in the military. Our parcels have been sent to Japan, South Korea and here in America, too. These people are part of our Wolverine family and we want them to know that we are thinking of them, especially during the holidays.



Left: League Cadets prepare holiday boxes for shipment around the world. Above: Julia Smith shares the contents of her box from Japan: "I love everything in it and I appreciate very much that you guys still think about everyone that will not be home for the holidays! Merry Christmas and happy holidays from Japan!"

Battalion Holds First Golf Tournament

Submitted by Veterans Pride Battalion
Glendale, Ariz.

Sept. 12, 2015: The sun was shining, the water was calm and glistening, and all around the Tuscany Falls Golf Course in Goodyear, Arizona, young cadets were milling around, ready to smile and sell raffle tickets to eager golfers.

As soon as the First Annual Veterans Pride Battalion Golf Tournament began, sixty golfers flooded the course to raise money for a worthy cause. Lt.j.g. Tim Riley said, "VPB held the golf tournament to raise money for OPH-75 cadets in our unit to go to Hawaii in December 2016 for the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor."

OPH-75 stands for Operation Pearl Harbor-75, and Riley elaborated on the reason for the golf tournament by continuing, "Seventy-five years ago our country was attacked by Japan which resulted in the United States entry into World War II. On Dec. 7, 1941, the USS *Arizona* was sunk and 1,177 Sailors and Marines were killed that day. Our unit has been invited to participate in the 75th anniversary of this event by staying aboard the USS *Missouri* on Dec. 6 and being part of the ceremony aboard the USS *Arizona* on Dec 7. This is a very special opportunity for our unit."

Although this was the first golf tournament that VPB hosted, it was a very successful event sponsored by more than 80 organizations, including Liberty Insurance, Osborne Jewelers, and the Cleveland Indians. Furthermore, the battalion raised over \$9,500 and plans to host another tournament in October 2016. Rounds of golf were played, raffle tickets were bought, food was eaten, money was raised and fun was had by all. If anyone wishes to participate in next year's tournament or donate, they can contact Veterans Pride Battalion.



Elaine Ryan

“SEAL Muster is the highlight of our drill year. It’s such a wonderful service opportunity. The looks on their faces, from excitement to tears and everything in between, are priceless.”
— Instructor Shawna Hosein, NSCC, Centurion Battalion, Winter Park, Fla.

Photo of the Quarter



Courtesy of Alexandria Division

Important Reminders

We want to hear about your winter training!
The deadline for the next issue of Sea Cadet Quarterly is 16 February. Submission guidelines can be found at www.seacadets.org/scq. Send submissions to pao@seacadets.org.

Check out Fort Indiantown Gap’s new training video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feOVSG2qRhc>

Arlington, Va. - Alexandria Division of Alexandria, Va. tours the Pentagon and enjoys a special visit with General Martin E. Dempsey, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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