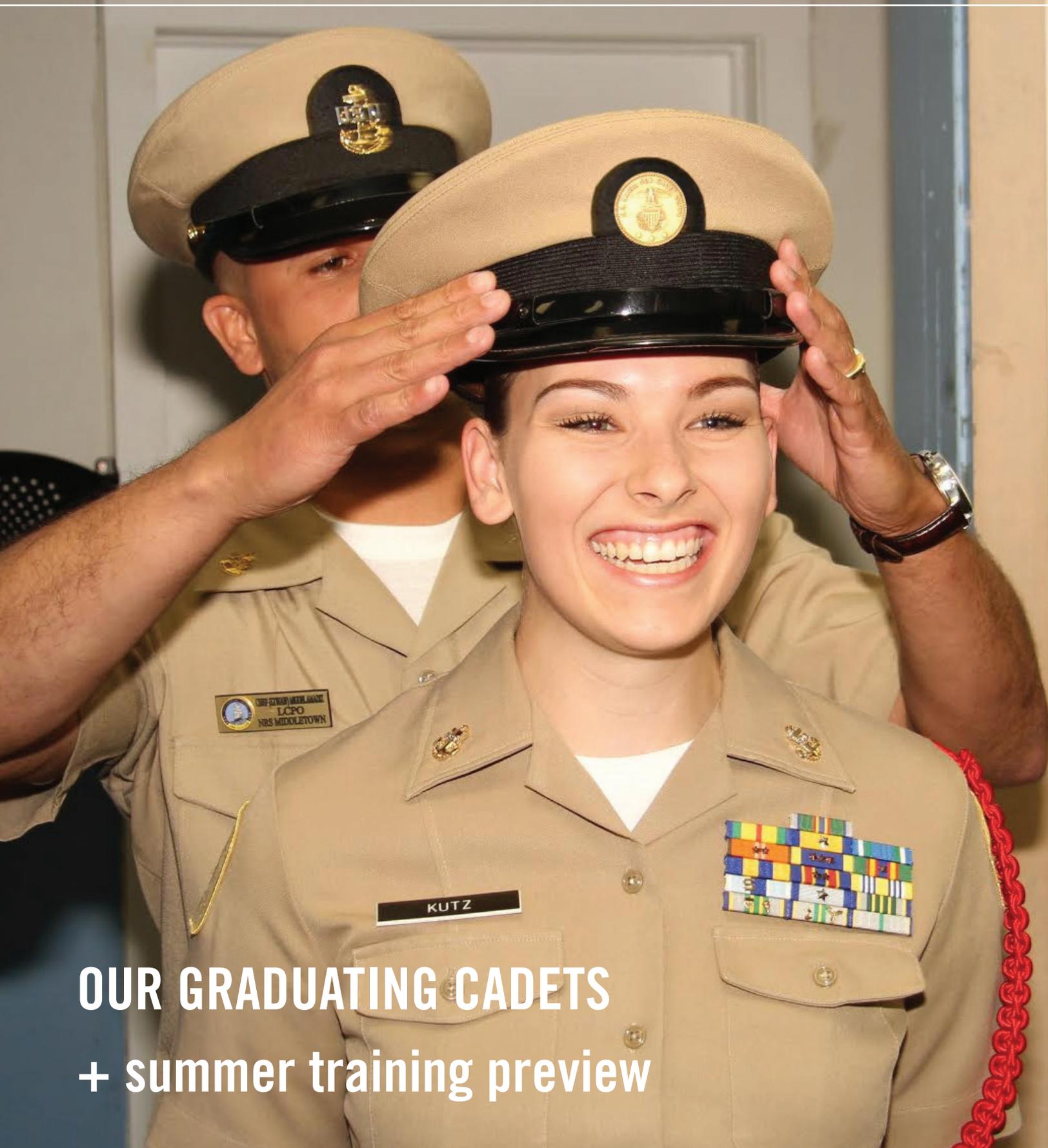


# Sea Cadet Quarterly

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2, JUNE 2017



**OUR GRADUATING CADETS**  
**+ summer training preview**

**JUNE 2017**

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

## Cover Story

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**PHOTO BY:** Gerald Kutz

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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iep.seacadets.org

**THIS PAGE:** Cadets participate in Scuba training in Hawaii.

The deadline for the next issue of Sea Cadet Quarterly is 16 August. Submission guidelines can be found at [www.seacadets.org/scq](http://www.seacadets.org/scq). Send submissions to [pao@seacadets.org](mailto:pao@seacadets.org).

## INSIDE THE COVER:



**“Becoming a chief petty officer fulfilled a long-term goal that I set for myself four years ago. It has proven to me that all things are possible with a lot of hard work and determination. My Sea Cadet experience will guide me as I face the challenges ahead at West Point.”**

**- Chief Petty Officer Kaitlyn Kutz, NSCC Dealey Division, Stamford, Conn. Attending the U.S. Military Academy**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## STAY IN THE CORPS

Retired Navy Captain Paul Zambarnardi became executive director of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in April 2017. “We are very pleased to have Paul Zambarnardi join the Naval Sea Cadet Corps as executive director,” said John Alger, chair of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps’ board of directors. “With his extensive and impressive nonprofit background, as well as his experience as a naval officer, we are very confident that Mr. Zambarnardi is the right person to lead us as we continue to create the next generation of leaders in this country.”

Zambarnardi served in the U.S. Navy for 23 years as a naval aviator, flying the P-3 Orion aircraft. After his naval career, Zambarnardi served in a variety of roles in the nonprofit, government and business sectors, including his former role as executive vice president of the Raskob Foundation in Wilmington, Del. Zambarnardi previously served on the staff of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and he was the chief financial officer of the United States Naval Academy Foundation and Alumni Association. He also was the director for a Mid-Atlantic financial advisory firm and president of the Yellowstone Park Foundation in Bozeman, Mont. Most recently, Zambarnardi provided services as a private consultant focusing on strategic planning, implementation of innovative services, and analysis and evaluation of organizational performance.

**T**his is an exciting time of year for the USNSCC. Our graduating seniors are moving on to new opportunities, where they will apply the skills they’ve learned throughout their time as Sea Cadets. When I read their stories, I see the victory of our volunteers’ efforts, the success of our training program, and the evidence of years of hard work by our cadets.

### The Sea Cadet Experience

The experiences and plans of our senior cadets are diverse. Some are enlisting in our armed services, some are joining the workforce, and others are going off to college. What they will carry with them, no matter where they go, are the shared experiences of being a Sea Cadet: that feeling on your first day of Recruit Training when maybe you wondered what you were doing there and then, the relief and sense of accomplishment as you graduated, perhaps having pushed yourself further than you ever had before; the excitement of choosing your first advanced training; the realization that you formed a squad, or maybe even a family, with the cadets and volunteers in your division; the triumph of doing something you never thought possible; the feeling you had as you put on your NSCC uniform for the last time.

### Stay in the Corps

To those who are graduating, and those who have gone before them, I ask that you'll accept one final challenge from the Sea Cadet program: Stay in the Corps. Become a member of our Alumni Association. If you can, join as a midshipman, and eventually an officer, so you can give back to others. Keep in touch with us on social media and let us know where life has taken you. When you reach a point in your life where it is possible, consider giving back as a supporter, knowing that you will be touching the lives of cadets who share the same experiences that you had. Stay in the Corps.

*Paul A. Zambarnardi*

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



# Chief's Corner: To Go Anywhere in Life, You Must First Leave Home

**By Chief Petty Officer Blaine Bradley, NSCC**

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.  
Enlisted in the U.S. Navy

I've written several articles for the SCQ. I've enjoyed working on each of them. I never thought, however, that I'd be writing this one and honestly, I'm less than thrilled. After eight years, I've come to the end of my time in an NSCC uniform. It's been about 80 drill weekends plus a dozen or so trainings all across the country. To say this was a big part of my existence would be an understatement. My life over the past eight years can be classified in two ways: either in uniform or impatiently waiting to be in uniform again.

Now what? The day that I never thought would actually come is unavoidably bearing down on me. Eight years of experiences, memories, friends and role models in the making and all in one June afternoon, one short, heartfelt speech later, it's over. How do you reconcile that? It may not be easy, but it's what I've been trained to do. I will move forward with the **honor** of knowing what I've accomplished, the **courage** to leave my comfort zone and tackle the new challenges that lie ahead, and the **commitment** to continue striving for excellence in everything I do, as a credit to my Naval Sea Cadet heritage.

For me, that will be a life spent in the world's greatest Navy. I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as a Nuclear Propulsion Operator. As of right now, I have selected to serve on a submarine. As a "Nuke" in the Navy, I will receive the world's best training in the use of nuclear power and the advanced technology that our Navy uses to produce and harness that force to run the most fearsome warships ever made. With a great deal of pride, I will soon make my third trip to Recruit Training Command. I've been briefed that all I'm allowed to bring is a few dollars to spend at the airport, my ID, and the clothes on my back. Little does my recruiter know, I won't be following that order because I will also be carrying eight years of experiences, memories, friends, and role models with me who will continue to guide me.

To the cadets who are following me, I offer this advice: NEVER stop pushing! No matter how fast, strong, or smart you are, the only limit to your effort and hence, your success, is the limit you place on yourself and no one can change that. ALWAYS stay positive! You will undoubtedly encounter negative circumstances and people. Remain focused on your goals and don't let yourself wallow in that mire or get discouraged. It has been proven to me that

no matter how bleak things may look, they always have a way of working themselves out. I can't begin to give a big enough thank you to all of those who have made it possible for me to get here. I will never forget.



JESSICA ANDERSON

**"Little does my recruiter know, I won't be following that order because I will also be carrying eight years of experiences, memories, friends, and role models with me who will continue to guide me."**

## Where I Was, Where I Am, and Where I'm Going

**By Chief Petty Officer Samantha Lolo, NSCC**

Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.  
Air Force ROTC at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to serve my country. Maybe this is because both of my parents are in the Air Force and this is the life I grew up with. In 2009, I heard about the Sea Cadets. I was only 10-years-old. At the time, I really wasn't sure what I was getting myself into. I just knew that I didn't want to wait until I was 17 to be involved in a military organization.

I intended on staying in the program until I was 12 and old enough to join the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Coming into the program, I was a quiet girl with not much self-confidence. Going to drill was actually pretty nerve-wracking for me. But I stuck out the first two years as a League Cadet.

Once I turned 12, I had the option to switch into the CAP, but I decided to stay in the USNSCC. Not just because I had made some great friends, but because I saw endless opportunities in the program. I transferred from League Cadets to Sea

Cadets in 2013 and went to Great Lakes for boot camp. At this training, I discovered I can accomplish things under pressure that I never thought I would be able to do. Three years later in 2016, I was pinned chief petty officer in the USNSCC by my parents, and "The Hat" was placed by an active duty chief.

When I was 10-years-old walking into that NOSC for the first time, never did I think I would stay in the program long enough to earn the rank of chief. I'm currently a high school senior who is about to graduate the program. Starting in Fall of 2017, I am going to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on a full-ride Air Force ROTC scholarship. I could not have accomplished this without the help of my shipmates or the wonderful volunteers in this program.



JESSICA ANDERSON

## More Than a Youth Program

**By Chief Petty Officer Xavier Garza, NSCC**

Desert Storm Division, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.  
Attending the U.S. Air Force Academy

Sea Cadets is more than a youth program; it's something that can change your life for the better.

It started four years ago with a dream. I joined because I knew I wanted to fly and had heard about this program. Initially, I didn't want to join any service, but through the cadet program, I fostered a love for the armed services and knew that the military would be my calling. In the past four years, I have participated in 18 different trainings. Every training gave me some new knowledge about our marine service branches. I made many friends across the country, even all over the world. Sea Cadets taught me skills like flying planes, building underwater submersibles, computer programming, and even rocket science. My love for STEM, fostered through the Sea Cadets, allowed me to develop my skills even further by applying those skills and knowledge in my school. I introduced SeaPerch as the first STEM club, and when the school implemented its first robotics course, I was invited to assist in teaching it. Without the skills acquired in Sea Cadets, this would not have been possible.

The leadership skills acquired over the years were influenced by many leaders. Strong leadership skills help not only your Sea Cadet career, they also manifest in your daily life.

You learn to problem solve, work wisely, encourage each other, and demand everyone give their personal best.

Although I have learned and done so much, there is one domineering lesson: regardless of how old you are, how shy you are, or how uninformed you are, you can make the most out of this program. It is not built to reward the people who are in it the longest, it is built for those who have the drive to do something with their lives. I had that drive. I took my passion I had for the military and aviation and applied towards my goal of a military career. I started from the bottom of the rank structure and through hard work and dedication, I was able to experience so many things. My greatest accomplishment is a culmination of my Sea Cadet and academic career. I received offers from USNA, USCGA, and USAFA. I will be reporting to the Air Force Academy this June, majoring in aeronautical engineering, but I hope to return and mentor cadets someday. The Sea Cadets gave me the tools for success. Dream big, work hard, push past the limits you thought you had and be a credit to yourself and your community. As I conclude my time with the cadets, I am certain I got the most I could out of the program and I encourage you to do the same.

# You're Always in the People Business

**By Petty Officer 2nd Class Haak Burns, NSCC**  
Dealey Division, Stamford, Conn.  
Naval ROTC at Norwich University

A man named Malcolm Pray once said, “No matter what career you decide to pursue, you will always be in the people business.” What Mr. Pray meant is that whether you decide to become a college professor or someone who trades stocks at home all day, you will have to effectively communicate with other people, so it is imperative that you develop good people skills. I heard this piece of wisdom during a visit to the Pray Achievement Center with my Sea Cadet unit when I was 15-years-old. At the time, I was a timid and skittish sophomore who dreaded having to make eye contact. After listening to Mr. Pray, I focused my efforts towards developing my confidence and people skills. Sea Cadets gave me more than enough opportunities to do so.

Traveling across the country and working with like-minded teenagers forced me out of my comfort zone. In order to succeed in the training environment, I needed to overcome my awkwardness and become comfortable with being uncomfortable. Equipped with a steadfast desire to improve and succeed, I graduated many of these trainings with flying colors and multiple citations. Most importantly, I learned to speak, communicate, and lead with confidence and competence.

Not only did the program greatly improve my people skills, it also taught me the importance of self-discipline and equanimity.

Being forced to eject ourselves from our sheets at the crack of dawn seemed, at the time, like an extraneous unpleasantness that stemmed from the older cadets’ misaimed teenage frustrations. Looking back on it now, I realize that it was to teach us the value of waking up early and “attacking” the day. Leading a nighttime boat operation in near-subzero temperatures didn’t seem like the ideal way to spend Christmas

break, but I now see that it was to teach me how to lead effectively under pressure. All of these experiences taught me self-discipline, the ability to control my emotions and overcome my weaknesses in order to achieve a certain goal.

The Sea Cadets has taught me how to regain control of my actions and emotions in times when self-control is required. This skill was not acquired immediately. It took years of pushing my limits and being face-to-face with chaos and disorder to develop the skills necessary to lead effectively. This is an uncommon skill among my age group. Equanimity is seldom seen in teenagers because not every teenager has devoted as much of their time into the Sea Cadets as I have. If it had not been for this program, I would not have become the uncommon young man that I am today.

As I begin the next chapter of my life by starting ROTC and college in the fall, I will encounter many new challenges, adversities, and opportunities. With the skills and experience the Sea Cadets has given me, I am confident in my ability to overcome any obstacles I will encounter on my path to becoming a Naval Nurse Officer.



## Petty Officer 3rd Class Hunter Cihal

**Fort Spokane Battalion, Enlisting in the U.S. Navy**

Petty Officer 3rd Class Hunter Cihal joined the Fort Spokane Battalion in September 2015 and soon found himself attending winter Recruit Training at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. From there, Cihal attended Master-at-arms training, POLA, and got an up-close glimpse of Navy life while sailing aboard USS *John C. Stennis* for seamanship training. As our command Master-at-arms, he ensures that the command maintains good order and discipline throughout our training evolutions. Currently, PO3 Cihal is wrapping up his senior year at Mt. Spokane High School. His military aspirations include enlisting in the U.S. Navy as an Intelligence Specialist. Fort Spokane Battalion extends our well wishes for all of PO3 Cihal’s future endeavors!



# Sea Cadets Is What You Make of It

**By Petty Officer 2nd Class Sarah St. Jean, NSCC**  
Roanoke Battalion, Roanoke, Va.  
Attending the U.S. Naval Academy

I joined Sea Cadets right before 10th grade with the goal of attending a service academy. I have had amazing summer and winter experiences tallying 9 weeks of training including Winter Survival, SCUBA, and Master-at-arms. These trainings have pushed me past my perceived limits and taught me important lessons in leadership and perseverance. They have been some of the best weeks of my life but where I have really grown as a person is during my unit’s monthly drills.

My unit has helped me lay a foundation for leadership. Starting with how to be a good follower and a leader among peers, the unit staff has taught me how to think on my feet and deal with cadets from all backgrounds. They have taught me skills that pertain not just to the military but also to civilian life, skills such as teamwork, communication, organization, and conflict resolution. But most of all they have taught me how to fail and fail gracefully. As a leader you are going to make mistakes and that is okay. But you must admit you made a mistake and learn from it.

My unit leadership has also been amazing in supporting me through my applications to the Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, and Military Academy. They helped me with everything from letters of recommendation to my Physical Fitness test called the CFA. When I took my CFA, I will never forget what my XO said to me when I was talking about the average scores and what scores I wanted. He looked at me and said, “I have never known you to be average, so why start now?” That leadership has shaped how I look at the world. Life is truly what you make of it.

I have had the most humbling opportunity by choosing among the four service academies where I received appointments. I have chosen to become a member of the world’s finest Navy and to serve my country for as long as I am able. On June 29, my XO will swear me in as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy. I never will be able to fully express my appreciation to him and all of the amazing volunteers at my unit and advanced trainings I have attended. Thank you to all of the volunteers who make this program possible.

I encourage all Sea Cadets to do two things: Realize Sea Cadets is what you make of it and thank your unit’s volunteers for what they do because this program would not be possible without them. Oh, and Go Navy! Beat Army!

## Taking My Skills to College and Beyond

**By Petty Officer 1st Class Emily T. Lo Vece, NSCC**  
Thomas R. Norris Battalion, Fruitland Park, Fla.  
Attending the University of Maryland

As I move on to the next phase of my life, it is natural to have lots of aspirations. It is exciting to know that Sea Cadets gave me an arsenal of training and proficiencies to help me achieve those goals. When thinking about my future, I have short- and long-term targets. The most significant goals is first succeeding in college and second, opening my own business someday. I am very grateful to the USNSCC program for helping to prepare me for the challenges ahead.

Successfully navigating the next four years of college at UMD will be tricky for a variety of reasons. For starters, I will be thousands of miles from home, completely on my own, and studying full-time. One big key to my success will be effective communication. I know I can take on the challenges of a college student because of the communication skills I learned through Cadets. While studying at UMD, I must be able to effectively express my ideas and work well with others. No matter the form of communication, college will test how comfortable I am conveying information to peers, professors, my family, even the world! This doesn’t seem as scary when I think of the hundreds of messages, letters, and presentations I have crafted during my time in Sea Cadets. Through the program, I had the opportunity to practice important communication basics. I look forward to using all my communication skills to graduate from UMD in four short years.

It is my sincere hope to be my own boss by owning a business after I graduate from college. In order to run a successful business, you must be able to delegate and manage your time wisely. During my time in the USNSCC, I gained great insight into these skills. As I progressed in rank, I learned how to properly delegate tasks to subordinates based on their suitability for the duty as well as cadet availability. As the ALPO for the Thomas Norris Battalion, I have been responsible for helping to create PODs and time charts. This allowed me to hone my time management skills. These tools will be put to good use as I realize my dream of being a business owner.

My time in the NSCC has allowed me to broaden my horizons. I am excited to put my skills to use during my college career and in the business world. The crossovers are endless.



# Q&A: Seniors From Escondido Battalion

We interviewed Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Pisuena, Chief Petty Officer Fischer Mata, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Welchons from Escondido Battalion. Look out world — here they come.

## Q: How did you find Escondido Battalion?

**Pisuena:** I found out about the Naval Sea Cadet Corps in 2010 through a brochure a cadet gave me. I submitted an interest form and an e-mail, but I never got a response back. I found the same brochure four years later while cleaning my room. I resubmitted an interest form and got a call back. I'm a four-year member, and I will be graduating as a petty officer second class.

**Mata:** I found Escondido Battalion by chance in 8th grade, and my first event was a flagship. I loved it so much that I have stayed for five years. With our unit being relatively new, I was the designated LPO for three years. Talk about a tough job — being responsible for your peers. I have reached the rank of chief petty officer, the first homegrown one in our unit. My pinning ceremony and formal dining-in was an over-the-top celebration.

**Welchons:** I joined Sea Cadets two and a half years ago when my family and I met the CO and XO of the Escondido Battalion along with several of their cadets at a community service event. The cadets and officers were polite and professional and kindly offered to let us attend one of their drills. Here I am two and a half years later, a petty officer first class, with memories and experiences I won't ever forget.

## Q: What was your favorite training and why?

**Pisuena:** One of the best trainings to ever be sponsored by the Naval Sea Cadet Corps is the Defcon training. The vast knowledge and networking opportunities at DefCon was probably the best investment made for the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

**Mata:** One of my first trainings was under the STEM headline, the two weeks were spent flying drones and remote airplanes. This definitely started my love for the STEM field. My favorite training to staff was STEM, relating to

SeaPerch. It may seem ordinary but I believe it was one of the most incredible moments of my life. My first year going to Nationals in Boston was a small taste of "Boy, do I want to go back and prove myself." There we were one year later at LSU, standing on the podium as national champions (earning a trophy in all categories). That was an incredible trip and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. This also rolled into our CyberPatriot team. I think we were very successful in a few short years. Watch out for our future teams as they gain experience.

**Welchons:** In my time as a cadet, I have done eight advanced trainings, and for me to pick a favorite is pretty darn near impossible. One of my favorites was advanced MAA/SWAT training. The training was fast-paced and challenging. The cadets were serious about their training which made it productive and enjoyable.

## Q: What does your unit do that separates you from the rest?

**Pisuena:** Escondido Battalion has a unique mission statement: exposing cadets to different career fields. Escondido Battalion has produced two Marines, many college graduates, a nurse, and a plethora of cadets who are pursuing careers in law enforcement and firefighting. Lt. Col. Healey, the CO of this unit, is a visionary among unit COs for what he expects out of cadets. Coming from an accomplished man who made a long career out of the military, from his West Point years to his tenure as an Army Officer, Lt. Col. Patrick Healey's accomplishments include a second career as a medical professional and countless hours as an aviator. Healey is the epitome of the ideal post-military lifestyle: A successful military career followed by a rich and rewarding civilian one. You could argue that Lt. Col. Healey is just fulfilling his duty as an American citizen. A man who fought for his country who makes full use of the rights that many generations of Ameri-



cans have shed blood, sweat, and tears for. Because of my CO's guidance, many of my fellow cadets now have the opportunity to do the same. Ten years from now, many units will boast about how many former cadets attended academies and enlisted. Escondido alumni will include academy officers, doctors, police officers, businessmen and women, Scuba instructors, martial arts instructors, firefighters, and IT engineers. The Sea Cadets prepares you for a great military career, but Escondido sets its cadets up for life.

**Mata:** I feel that my battalion is very close. We support each other and cheer each other on. My fellow cadets talk about our unit's fantastic leadership, and yes, they have been amazing mentors. I am so thankful for their support and mentoring. They have given us so many opportunities that I know other



units do not have available to them. We have been sailing, scuba diving, flying, and we have supported our military in tons of events. But I also feel our volunteer adult staff is absolutely one of the best! This group of fine people (Vore, Oregon, Golding, Bachez) make sure we look our best in our uniforms, and take care of all of our paperwork so we can go to trainings. Don't forget the entire Welchons family that is a unit in itself.

## Q: What do you think being a Sea Cadet has added to your resume?

**Pisuena:** The Naval Sea Cadet Corps afforded me a pretty good chunk of my resume. The experience in a military setting is something that a lot of employers look for. Prompt responses, critical thinking, extreme attention to detail, leadership and teamwork skills... like a recruiter's dream come true. The chain of command that all units incorporate allows cadets to list formal communication, accountability for other individuals, and familiarity with deadlines for some soft skills. I've had a pretty good run with the SeaPerch and CyberPatriot teams, and because of that, I got internships at SPAWAR and Northrop Grumman. The FAA Ground School, run by Lt. Cmdr. Blackshear, got me my student license and free ground school.

**Mata:** What has USNSCC done for me...? I could go on forever... My resume started with Sea Cadets as the base, but because of the growth it has given me, I have a large resume that includes many certificates: FAA, Cyber, SeaPerch, Color Guard, etc. I am traditionally a pretty quiet guy. I started to serve my community early on as a cadet, as a tutor back at my elementary school. I hit 500 hrs of service. My brother and I started our own business. I worked at Legoland for two years. This last year, I went back to my roots of service to my community. I have had the pleasure of working for State Senator Joel Anderson, serving my fellow constituents. I feel everyone should take on this assignment. I have learned so much about what is important to people. All of this is possible when people see Sea Cadets on your resume. If they don't

know what it is, once you explain, you are a frontrunner for any position!

**Welchons:** I can say without hesitation that joining Sea Cadets was one of the best decisions I have ever made. As a result of this program, I have had the opportunity to explore jobs and career paths that I would never have considered before. The program has taught me leadership, responsibility, and has given me something to move forward with.

## Q: What's next for you?

**Pisuena:** I'll be attending college in the fall studying computer science. I'm continuing as an intern at Northrop Grumman and jumping into the start-up world as a front end developer. If I can manage time well enough, I want to help run my unit's CyberPatriot program. The future is ever-changing. My generation lives in a world where technology evolves in a blink of an eye, and the social climate of the world is increasingly sensitive to numerous financial, political, and demographic factors. My goal is to help move the world forward and to give back.

**Mata:** In the fall, I will be attending California State Maritime Academy. At CMA, I am going to study marine engineering technology to help with the military's battles on the sea. I am excited to see and be a part of the latest and greatest technology in the world, to protect and defend this great nation.

**Welchons:** One of the best things I did as a Sea Cadet was joining my unit's CyberPatriot team. Though I wasn't very computer savvy when I joined, I enjoyed it. I would never have thought that cyber security was what I wanted to do after high school, but as a result of joining the team and enjoying what I did, I plan on pursuing a career in the cyber security field.

**Mata:** As I close out this chapter of my life, I challenge cadets to take in all that this organization has to offer. You will never know who you might meet, where you will go, or the new challenges that will open doors to incredible opportunities. "May your sails always be full, your seas be calm, and your horizon be to infinity and beyond." 🚩



# The Effects of Sea Cadets

**By Chief Petty Officer Monica Treacy, NSCC**  
John T. Dempster, Jr. Division, Lawrenceville, N.J.  
Attending Benedictine College

Whenever I meet new people, they are often surprised by my age. Regularly, I am met with statements such as, "Wow! I thought you were in your twenties!" or "You act so mature for your age!" Normally, I just smile and give credit to how my parents raised me. Although this is true, Sea Cadets has greatly contributed to developing my character. Over my nine years of active participation in Sea Cadets, it has instilled in me qualities I would have never developed. Sea Cadets has boosted my confidence, allowed me to establish my leadership style, taught me to overcome obstacles, has given me patience to work in difficult situations, and empowered me to reach goals which I had once believed were impossible.

As a young woman going to college for engineering, I will face many challenges. Sea Cadets has taught me to never look at obstacles as insurmountable but as character-improving adventures. As a result, I will be confident in my decisions and use my leadership qualities to influence my peers to strive for greatness. The path to improving the world begins with: "One team, one fight!"

# Know Your People and Take Care of Them

**By Petty Officer 1st Class Chancie Brown, NSCC**  
Annapolis Division, Annapolis, Md.  
Attending the U.S. Coast Guard Academy

I have the tremendous honor of receiving two service academy appointments to the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, as well as a four-year Army ROTC Scholarship to the Virginia Military Institute. I chose to accept the appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. After serving more than three years in the USNSCC, I am positive my successes can be attributed to it, and the trainings it offered.

When I joined the Sea Cadet program in February 2014, I was interested in learning about the Navy and its mission, because I wanted to become a naval officer. After recruit training that summer, I was hooked. It was my goal to explore the different Navy career paths that interested me, such as the Seabees and submarines. My leadership skills improved exponentially through Petty Officer Leadership Academy and rising in the chain of command in my division. Staffing a two-week Recruit Training put all of my acquired skills to the test. There, I practiced the fundamental principles of leadership learned through my time in the program: know your people and take care of your people. It is with this simple philosophy, that I have successfully held many leadership positions both within and outside of the Sea Cadet program. As an officer, I will be a leader of men and women. I will be responsible for their well-being, and their assigned tasks at hand. The USNSCC prepared me well for the Coast Guard Academy and life as an officer. I am deeply grateful to this program and what it has taught me.

# Chief Petty Officer Vivian Dees

**F.D. Roosevelt Squadron, Naval ROTC at Virginia Tech**

Chief Vivian Dees recently accepted a full-ride Naval ROTC Scholarship to Virginia Tech. Dees says, "The Sea Cadets has turned my childhood dream of serving in the U.S. Navy a reality. I have loved every second of my joyful, confident, fun-filled, and occasionally muddy years in the program. I wouldn't trade that time or the people I've had the privilege of meeting for the world. Thank you for changing my life!"



# Heading Into My Future With Confidence

**By Chief Petty Officer Noah Tannahill, NSCC**  
Nashville (LPD-13) Division, Franklin, Tenn.  
Attending Middle Tennessee State University

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps program has, without a doubt, changed my life. Seven and a half years ago, my passion to pursue the Marine Corps was encouraged and enabled as a League Cadet. The program has afforded me opportunities that I would never have been able to participate in, and pushed me to accept responsibility for my actions and put the needs of others before my own.

I cannot remember a time when a life skill I learned was not taught, exemplified, or encouraged by the Sea Cadet Corps. From learning how to be a follower, team player, and encourager, to learning how to be a leader, challenger, and advisor. The leadership skills I have been taught have been used almost everyday in school, sports, and my work to help me help others. With college in my future, I know the most obvious use of the skills I have been taught will be in class with my friends and teachers. Being a team player, helping my colleagues to do their best, and pushing myself to perform will be an important goal over the next four years. After college, I plan on working to serve my community and country and starting a family; two different pursuits that require similar skills. I know I can rely on the skills given to me through Sea Cadets to help me follow directions, complete the job correctly, and lead those around me. What's amazing is there are so many more ways Sea Cadets has impacted me as an individual.

My future may not be clearly defined at this time, but I know with the skills I've acquired, anything and everything is achievable.



Tannahill was recognized as the Male Student Athlete of the Year and Most Outstanding Player for Varsity Soccer at his high school's awards ceremony.

# Life Lessons Learned As A Sea Cadet

**By Petty Officer 3rd Class David Yost, NSCC**  
Polaris Battalion, Cambridge, Minn.  
Enlisted in the U.S. Navy

**#1**  
You usually have to work the hardest for the things you really want. When you find yourself in a tough situation, and you don't think you can go on, don't give up, don't let society drag you down and tell you that you aren't good enough or that you won't be able to do something.

**#2**  
You do not fail until you say, "I quit." I don't have the word failure in my vocabulary. If you don't pass something, you didn't fail, you only gave yourself another chance to improve.

**#3**  
Everyone has that moment where they crash into a wall. There are two different types of people in this world: those who hit the wall and give up — and those who hit the wall and find another way around.

**#4**  
There will always be someone above you, always someone who is stronger, but do not let that scare you. Think for yourself and make wise decisions because, in the end, your life depends on it.

**#5**  
Do your best in everything you do. Notice how some stars shine brighter in the sky than others. Be the brightest star. Be humble and kind. For this world to become a better place, it has to start with you! But then don't stop there. Take it to the next level. Make new friends and talk with new people. We shouldn't stay confined to our own comfortable bubbles. Go outside your comfort zone because that's where real life takes place.

**#6**  
You need a balance between helping others and helping yourself.

**#7**  
Sometimes we have to lose the battle to win the war. Not everything in life is going to go according to plan, but that's okay. Just be you and pursue what you want. Sea Cadets has led me to believe that everyone has a calling. Everyone has a purpose, and only you can find your purpose. There will be times that we mess up and there will be times that we fall. Get up, brush off the ashes, and pick up where you left off.

## Proud to Be a Sea Cadet

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Lunsford, NSCC

Independence Squadron, Pensacola, Fla.  
Attending Pensacola Christian College

When I was first introduced to Sea Cadets, I was a little skeptical at first about the program. But, as drills came and went, and as I attended various trainings, I came to have a deeper appreciation for the program. The summer training of 2016 was bittersweet. Bitter because it would be the last summer training I would attend as a cadet, and sweet because I was able to staff the Recruit Training at Great Lakes.

After graduation from both high school and Sea Cadets, I will pursue a Criminal Justice degree at Pensacola Christian College. As the years go by, I will proudly say I was a United States Naval Sea Cadet.

## The Importance of Working Hard

By Petty Officer 2nd Class David Lunsford, NSCC

Independence Squadron, Pensacola, Fla.  
Attending Pensacola Christian College

I have been a part of this program for over three years, and it has given me life skills I could never get anywhere else. At my RT at NAS Pensacola, there was a surprise inspection, and the company that had the highest score on that inspection was going to receive less strenuous PT for the next morning. My heart was beating fast as the Operations Officer waited for absolute silence. After a few seconds, he identified the company with the highest score from the inspection. I was relieved to hear him call out Alpha Company. After graduating from RT, I looked back at that experience and realized if I work hard on everything with integrity and confidence, I will get far in life. That one experience continues to serve as a reminder to do better in everything I set my mind to. This program taught me the importance of leadership and the chain of command, teamwork, comradery, efficiency, and punctuality.

In the fall of 2017, I will be attending Pensacola Christian College studying for a degree in Advertising and Public Relations. I will never forget what this program has done for me as I graduate in just a few short weeks.

## Chief Petty Officer Paul Esposito

Akron Battalion, Attending Hillsdale College

This fall, Paul will attend Hillsdale College, in Hillsdale, Mich., where he will study politics and psychology, and is looking forward to playing on the rugby club team, joining the shotgun club team, and eventually studying in Hillsdale programs in Washington, D.C. and abroad. Paul chose Hillsdale in part because of its unique approach to higher education that aligns well with his time in Sea Cadets. Hillsdale's honor code states, "A Hillsdale College student is honorable in conduct, honest in word and deed, dutiful in study and service, and respectful of the rights of others. Through education the student rises to self-government." Paul says, "I believe that living by this code will enable me to continue my education in a way that is consistent with my Sea Cadet experience." Paul believes his Sea Cadet experience made him a distinctive candidate for colleges. He says, "I was fortunate to receive generous merit scholarship offers from Hillsdale and other schools, in part due to my achievements in Sea Cadets. I encourage other cadets to make the most of their time and tout their Sea Cadet involvement in college applications and interviews."



## How Things Change Over Senior Year

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Gretchen Holtgreffe, NSCC

Erie Battalion, Erie, Penn.  
Attending Central Michigan University

During my junior year, before school started one day, my AP Chemistry teacher suggested I consider medical research as a career. Later that week, I checked Magellan and saw "Medical, Other" as a training. I clicked on it and was instantly interested. I texted my mother and went to my first class. During lunch, I checked my phone and saw that my mom texted back: "Got you a spot." I showed the other kids at my table and they all wanted to go to the training as well. Small problem: they weren't Sea Cadets!

At the training, we learned about blood banking and tested blood for blood type, performed experiments, looked at microorganisms under microscopes, and toured a medical school. Dr. Sharma, one of the professors of biochemistry, also spoke about biochemistry. I was very interested but convinced that I was going to Texas A&M to major in Biomedical Engineering. I completed my training, finished my summer at Ft. Custer, and met my AFJROTC commitments.

I applied to Texas A&M, went to JCAP, spent the night with the Corps at A&M, and put A&M under "future plans" when I made Homecoming Court. But I needed a backup school, which was another application to complete on top of four AP classes, another honors class, senior homeroom rep., morning announcements, Sea Cadets (company commander), volunteer work (to include color guards), drill team (exhibition, armed regulation, command armed inspection), JROTC volleyball (team captain), school support officer and inspector general. I thought back to my Sea Cadet training and decided to apply to Central Michigan University.

Based on my GPA and ACT scores, I was invited to apply to the honors program whose members are either on the Centralis Gold Award (a full-tuition scholarship) or the Centralis Scholar Award (a full-ride scholarship). When I applied, I thought I had a chance at the Centralis Gold Award, as 600 are invited to apply, and 130 receive this award. I did the eight-page application in every spare moment I had (including during lunch break at an all-day drill practice), wrote three essays, made a "creative piece" (which was an Erlenmeyer flask-shaped collage under a fire-shaped wordle in hopes of the gold award).

December 1 came around and I was accepted into Texas A&M's College of Engineering. December 14 came around and I saw on social media that awards were being received. I grew nervous. The next day, I was on my way to drill practice, and saw my mom with an envelope from Central's honors program! I opened it anxiously and read that I had received one of TWENTY Centralis SCHOLAR awards! I screamed and ran to tell the rest of my team! My college decision was easy.

Looking back on my senior year, I took AP tests, attended the prom, marched with my drill team for the last time, and walked the halls for the last time as a high school student. I took a seam ripper and replaced my crows with midshipmen anchors. I realize how much I have changed, from an aspiring Aggie with lots of debt, to an honors student in a small-learning community and a debt-free graduate, thanks to a caring teacher and amazing training.



## Seaman Apprentice Zackaria Afriade

Desert Storm Division, Enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps

Zackaria Afriade has enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He will be graduating from Los Osos High School in June and his shipout date is August 21, 2017. Cadet Afriade credits the USNSCC with teaching values, discipline, honor, courage, self-confidence, and respect. He was inspired to enlist because he wants to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and its citizens. He also wants to be a part of something bigger than himself.



## From LC1 to CPO

By Chief Petty Officer Rosalie D'Onofrio, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.  
Naval ROTC at Ohio State University

When I first joined League Cadets as a shy, uncertain, 10-year-old, I was completely unaware of what the program would do for me. I joined because my older brother (now a Midshipman 1/C at the Naval Academy) would leave for the coolest trainings during the summer. I assumed this was all he did — go on adventures. I soon discovered there is a much bigger commitment to being a Sea Cadet. As a young, quiet girl, the program wasn't the most attractive. I had to work with — and get reprimanded with — my shipmates. I had to do coursework and wake up at insane hours to get to drill on time. Why did I sign up for this?

For my first few years, I probably couldn't answer that question. I stayed in because I knew I wanted to have a career as a naval officer, and Sea Cadets was a great way to prepare for that (at least that's what everyone was telling me). As I look back now as a chief petty officer with seven years in the program, I can tell you why it is a fabulous way to prepare for a career in the navy, and why it's one of the best decisions I've made. Throughout my years, I have been offered countless leadership opportunities and have taken every one with the greatest sense of dedication. I have learned to work with people from every walk of life. I have participated in some exciting adventures with my trainings and as a result, met some of my best friends.

From RTIL (yes, I did enjoy boot camp), to POLA, to Marksmanship, I have thoroughly enjoyed my choices in trainings. I have met some of my closest friends, CPO Jarrod Torr (Winward Division), PO3 Catherine Barker (F.D. Roosevelt Division) and CPO Samantha Lolo (Wolverine Division) from attending trainings and drills. I have pushed NLO divisions, staffed POLAs, and gone on a few trainings myself, obtaining knowledge and skills from each one.

In my home unit, I was put in various leadership roles that added a level of responsibility, ultimately preparing me to become a chief petty officer. First as Guidon, I learned the importance of accountability and physically

leading my unit in formation! I was moved to assistant squad leader, where I learned how to communicate with my squad and accept responsibility for their actions as well as my own. Then, as a full squad leader, I was able to implement what I had learned as an assistant. Finally, I was ready to lead my unit in the highest rate I could achieve in the program — chief petty officer.

As I quickly approach graduation, I am making plans for the future. I am currently on track to be a part of the NROTC unit at The Ohio State University. When we report in August, a week is spent teaching us Navy Customs and Courtesies, and learning how to take care of our uniforms. Sound familiar? It's probably because you've already learned most of this during your time in Sea Cadets. I have learned some vital things in Sea Cadets that will make my first year as a Midshipman successful and enjoyable! I can go in feeling confident in my ability to lead and represent our unit, all thanks to what my officers and shipmates in the program have taught me. One of the most important things I've learned is dedication and respect. There has been many times where I have wanted to quit the program, quit my plans to become a naval officer and quit everything. When the going gets tough, that's when you learn who you truly are. As you can see, I haven't quit any of these things. That's because Sea Cadets has taught me that when you make a commitment, you see it through. If you want to be respected by others and yourself, you have to stay true to your word. I started this commitment as a feeble, unsure young girl. When people look at me now as a young woman, I am proud to say that Sea Cadets has become one of the most important pillars of who I am, creating an amazing platform for me to build my naval career.



JESSICA ANDERSON

## Cadet Planning to Return as Midshipman

By Chief Petty Officer Maxwell J. Schumaker, NSCC  
Harry S. Truman Squadron, Kansas City, Missouri  
Attending Kansas City Kansas Community College

We all dream of what we want to do in life. I believe the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is one of the best opportunities to picture exactly what it should be. I have had the pleasure of being in this program since I was only 10-years-old. Starting that young, I really didn't know what to expect. Going off to my Navy League Orientation, I remember being scared out of my wits. However, I lived to talk about it. There, I experienced the first of many great life lessons. I went on to be the ship's leading petty officer as a League Cadet. Leading my shipmates was exhausting at times, but looking back, I am proud of the leadership opportunity I was afforded at such a young age. I was immediately able to transfer the leadership skills I was learning to other areas of my life such as Boy Scouts, where I have served twice as the Senior Patrol Leader.

As I advanced in the program, accountability, discipline, and respect were ingrained in me. The expectations and trainings were increasingly more difficult. I owe much to my shipmates and adult leaders for helping me stay the course and cheering me on. With much self-discipline, I have been able to achieve the rank of chief petty officer, which is quite an honor. Looking back, I think the best part about being a cadet leader is watching all of my fellow shipmates learn the core values and traits along with me. As I have gotten older, mentoring my fellow shipmates has been my favorite part of the program. There is much to be said about committed young people who are willing to give up weekends every month instead of just doing whatever else. This program molds people into proactive, outgoing, and responsible young men and women. As a senior in high school, I can now fully appreciate what this program has done for me. Even though my time as a cadet is over, I plan on returning as a midshipman to lend a hand in the further development of more young cadets. That is the best part.

After graduation, I will attend college and earn a business degree. My goal is to own a business and contribute positively to society.

## Inspired to Join the U.S. Navy

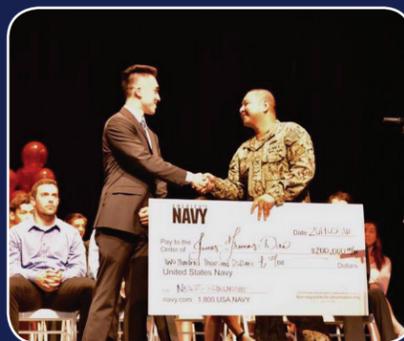
By Seaman Recruit Samuel Stillwell, NSCC  
Asheville Division, Asheville, N.C.  
Enlisting in the U.S. Navy

The chance to be a Sea Cadet has been an excellent opportunity for me. I have been a Boy Scout since first grade and I am about to complete my Eagle Scout rank. I have also completed and received my Associate of Arts degree from Southwestern Community College. I was looking for another program to join this year, my senior year, but I live in a rural area and the closest high school to even offer JROTC is over an hour away. Luckily, I discovered Asheville Division program and have had the chance to participate since they meet on the weekends. Through participating in the Sea Cadet program, I have learned valuable skills, have learned many drill techniques and have gotten a sense of what I want to do with my future. The chance to wear the NWU and experience Navy protocol impacted me. I plan to enlist in the U.S. Navy because of this outstanding experience. The connection I have made with my Sea Cadet chief is invaluable in making these life decisions. My only regret is that I did not discover this program sooner, but sure am grateful to have discovered it this past year.

## Chief Petty Officer James Dao

Band of the West Division, Naval Nursing ROTC at Loyola University Chicago

Chief James Dao recently accepted a full-ride Naval Nursing ROTC Scholarship to Loyola University Chicago. Dao says, "The Sea Cadet program opened my eyes to a whole new world of opportunities and gave me the tools and experience to succeed."



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# Becoming the Cadet I Had Envisioned

By Chief Petty Officer Nicolas Racioppi, NSCC

Travis Manion Battalion, Flemington, N.J.  
Attending Maine Maritime Academy

"Petty Officer Racioppi, front and center," my CO ordered in during the ceremony. I smartly fell out of formation with my huge shining combination cover and professionally marched to the podium where my CO awaited my arrival. During the ceremony, my CO, XO, and even the regional director were reminiscing about how much I have matured throughout the years. After my entire high school career, years of hard work and dedication, and pushing my limits, I had finally been promoted to the rate of chief petty officer. My hard work was well worth it.

Ever since I was in first grade, when I went on my first cruise, I knew that I was destined to spend my life on the ocean. I enjoyed the independence and freedom of the wide-open ocean, the mesmerizing sound of waves slamming against the hull, and being able to get away from the problems of being on land. Although, being a seven-year-old living in central New Jersey, relatively far from any large bodies of water, it was hard to do anything related to my career. I started sailing, but the seasons were short, and it was not as fulfilling as I desired. Once and for all, I finally found a program that was exactly what I was looking for to help me. In eighth grade, I discovered the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The first unit I joined was very far away and had lots of cadets already in it. An opportunity had presented itself — a new unit was formed right around the corner from me. I transferred to the Travis Manion Battalion, where I made dozens of friends and participated in many extraordinary drills, from Quantico, Virginia, and Rangeley, Maine, to the Battalion Headquarters at Echo Hill. I even had some involvement with securing our headquarters because I was one of five cadets who presented the program to the County Freeholders to request usage of the location.

When I first joined, I was barely able to complete the PFT. But as I observed the senior cadets, I knew I wanted to be exactly like them someday. With this in mind, I got to work. Instead of sitting on the couch and eating junk food after school, I began a rigorous SWCC PT regimen that whipped me into shape in only a couple of months. I was now ready for boot camp, and the numerous trainings that would follow.

Recruit training passed with a lot of adjustments, but then I adapted to the lifestyle in a couple of days. I spent two years staffing at the Recruit Training at Fort Devens, once as a Master-at-arms, and another time as the Chief of Mess. Next up was Petty Officer Leadership Academy, which even though I may not have been perfect in, I had many takeaways to help me be the leader that I am today. The other two trainings, by far the best ones, were Small Boat Operations and Merchant Marine Operations. Small Boat Ops assisted me with basics such as maritime navigation, radio etiquette, and standard seamanship. Merchant Marine Ops, at Texas A&M University at Galveston, was the best week of my entire life. We used bridge simulators, a steam engine simulator, and a damage control simulator. When not in

a simulator or studying, we were learning about industries that depend heavily on maritime transportation. All the effort I put into the program was well worth the reward.

Having all of the experience and knowledge I gained from the USNSCC, I became the senior cadet that I previously envisioned years ago. Still committed to a strict PT regimen, I am in great shape. Everything I learned in Sea Cadets, I am now passing down to the new recruits who are in the position where I was many years ago. Sometimes I even use the same exact lines that my cadre used with me. Now, my life is to be continued elsewhere after I graduate both high school and Sea Cadets. I will be attending Maine Maritime Academy, where I will get my Deck Officer's Unlimited Tonnage License. After serving in the U.S. Navy as an officer for a few years, I will get a job with a cruise line. In a way, I am back to where I started after I graduate because I look up to people who are seniors at maritime academies like I looked up to senior Sea Cadets, and will be in their shoes some day after years of hard work.



**"Everything I learned in Sea Cadets, I am now passing down to the new recruits who are in the position where I was many years ago. Sometimes I even use the same exact lines that my cadre used with me."**

# A Memorable Adventure in Canada

By Seaman Apprentice Arryonna Hickam, NSCC

Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle, Wash.

*"For who are so free as the sons of the waves?"*  
— Heart of Oak, March of the Royal Canadian Navy

The sky was still dark when we left Seattle. The bus had been silent upon departure but soon murmured with the excitement of a couple dozen cadets. Our energy increased as the sun continued to rise. We were traveling to Canada as a

unit, and none of us really knew what to expect.

Upon arrival, we were instantly mystified by the high swinging arms during marching, raised knees when coming to attention, and vocal commands that were different from what we were accustomed to. Initially, it was a bit overwhelming to transition to the traditions of another country, but by day two we were belting Heart of Oak nearly as loud as our Canadian counterparts.

My favorite part was the Fisgard Lighthouse at Fort Rodd Hill. The view was one of the most magnificent things I've ever seen. The wind was unrelenting as we climbed over the rocks that protruded from the sea, but the cold didn't consume our contentment in the slightest. After Fort Rodd Hill, my shipmates and I spent the remainder of our last day exploring the city of Victoria.



While the journey there was awash in anticipation, the journey back to the border was quite the opposite. Many of us had grown close to our Canadian friends in a short amount of time. Our goodbyes happened on a side road before we had crossed back over into America. I saw many teary eyes while we waved to the bright blue bus that had turned around and was driving further back in the direction of Victoria.

Our visit to Canada was incredible. We visited the Legislative Building and saw stained glass that rivaled anything I had seen before. I got behind the helm of a ship simulator (that I promptly crashed into some rocks), we got the inside scoop on decompression chambers and explosives at the base, and we learned the treasured history behind the First Nations at the British Columbia Museum. Near the conclusion of the trip, we came to realize that British Columbia had been an adventure that everyone would be describing for years to follow.



Top Left: Cadets from RCSCC Invincible, Orion Squadron, and Blue Angels Squadron on the steps of the British Columbia Legislature, Victoria, B.C. Bottom Right: Cadets on a tour of the Royal Canadian Navy Bomb Disposal Unit at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.

## BRAVO ZULU to all of our officers and cadets who were selected to participate in our International Exchange Program!

**Australia:** LCDR Lisa Strickland, CPO James Dao, CPO Skyler Powell

**Bermuda:** LTJG Maili Torres, CPO Nathaniel Light, PO1 Maya Morales

**Canada:** LTJG Richard Covington, CPO Wesley Brewer, PO2 Tyler Gross, PO1 Vito Santarsiero, CPO Isaac Woods

**Hong Kong:** LCDR Dolly Stevens, PO1 Brandon Montgomery, CPO Victoria Wheatley

**Korea:** LCDR Rodel Agpaoa, CPO Anthony DeMark, CPO Monica Treacy

**Sweden:** LT Tricia Thiessen, CPO Dylan McGettigan, PO1 Elissa Marie Nott

**United Kingdom:** LCDR Valencia Jones, PO1 Joshua Benson, CPO Jacob Cook, CPO Erin Cross-Kaplan

**Inbound Exchange Staff:** CPO Chloe Caso, PO2 Christopher Clay, PO3 Shane Carruth, PO1 Kellen Morff, PO1 Srinidhi Nagireddy, CPO Skyler Powell

# The Ways My Chief Has Helped Me

By Seaman Cael Maurer, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

My first drill when I met Chief Bradley, I knew I wanted to be more like him, the way he carries himself in a humble, yet proud manner, never slouching over, always paying close attention to detail, and all these things I wanted to be like. The way he behaves, I can't help but respect him, and the way he talks is always inspiring. The next day when he introduced himself more on Facebook Messenger, he was very patient, even though I was asking dumb question after dumb question; he still took the time to make sure I understood everything.

When it came time for coursework, Chief Bradley would always remind me, motivating me to push through it and always congratulating me every time I finished one and it gave me an overwhelming sense of pride, knowing I accomplished something more than just a level in a video game. That's not the only thing; he is very reliable. At my first flagship, he gave me a pair of his blousing straps for free. At my first inspection, I was a disheveled mess and forgot my white t-shirt for my dress blues, and even though it hardly fit, he let me borrow one of his. He didn't yell at me, just calmly handed it to me and said: "Let's get it together, Maurer."

During PT, Chief Bradley would always give me tips and push me hard. Whenever I run the mile in school, I remember all the tips he taught me and ever since then my mile time has been getting better and better. I've even been getting compliments from my gym teacher, and I have Chief Bradley to thank for it.

I've always wanted to see the world and go different places and see new things, and I've been considering going out of state on trainings maybe even abroad, but there's just one thing: I'm afraid of flying (like many other things). So, I contacted Chief Bradley, someone who has experience flying. He told me what a great feeling it is and what an amazing view it is, and how it's just like sitting in your living room. You have a chair beneath you, along with a floor and walls around you. He said it's okay to be afraid and that courage doesn't mean you're not afraid, it just means that you do what you need to do regardless of fear.

I can't say I'm not scared anymore, but I definitely feel more comfortable with the idea of flying. Chief Bradley is an excellent speaker. Many times in our conversation, I fell silent because I didn't know how to respond, he even had me recite the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. He made a point and helped me, now that I'm thinking about it there are some many instances in my life that I can apply this to. Thank you, Chief Bradley.

Even after the graduation from Sea Cadets, I believe Chief Bradley will go on to inspire more and more people to do great things, and I'll gladly follow his example.

# Sixteen Out of Sixteen

All Participating Blue Angel Squadron Cadets Earn First Place Trophies at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Diego Santos, NLCC  
Blue Angels Squadron, Seattle, Wash.

Blue Angels Squadron (BAS), based in Seattle, Washington, included Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) as one of its strategic initiatives for 2016-2017. Our Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) company responded with a nine-month physics program to participate in the 2017 Washington State Science and Engineering Fair (WSSEF). WSSEF is our state wide science fair competition for Washington and sends overall winners to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). This year, there were 770 participants.

During the first three months, the STEM program included six hours on basic physics, and on how to use software tools. In particular, our NLCC company used Tracker (<http://physlets.org/tracker/>) an open source program to perform computer based physics modeling.

The remaining six months were dedicated to projects. Local businesses donated four laptop computers and a small budget to purchase science supplies.

We based our projects on air carrier group warfare. For air warfare, we studied rocket performance with model rockets. For surface warfare, we studied a gauss gun (a type of rail gun). For communications warfare, we studied an electromagnetic pulse gun. For undersea warfare, we considered studying a supercavitating torpedo but did not have enough time.

On March 31, 2017, we fielded 16 middle school cadets in eight teams at the WSSEF. For middle school teams, the WSSEF awards first place trophies using an individual team score based on project knowledge, scientific knowledge, and display quality, so multiple participants may get a first place trophy. In other words, a first place trophy is like getting an "A" grade for a project.

Of the 16 cadets, only four had ever participated in a science fair, and only one had participated at the state level before. However, all 16 cadets received first place trophies from the WSSEF and earned Office of Naval Research awards.



**BRAVO ZULU!** League Cadets from Blue Angels Squadron received first place trophies for their STEM projects.

<b>Back Row:</b>	<b>Front Row:</b>
INST Santos	APC Stinnett
ABC Thome	RC Banales
ABC Craddock	APC Hensley
ABC Akolzine	APC Thai
ABC Santos	
LCDR Munoz	

**Middle Row:**  
RC Banales  
P03 Flaot  
RC Breen  
RC Peters  
RC Van Ry



Team Maverick: CPO Johnathan Larkin, SR Coral Baumgartner, and P02 Uri Shakked

## BRAVO ZULU! Gunfighter Squadron Cadets Win SeaPerch National Challenge

Team Maverick from Gunfighter Squadron took First Place in the Challenge Course (High School Class) at the SeaPerch Program's National Challenge!

# Honoring Our Veterans

By Seaman Sachin Muralidhar, NSCC  
Henry E. Mooberry Division, Washington, D.C.

As the planes taxied to the terminal, fire trucks pumped out a blast of water, garlanding the aircraft in a welcome arch of mist. Inside, a row of cadets from the Mooberry Division shuffled to line up in a straight line, ruby red “Thank You For Your Service” cards in hand, nervous anticipation filling the air. This was the scene at Reagan National Airport on April 1, as the first veterans from six Honor Flights were slowly wheeled into the welcome area. For some cadets, it was the first time they shook hands with veterans from the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and World War II.

Vietnam veterans wore t-shirts that read “If you can read this, thank a teacher. If it's in English, thank a veteran” in bold black letters. After a few questioning looks, the impact of the message hit home for the young cadets — we owe so much of our freedom of speech and expression to the brave acts of these men and women. The cadets also caught up with some World War II American popular culture when they saw the famous “Kilroy was here” on some veterans’ t-shirts, the simple graffiti that captured the imagination of GIs everywhere.

After handing the veterans packets of Hershey’s Kisses and “Thank You” cards, the cadets and veterans boarded tour buses that headed on to the World War II Memorial in downtown D.C. Bright sunshine and blue skies greeted the group as if even the weather wanted to thank the veterans for their service and sacrifice. This time, it was the veterans’ turn to line up for a brief photo-op, holding enlarged photographs of themselves from when they served.



# Energized by Unit Visit

By Rear Adm. Timothy D. Moon, USN (Ret)  
Vice President, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Board of Directors

Impressed and energized. Those are just two of the many thoughts from my recent visit to three Sea Cadet units. I had traveled to Seattle to attend the commissioning ceremony of USCGC *Munro*, the Coast Guard's newest National Security Cutter, along with Rear Adm. Robin Graf. We arrived a week early to spend a few days with our son, who is the Damage Control Assistant aboard *Munro*, to see Seattle and the Pacific Northwest, and to visit several Sea Cadet units in the area.

Rear Adm. Graf and I were graciously given the opportunity to meet with the Naval Station Everett Division, the Raymond J. Evans Division, and the Blue Angels Squadron in spite of their busy schedules that included visits to the USCGC *Healey*, participation in a Seattle-area science fair, CyberPatriot training, and recruiting events. These units are busy, involved and engaged.

As we returned home, we were in full agreement that the highlight of our trip was our interactions with the Sea Cadets and adult leaders. Seeing our son was wonderful. Traveling through the Olympic Peninsula was breathtaking. The CGC *Munro* commissioning ceremony was fantastic. But the visits with the Sea Cadet units were truly inspirational.

We shared our experiences, offered guidance, and answered many questions during our visits. We were extremely impressed with their professional presence, their personal initiative, their commitment to service, and their focused engagement in the Sea Cadet program. The cadets asked many insightful questions that spanned topics from life in the navy, to planning and preparing for life after high school, to leadership, and what is happening in the world today.

We want to thank all of the adult leaders who helped plan our visit. Their dedication and commitment to leading the NSCC program is remarkable. They set a tremendous example for our cadets, and volunteer endless hours to ensure the cadets receive meaningful training and professional development opportunities. Even more impressive is the care for both the personal and professional development they have for each cadet.

As members of the NSCC National Board of Directors, Rear Adm. Graf and I believe that it is our duty to get out and visit the units, so we will continue to look for opportunities to include an NSCC unit visit in our future travels. We know that the future of our great nation will be in good hands when these young men and women take the helm.



COURTESY OF  
BLUE ANGELS SQUADRON

# Cheque Hall Dedication Reflects the Embodiment of Leadership

By Chief Petty Officer Ian Sleight, Seaman Luke Knollinger, Seaman Michael Moldovan, Seaman Apprentice Molly Mangan and Seaman Apprentice Alexis Walker, NSCC  
Pittsburgh Battalion, North Versailles, Pa.

On a cold winter day, former Sea Cadet Nicolas D. Checque’s unit, Pittsburgh Battalion, honored his memory with a solemn ceremony and the naming of their new unit headquarters after him. Chief Petty Officer Ian Sleight pioneered the project.

“It was a long process and I had to keep trying but eventually both the building and its dedication fell into place. Our unit was also in the process of relocating while I was trying to coordinate the dedication of a building in his name and it took many attempts to complete the project. I had to really stick with it.”

Chief Petty Officer Nicholas Checque was awarded a Bronze Star and was a former member of the Pittsburgh Battalion. He was serving with Navy Seal Team 6 in Afghanistan when he died December 9, 2012, during a rescue mission.

“We all wanted to make sure that the focus was on keeping his leadership style alive so that all cadets, present and future, will learn from his example. I never had the chance to meet him, but I was fortunate to have met his family members.”

As a Sea Cadet, Nicholas Checque was known for his courage, commitment, and leadership style that embodied teamwork. “It’s like our Commanding Officer says here: we’re all blue, we are part of a team,” said Luke Knollinger, who is bound for the U.S. Naval Academy next year.

“In the Navy,” said Michael Moldovan, “everyone is a brother.”

“Or a sister,” added Luke.

Shipmates Molly Mangan and Alexis Walker agreed. Mangan joined the Sea Cadets after researching Navy careers. “I dug deeper into Navy and then I said ‘I could actually see myself having a career in this.’” Walker was inspired to join the battalion because her grandfather and cousin served in the Navy.

“I think Chief Petty Officer Checque is a good role model for all of us here,” Knollinger said. “I have a driving passion to serve my country, to make the sacrifices so other families don’t have to do that.”



# Summer Training 2017

## FIVE FAST FACTS



**01** This summer, we will hold more than 45 Recruit Trainings and Navy League Orientations around the country, allowing more than 3,200 cadets to start their training careers.

**02** We are offering more than 270 Advanced Trainings in 21 subject areas. What does this mean? Our cadets will gain skills from different Navy career fields like firefighting, basic and advanced medical, and Master-at-arms.

**03** It takes manpower to run a training. This summer, more than 1,300 volunteers — including active-duty and Reserve personnel — will give up their summer vacations to help train the next generation.

**04** Our volunteers do a lot of heavy lifting but we also provide opportunities for our cadets to sharpen their leadership skills. This summer, we expect that more than 970 senior cadets will serve as staff at our trainings, allowing them to directly supervise the trainees.

**05** We work hard to keep training accessible and affordable to all cadets. At \$150 for a one-week training and \$300 for two weeks, we think we provide a great experience at a great value. If you're interested in supporting our efforts, please consider donating at [www.seacadets.org/donate](http://www.seacadets.org/donate).



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