

# Sea Cadet Quarterly

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1, MARCH 2017



**Teamwork**  
**+ winter training**



# MARCH 2017

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

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**ON THE COVER:** Chief Petty Officers Brian and Kevin Kadur, Camp Casey Combined Training Contingent, Winter Training 2016-17.  
**PHOTO BY:** ENS Elaine Torres, NSCC

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

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**THIS PAGE:** Sea Cadet Graduation, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Photo by Photojournalism Training.

The deadline for the next issue of Sea Cadet Quarterly is 16 May. 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).

## DEPUTY'S NOTE /

DAVID I. HULL

## SET YOUR GOALS NOW

**O**ur summer training season is nearly upon us! In the coming weeks, our cadets will be selecting trainings and preparing for the many challenges they'll face this summer. Cadets, don't wait to get started... ramp up your PT regimen now, and wear your boots every day. Our dedicated adult volunteers have been planning for months to ensure that we can offer a variety of safe, cost-effective, efficacious trainings and genuine leadership opportunities.

I ask the entire NSCC Team to think about their goals this summer. Cadets, what do you hope to gain at your trainings? Is it about learning the content? overcoming new challenges? developing your leadership? teaching and giving back to the next generation of cadets?

Volunteers, what do you hope to accomplish? We're in the business of youth development. We develop youth by providing supervised leadership opportunities that come with genuine authority and accountability. We develop youth by treating them like adults and allowing them to make mistakes that won't hurt anybody or cost us money. We develop youth by fostering self-discipline, self-confidence, accountability, teamwork, leadership, and grit.

From our newest recruit to our most experienced COTC, please keep your goals in mind every day. When you're not sure why you should continue to push yourself... refer back to your goals. When you're not sure what to do next... refer back to your goals. Put these things first, and you — and our program — will be better for it.

All the best for a safe and successful training season. Stay on target!

# Teamwork around the Corps

"Teamwork is doing what's best for your crew. Giving them full credit for the victories while you take full responsibility for the setbacks."  
-CPO Blaine Bradley, NSCC  
Wolverine Division

"Teamwork is when individuals come together as something bigger than themselves and inspire each other to give more than just the minimum required effort to complete the task with the utmost efficiency and optimism."  
-PO3 Patrick Rinker, NSCC  
Lexington Division



CAMP PENDLETON WINTER TRAINING

"Teamwork is relying on your shipmates, knowing they will have your back. It also means to acknowledge that your idea of doing something is not the only way to do it. You must listen and work with each other to get the job done. Teamwork is trust between shipmates."  
-CPO Mikaela Dobel, NSCC  
F.C. Sherman Division



CAMP PENDLETON WINTER TRAINING

"Teamwork makes the dream work. It means everyone is working towards a common goal. If one player is lacking, everyone helps out. You never leave a shipmate behind because every single person has been in your position one way or another."  
-CPO Maria Overton, NSCC  
Sacramento Division

"Teamwork to me is placing faith in your shipmates and relying on each other to meet a certain goal. You put aside your differences and work together to bring each other up regardless of the outcome. One team, one fight."  
-PO1 Jonathan Owens, NSCC  
Boca Delray Division



1124TH CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

"Teamwork means always looking out for your shipmates."  
-SLPO Yousef Abdalla, NLCC  
TS California

"Teamwork is the product of a culture change where many learn to move as one, a group of individuals becomes a crew, the crew becomes indistinguishable from the ship. The ship is alive and becomes an entity on to itself."  
-CDR Justin Harts, USN, USS *Benfold*  
USNSCC 1990-1993

## Chief's Corner: Teamwork

By Chief Petty Officer Jared Simonelli, NSCC  
Massachusetts Bay Division, Boston, Mass.

Throughout history, the cooperation between citizens has been a prominent factor in both the rise of empires and the performance of military cohorts. Like bees, these groups worked together as one unified mind and fist, overcoming fearsome obstacles in their mission. Virgil famously described the rise of both Carthage and Rome as one orchestrated by a "hive" of workers. In modern times, bees have been used to describe both the tenacity and diligence of America's Seabee construction battalions.

At Massachusetts Bay Division, a similar sense of teamwork and passion drives cadets to excel in all areas of growth. Whether it be spending a Saturday assisting at a D.A.V. road race with other cadets, or by simply extending a hand to teach new recruits, our unit strives to develop as a unified team.

Beyond Sea Cadets, teamwork translates into success on both the academic and athletic fields. Through fostering a sense of teamwork and initiative, our cadets have become motivated to strive for academic excellence and athletic recognition. The development of teamwork has laid the foundation for success in our futures. No matter your career or profession, this basis of teamwork will lead you to excel in both your daily work and inspiration of colleagues.

## The Honor of Leading By Example

By Chief Petty Officer Jacob Chism, NSCC  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

Joining the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been one of the best decisions I have made. This program has given me confidence and maturity, as well as the physical and the mental preparedness I will need for my future. When I first joined in 2013, I was in awe of the cadet leaders. They were role models who became good friends. I used to say to myself: "I want to be just like them when I become a petty officer."

I worked hard; I wanted to be successful. In time, my hard work was noticed by my squad leader and officers. I never wanted anyone to think badly of me. That being said, when I received constructive criticism it motivated me to be even better.

My biggest challenge was staffing recruit training. To this day, it was one of the hardest trainings I have ever done. The physical part was not hard but the mental part of staying ahead and doing what needs to be done was the challenge. I saw the way recruits looked to the staff cadets for direction and being able to help them is what kept me going. I knew I was doing the right thing and loved everything about it.

Now I am a lead Recruit Division Commander in charge of training and preparing Wolverine Division recruits for their recruit training at Great Lakes, Ill. I have worked my way through the rates and have overcome each obstacle in my way to achieve more than I thought I ever would. To think that at one point during my Sea Cadet career I thought that I might quit. At that time, I thought the stress and work were not worth it. I was wrong; it is worth it.



JESSICA ANDERSON

CHART YOUR COURSE

## Never Forget Where It All Started

Who would have thought that joining the Sea Cadets would lead to a 24-year career?

By CDR Carolyn R. Owens, USN (Ret)



Growing up in Philadelphia, I knew very little about the military or military officers. My grandfather was a Montford Point Marine, one of the first to serve as an African-American in the Marine Corps. My father served in the Air Force for a few years before I was born, but neither spoke much about their time in the military. That would change once I set my course to join the Navy. That decision

caused my grandfather to share what it was like for him when he served as an African-American in the Marine Corps during the 1940s. Our military service would create a bond that only those who have served could understand.

In the neighborhood I grew up in, we would pass by the local recruiting office, often stopping in just to listen and watch. It was Petty Officer Thomas Colleton, Jr. that would introduce me to the Sea Cadets. That was a moment that changed everything for me.

I was the only one in my neighborhood who joined, and I was so excited to be a part of such a group. Back then I was a street-smart kid, an introvert who loved to read and watch old movies, but now I was being exposed to some of the things I only read about in books.

My family didn't necessarily see why I wanted to be a Sea

Cadet, but I insisted this was something I wanted to do. Finances were a bit tight, and my cadet training wasn't always the priority, but with the help of scholarships, I finally got to go to boot camp. I am still friends with Lisa Pearce, who is a former cadet that I met while at boot camp.



I spent my summers working in the recruiting office, and that's when I decided I was going to be a naval officer. As an introverted, African-American female, no one believed me. I tried to apply to the Naval Academy, but my application was denied. I think it had to do with the fact that I graduated from high school when I was 15, too young to go to the Academy. Working in the

recruiting office as a Sea Cadet, I knew there was more than one way to reach my goal. On June 1, 1984, I received my acceptance letter to Temple University. I was accepted but had no idea how I was going to pay for it. Back then I was able to get grants and only borrowed exactly what I needed for books and transportation. However, there was still one problem: how was going to become a naval officer?

I took a chance and called the local NROTC program at the University of Pennsylvania, wanting to apply for the college program. The next day my older sister and I figured out how to get there on public transportation, I was tested and told it would be "advantageous" to me to show up for class when class started. This was during the second semester of my freshmen year. From there on, there was no turning back.

There were only a few minorities, females as well as different races, in the unit at the time and there were often comments made about us. Even after I earned my commission, I had to adjust to a

whole new way of life. I learned to embody the core values of honor, courage, and commitment with integrity becoming one of

my most important values. As a midshipman, when there were very few billets for females at sea, I was able to watch an underway replenishment, ASROC missile launching and fire at a target in the middle of the ocean. Now, I have traveled to almost all of the 50 states, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Paris. I have received the best leadership training you could receive, and I was able to serve in my dream assignment — as an instructor at the Army War College.

When I started on my path, I was only planning to stay for three years and hurry back home. After over 24 years of service, I retired in 2012 as a commander — but would have never made the decision to join if it had not been for the Sea Cadets. I continue to give back serving as a career strategist, leadership and life coach and have now begun a writing career. My first book became an Amazon #1 Best Seller, "Your Amazing Itty Bitty Heading Home Book: 15 Steps to A Successful Military Transition". However, one of the best ways I give back is by serving as a sponsor of a Sea Cadet unit, as I will never forget where it all started.



# Our 2016 Individual Award Winners



DOMINGO



SCROGGINS



STRICKLAND



SANCHEZ



LONG



BLOMBERG

## BRAVO ZULU

The selection board, presided over by Captain Bruce Bruni, recently convened to select the 2016 Individual Award winners. We are excited to announce the honored selectees.

We know you'll be as impressed with them as we are!

**Sea Cadet of the Year**  
CPO Grant Domingo, NSCC  
Yorktown Division

**League Cadet of the Year**  
APC Bella Scroggins, NLCC  
Alexandria Division

**Officer of the Year**  
LCDR Lisa Strickland, NSCC  
Pimiteoui Division

**Instructor of the Year**  
INST Cynthia Sanchez  
Kings County Squadron

**Regional Director of the Year**  
LCDR Leonard Long, Jr., NSCC  
Region 12-4

**Regional Director's Recruiter of the Year**  
LCDR Brett Blomberg, NSCC  
Region 9-1

**BRAVO ZULU** We are happy to announce that LCDR Lisa Strickland, CPO James Dao, and CPO Skyler Powell were selected to attend this spring's international exchange trip to Australia! What was it like when they got the news?

**CPO Dao:** When I first got the call, I had no idea what was coming my way. It was in the middle of a school day and I was just trying to silence my phone as fast as possible to avoid disrupting the class. Later, I picked up the voicemail to hear that it was about the Sea Cadet International Exchange Program. ... When I picked up the phone and was told that I had been accepted, I did not even realize what was happening."

**CPO Powell:** It took me a minute before I realized what she meant and I asked, "Wait, do you mean I'm going to Australia?" One word from the other end made a Sea Cadet goal set by a thirteen-year-old recruit four years ago come true: "Yes."

**Willis E. Reed Award**  
**Sea Cadet of the Year**  
Chief Petty Officer Grant Domingo, NSCC, Yorktown Division

"I am truly honored and humbled to be selected as the National Sea Cadet of the Year. I pledge to continue to uphold the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. I hope that my actions and efforts inspire others to overcome adversity with confidence and to always rise to the challenges set before them. I want to encourage all cadets to take full advantage of every opportunity presented, and to lead by example. Start every day with an attitude of excellence and be empowered to move outside of your comfort zone when necessary."

A "conscientious and highly skilled leader," CPO Domingo leads by example. In addition to managing his responsibilities as a chief petty officer, he maintains a 4.0 GPA and is an accomplished athlete, serving as captain of South Carolina's Olympic Development soccer team. Constantly encouraging cadets to "think outside the box" and go above and beyond, Domingo is a tremendous asset to his unit. His division cites his desire to consistently exceed the standards of the NSCC in the areas of "professional and leadership development." Domingo's positive attitude, professionalism, and work ethic should be an inspiration to all cadets.

**Keith T. Weaver Award**  
**League Cadet of the Year**  
APC Bella Scroggins, NLCC, Alexandria Division

In her short time at Alexandria Division, APC Scroggins has soared to great heights, her name becoming synonymous with "hard work and excellence." An active member in her unit, she serves as the first League Cadet to join the division's honor and color guards. She is also an enthusiastic member of her division's Media Relations and Service Outreach Teams. With her enthusiasm and "can-do attitude," she is always interested in identifying the task and working hard to see it through to completion. In addition to the many hours spent with her unit, Scroggins is a dedicated student and member of her school's chorus. She aspires to earn a commission in the Navy someday.

**Nicholas Brango Award for Inspirational Leadership**  
**Officer of the Year**  
LCDR Lisa Strickland, NSCC, Pimiteoui Division

"I am very surprised and proud to be selected as Officer of the Year. My unit staff and my training staff deserve the credit. They are diverse groups with many talents that complement each other for the benefit of the cadets."

LCDR Strickland works tirelessly to provide educational opportunities to the cadets in her unit and region. Always forward thinking, she develops and organizes regional activities, expanding the number of possibilities available for Pimiteoui Division cadets and others. Since 2011, she has worked to bring winter training opportunities to the Midwest where there previously were none. Motivated by the success of her cadets, Strickland attends trainings around the country and brings back new ideas to her region. She has served as an escort officer at more than 14 trainings and will be accompanying two cadets on this year's international exchange to Australia. Strickland's unit and region are much enriched thanks to her dedication.

**Judge R.T.S. Colby Award for Excellence in Training**  
**Instructor of the Year**  
INST Cynthia Sanchez, NSCC, Kings County Squadron

"I would like to thank everyone in our Naval Sea Cadet family, especially Kings County Squadron, the Dove's, the cadets, our instructors, our active duty volunteers, and my outstanding daughter who brought me into the program, Destiny Sanchez. All of these members have made this program a great experience for me. I am honored to be a part of such an amazing program."

A member of the program for more than four years, Instructor Cynthia Sanchez is an outstanding adult leader. Through her knowledge of the program as a former Sea Cadet, she has made significant contributions to unit readiness and morale. Sanchez is an invaluable member of the Kings County Squadron while serving as mess officer and escort officer. Always working to advance the unit, she seeks to build support through her professional and personal networks. Her drive, dedication, and military bearing make her an exceptional example of all that instructors can achieve.

**Fred D. Carl Award**  
**Regional Director of the Year**  
LCDR Leonard Long, Jr., NSCC, Region 12-4

"It is an honor to have been selected for this award and I would like to thank all the people involved in this program, the young people, wives, husbands, fathers and mothers, for their support and dedication to making the program what it is."

Over his fifteen years of service in the NSCC, LCDR Long has held a variety of positions in the program. Recently stepping in as the RD for Region 12-4, Long has proved himself to be a selfless leader. He spends countless hours coordinating with units, resulting in many finishing in the nation's top ten, including Moffett Squadron in 2015. Long seeks to resolve problems at the lowest level possible, resulting in solutions that work for everyone. Long's leadership and stewardship as a Regional Director make him an outstanding model for all to follow.

**Bruce B. Smith Award**  
**Regional Director's Recruiter of the Year**  
LCDR Brett Blomberg, NSCC, Region 9-1

"I am excited and honored to receive this award and look forward to continuing to serve our Cadets. Congratulations to all the other award recipients."

As Regional Director of Region 9-1, LCDR Blomberg is fully deserving of the Bruce B. Smith Award. Thanks to his efforts and leadership, his region experienced increased enrollment at a rate of over 27%. Leading from the front in finding innovative ways to recruit volunteers, he spent this year visiting school districts, Navy and Coast Guard units and then passing along his best practices to the units in his region. Thanks to his relationship-building skills and his engagement, Region 9-1 is flourishing.

## Q&A: Brian and Kevin Kadur

We asked Chief Petty Officers Brian and Kevin Kadur of Enterprise Division about their favorite trainings, biggest mistakes, and the joys of being identical twins in matching uniforms.

**Q: Unofficially, we think you may be the first set of twins to reach the rank of chief petty officer. Congratulations. How does it feel? Will you remember us when you're famous?**

**Brian:** We feel pretty good about obtaining the rate of chief petty officer. Only a small amount of cadets get the rate of chief. It's an accomplishment we will never forget, and we will always remember what the Sea Cadets has done for us.

**Kevin:** Making chief is one of my greatest accomplishments. As much as I would love to say I did it all on my own, I can't. My brother, Chief Brian Kadur, played an important role in me becoming chief. He's always been there for me. Only about 1.5% of cadets in NSCC ever make chief, so I am proud of what I have achieved. I will definitely remember the Sea Cadets when I'm famous because the Sea Cadets have transformed me into a disciplined, focused person with determination, so I can do anything I set my mind to!

**Q: Who heard about the NSCC first?**

**Kevin:** It's funny because we both heard about Sea Cadets at the same time. We were both attending an open house for the high school we were going to attend because we were interested in joining NJROTC. We ended up talking to the senior instructors there, and they'd suggested for us to join the Sea Cadets as we were in the 8th grade at the time. A week later, we ended up joining!

**Q: What's your favorite thing about being a Sea Cadet?**

**Kevin:** My favorite thing about being a Sea Cadet is traveling across the country, having the opportunities to attend trainings, such as FAA Ground School, Airmen, and Air Traffic Control training. Without having the opportunities to attend those trainings, I certainly

wouldn't be flying or in the position I am in right now!

**Brian:** Our favorite things about the Sea Cadets are going to airmen trainings and traveling around the country.

**Q: How often do people confuse you at trainings?**

**Brian:** Everyone, from cadets to officers, gets us confused. It's funny and amusing when people can't tell the difference.

**Kevin:** At trainings, we confuse lots of people. We switch blouses all the time, and no one ever seems to notice! Although it can get very frustrating, especially when we have to tell people, — Barney-style, the differences between us — and they still can't figure it out!

**Q: Who is better at being a Sea Cadet? (Kidding, you don't have to answer that — although we're dying to know.)**

**Brian:** Clearly I am the better one. I always get better advancement scores and evaluation scores and I do better in physical training.

**Kevin:** Of course I'm the better Sea Cadet. Did you really have to ask? I'm better because I'm more focused on what's being done and I have a desire to make those around me better.

**Q: What's it like to pilot an airplane?**

**Kevin:** Piloting an airplane is the best feeling in the world to me! The idea of being up in the clouds, looking down on the earth is awesome. Seeing the world the way birds do is something that stays with you everywhere you go. I also feel so free whenever I fly, even though the FAA doesn't let me be free at all!

**Brian:** Flying an airplane is the best feeling in the world. I remember when I first flew that I had the biggest smile in the world. This is especially true when you solo.



PHOTOS BY ENS ELAINE TORRES, NSCC

**Q: Describe one time you messed up at a training or drill and how you learned from it.**

**Kevin:** When I staffed mini boot camp with Zeus Division, I was a newly promoted petty officer third class. I was naive and new to leadership, and I didn't believe I was responsible for the mistakes of other cadets. It's safe to say that I learned to take responsibility for my peers very quickly.

**Brian:** When I staffed mini boot camp for my division, I was a newly frocked petty officer who didn't have a lot of leadership experience. I was not leading by example, I was not organized, and I did not communicate well with anyone. Because of this, I learned from my mistakes and became a stronger leader.



**Q: On the other hand, tell us about your proudest moment in the NSCC.**

**Kevin:** My proudest moment in the NSCC was when I got my wings. Why you ask? Because it took years of dedication and hard work to get them. Also, who can say they have flown a plane solo in Sea Cadets?

**Brian:** The proudest moment of my Sea Cadet career was when I earned my wings.

**Q: Only about 1.5% of our cadets ever make CPO. It takes a lot of effort and support to reach that rank. Is there anyone you'd like to give a shout-out to?**

**Kevin:** I'd like to give a shout-out to LCDR Brammer for his commitment to the program and for showing me what dedication is. I would also love to give a shout-out to NCI Johnny Martinez for always giving me motivational support throughout the years! Additionally, I would love to give a shout-out to former NSCC chiefs Lorenzo Gari, Dylan Clare, Peter Nguyen, and Marina Overton for showing me what a good cadet is supposed to be!

**Brian:** I'd like to give a shout-out to former Sea Cadet chief Lorenzo Gari and NCI Johnny Martinez. Both of them motivated me to become a good cadet as well as a better person. They also motivated me to accomplish my goals.

**Q: What are your plans after the NSCC? Do you think you'll return as a midshipman?**

**Kevin:** My plans after the NSCC are to get all the required ratings and to get a commission with either the Navy or Air Force. If I have the opportunity and time to come back as a midshipman, I will.

**Brian:** My plans after Sea Cadets are to get my commission and fly for the Navy or Air Force.

**Q: If you could design an NSCC-themed meme, what would it say?**

**Kevin:** If I could design a meme, it would be quite a simple meme. It would have a picture of a deer, and it will just have a caption saying: BAAAAAAAAA

**Brian:** I don't think I'm in a position to make memes. I'm honestly not that creative.

**Q: What was your favorite Sea Cadet training?**

**Brian:** Air Traffic Control Training in NAS Jacksonville in 2014.

**Q: What is your favorite aircraft, and why?**

**Kevin:** My favorite aircraft is the Wright Flyer. It was a one-of-a-kind aircraft to fly; it was fast, maneuverable, capable of extended sorties, and carried a high weapons load which enabled it to carry out close air support for General Washington's soldiers as they crossed the Delaware River... yeah, right! You best believe it's the F-14 Tomcat! The F-14 Tomcat has a special place in my heart as it was one of the first things I could recognize. When I was very young, my father would take me to airshows, and I would always love seeing the F-14 Tomcat demonstrations. I wasn't interested in seeing the Thunderbirds or Blue Angels demonstrations. Instead, I loved watching the F-14 Tomcat fly! There was nothing better in the world for me to see than an F-14 Tomcat fly! I was really sad when the F-14 was taken out of service in 2006, and I'm still sad to this day that the F-14s aren't flying anymore with the Navy.

**Brian:** My favorite aircraft is the F-14 Tomcat. Ever since I can remember, I always loved the F-14. As a child, my father took me to airshows throughout Florida. In most of the airshows we went to, the Blue Angels or Thunderbirds were the highlights of the show. For me, the highlights were the F-14 Tomcats. It was a one-of-a-kind aircraft to fly; it was fast, maneuverable, and loud. I was lucky enough to see the last F-14 demo in NAS Oceana. My generation was the last to see the F-14.

**Q: Tell us about your last training.**

**Kevin:** The last training I did was staffing POLA at Camp Casey, Washington. Camp Casey was such an amazing training. I've never been to a training that went so flawlessly or had such an astonishing and enthusiastic adult and cadet staff! I would recommend to anyone to attend LCDR Scott Oram's trainings at Camp Casey! You are guaranteed to learn something out of that training

**Brian:** I staffed POLA in Camp Casey,

Washington during my last training. The training went really well. The whole training command was motivated and dedicated to accomplishing their duties. Officers and staff cadets communicated with each other really well, there was no conflict. Everyone, including staff, learned something in Camp Casey. The COTC, LCDR Oram, is probably one of the best officers I have seen in Sea Cadets. He's motivated to teach cadets and staff. I learned a lot from him in one week.

**Q: Which officers assisted your development in Sea Cadets?**

**Kevin:** All the officers I have encountered have assisted my development in some way shape or form. But the officers that have really stood out and helped developed me are, LCDR Scott Oram, LT Sandi Chamyan, LTJG Zayas, LTJG Bravo, ENS Farnsworth, ENS Seller. Additionally, I would also love to mention LCDR Brammer! He helped me develop me into the leader I am today. He taught me how to be a leader in many ways, and showed me where dedication can lead you to.

**Brian:** Pretty much all of the officers in every training have helped me develop in some way, but the officers that have helped me drastically were LCDR Brammer, LCDR Sanchez, LT Chamyan, and LTJG Zayas. They kept me in line, guided me, and showed me what dedication is. Without their support, I don't think I'd be in the position I am now. ☺





In March, a group of our most dedicated officers gathered in San Diego for a weekend of learning and networking. This group was comprised of more than 70 training officers from around the country.

PHOTOS BY LT CRYSTAL COX, NSCC



Our COTCs give so much of themselves to train our cadets. The COTC Conference gave us an opportunity to express our appreciation for their work and communicate with them about the new policies going into effect this year.

From risk mitigation measures to proper reporting procedures, our COTCs are ready and excited to train cadets this summer.



"This awesome program is getting even better!"

**LCDR Cammy Boschee, NSCC  
Region 12-8**

Bringing COTCs together to update us on new directives was very informative. It was also great to meet others who we share common interests with in the program.



**LTJG Riley Dunn, NSCC  
Scorpion Squadron**

Times are changing, and we have to adapt as well. The COTC Conference was the perfect opportunity for all of us to get together and have NHQ discuss the coming changes with us face-to-face.

**LCDR Lisa Stoyanovich, NSCC  
Wolverine Division**

The conference was informative and purposeful with opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new. I've returned with new ideas and renewed enthusiasm. It was even better than I thought it would be. I'm very grateful to NHQ for setting this up.



**CDR Sheryl Tannahill, USN  
Region 6-3**

Great information was discussed and the opportunity to share experiences was invaluable. Changes (for the good) are coming! This awesome program is getting even better!



**Amanda Kaer  
Training Grant Director, NHQ**

One of the great things from this conference for me was being able to meet and connect with the outstanding COTCs that I work with every day. They do so much for this program. We are all facing changes and challenges this year with new grant guidelines and I was happy to explain the "ins and outs" of it. Now, I feel that we all have a much better understanding of the processes, procedures, and requirements that we face.



# Preserving Our Naval History

By Seaman Mary Catherine-Haggard, NSCC  
Katy Division, Katy, Texas



This January, my division and I traveled to Galveston, Texas, to train at the Texas Maritime Academy and spend the night on a decommissioned destroyer escort. The Texas Maritime Academy kindly lent us their damage control simulator and their multi-million dollar bridge simulator for a few hours at zero cost. The damage control simulator was wet and freezing cold. It was essentially a large, water-tight shipping container with large pipes running throughout it. Our goal was to preserve the water-tight integrity of our "ship" by plugging up the randomly placed holes strewn throughout the pipework. At the press of a button, water started gushing at our feet, above our heads, and out of cracks so small none of us knew how to plug them. Despite our best efforts, the water level reached critical height before we managed to plug all the holes. But the simulator had its wanted effect on me and my shipmates: we gained a solid understanding of the teamwork and cool-headedness required when responding to emergencies while underway.

We were able to not only spend the night on the USS *Stewart*, one of only two surviving destroyer escorts in the United States, but to spend a day refurbishing her as well. The overnight experience was cold; metal ships tend to have very little insulation. However, this was nothing compared to life aboard *Stewart* as, during her tenure, sailors suffered single-digit temperatures and 40+ feet waves while she hunted German U-boats in the Atlantic during the World War II. Thanks to a Category 2 storm that hit the Houston-Galveston area in 2008, *Stewart* was left in poor repair. Since that time, a large effort has been made on the part of Cavalla Historical Foundation and the Texas Maritime Academy to restore *Stewart* to her original condition. Corroded surfaces, weathered bulkheads and decks, and rusted equipment were among the things my shipmates, and I worked to restore, and in one short morning, we completed what would have taken volunteers weeks to accomplish. Katy Division proudly contributed to the process that will keep USS *Stewart* operating as a living testament to the sacrifices of those who have come before us and, thanks to our small contribution, she will continue educating the younger generation of the necessary actions taken to defend the United States of America.



PHOTOS BY MSGT SUTTON, USMC

# Best Nine Days of My Life

By Seaman Apprentice Emily Martin, NSCC  
Gulf Eagle Division, Fort Myers Beach, Fla.  
Recruit Training, Keystone Heights, Fla.



Over winter break, I attended Recruit Training. I learned how to properly march and keep in step. I also learned a bunch of information about fire safety, naval uniform history/current uniform regulations, and some information about first aid. There were a total of 24 different classes with many different topics. RT was definitely a huge learning experience for me.

I recommend learning the general orders and the Sailor's Creed. At RT, they will make you learn them over a short amount of time so it's better to take as much time as you can beforehand to learn them. During drill time, they march you around the PT field as a division and work on anything that's off. For example, my division wouldn't stay aligned. Our petty officers kept us marching and whenever we weren't aligned they would say, "Align to your—" and we would respond with "Right."

During PT, we did push-ups, sit-ups, flutter kicks, squats, etc. Also, we ran a mile as a battalion, which wasn't easy to do because we had to run/jog slow enough so the whole battalion could stick together. We basically ran 15 minute miles every time. We had inspection a few times but in the female barracks, we earned an A- or higher every time.

Over the nine day training, we had a total of 35.5 hours of class, 10 hours of PT, and 15 hours of military drill. My experience at RT was amazing; I had so much fun and am looking forward to attending an Advanced Training over the summer. My division, a.k.a. Delta Dogs, earned Honor Division. We came up with a cadence we would say and it poked fun at other divisions. During drill, we would double time after other divisions and play fetch or just chase them.

The petty officers I had were super nice and taught us a lot. I was nervous about RT before I went, but soon realized there was nothing to be worried about. RT was a life changing training; you learn teamwork, communication, and how to listen. As you work on your military bearing, you also have a great time. It was the best nine days of my life.

## Heading to Recruit Training This Summer? Get Ahead Now

#1

**Read the Welcome Letter! Read it again. With your parents. Again. Not three days before training starts, either. You don't want to show up a day late with the wrong uniform.**

#2

**If there is a training website or Facebook page, join it. Read it. Ask questions if you can't find the answers in the Welcome Letter... because you read it, right? Right?**

#3

**Break in your boots early — at least 30 days before the start of training. Wear them every day. Blisters are the worst. You don't want to have to sit out because of them.**

#4

**Get in shape now. There are published minimums, but do you really want to go through life hitting the minimums? Sea Cadets strive for the max.**

#5

**Now is the time to stop drinking caffeine. There are no sodas, coffee or sugary treats at Recruit Training, so stop now. Your future self will thank you.**

#6

**Have a vision of yourself at graduation. Believe in yourself! We do. Thousands of cadets have done this and they're no better than you are.**

#7

**Listen to the message, not the delivery. This is probably the first time you've been in an environment like this. Remember: the staff wants to help you succeed.**

#8

**Give it your all and just keep up with us! At RT, you'll make new friends, learn invaluable skills and you'll truly earn that sense of accomplishment on graduation day.**

# RT: When 'I Can Do It' Becomes 'I Did It'

**By Seaman Apprentice Nathaniel Pestano, NSCC**  
 Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.  
 Recruit Training, Great Lakes, Ill.

"Big dog, big dog, say it with your chest. Loyalty, over everything!" This was Division 002's creed. Last year in the middle of June, me and my sister embarked on one of the most memorable and biggest challenges that face every Sea Cadet — and we made it through!

Are you a recruit looking to attend a great recruit training? Look no further — you need to attend RTIL 2017. Here's some advice from me: before attending this rigorous training, I recommend for all incoming new participants to be aware and mentally prepared for all the challenges that lie ahead; it's not to punish you, it is to mold you into a better person of high personal standards and morals. Keep saying "I can do it" and soon the "I can do it" becomes "I DID IT."

Every day, I was disciplined through physical exercises and challenged to learn something new. I was consistently pushed to achieve more by energetic U.S. Navy Recruit Division Commanders, otherwise known as "red ropers."

As I reflect, I see that their determination to make me and my division the best, changed me. I've been inspired to encounter every challenge that crosses my path head on, to never give up, to always keep searching for a better way to do or achieve, and to "Never Give up the Ship." My division's XO Captain Sydes says, "Change is inevitable, yet progress is optional." Since RTIL 2016, I fully understand what that means. RTIL 2016 made my summer memorable while morphing me into a better person. I can't wait to return as a Staff Cadet.

# What I Learned at Seabee Training

**By Petty Officer 3rd Class Rachel Griffith, USNSCC**  
 George Washington (CVN-73) Division, Bronx, N.Y.  
 Seabee Field Operations, Calverton, N.Y.

In August 2016, I attended Seabee Construction Field Operations in Baiting Hollow Scout Camp, New York. It was nine days long and we slept outside in tents. During the nine day training, we engaged in reconstructing two buildings on the site, field operations and physical training.

Each of the buildings we reconstructed had to be taken apart first. After stripping the building down to the foundation, we started to reconstruct the building. We did this for both a ranger house and a synagogue. Both of those buildings looked a lot nicer when we left than when we arrived. We made

the buildings stronger and removed the wood that was old and starting to rot. For field operations, we were equipped with airsoft rifles. Each company had to go on patrols to make sure the area was secure. Occasionally, we would get involved in a "firefight" with the staff cadets, but we were always fired upon first. We had multiple instructors for field operations that are part of the U.S. Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class Mooney and Petty Officer 3rd Class Krug. They taught us a lot, and were always ready to answer questions, and helped us practice any skills we needed to work on. They made sure

that we were well-informed and had any tools we needed. They each kept us motivated in their own unique way. Mooney took us to his motivation table which was the spot he chose to talk to us and keep us going. Krug told us stories about his experience as a Seabee and showed us how the different skills related to what we were doing.

Many people worked hard to make this training work, and they did a great job. Thank you for all of your hard work. It definitely paid off and I had a great time.

# What do Bermuda, Canada, Hong Kong, Sweden, South Korea, and the United Kingdom have in common?

If you're a qualifying Sea Cadet, you could visit them this summer. The deadline for adult applications is March 31. Cadet applications are due April 7. Check out the requirements and application details at [iep.seacadets.org](http://iep.seacadets.org).

# The Effectiveness of Leadership

**By Seaman Hannah Morfe, NSCC**  
 Thomas R. Norris Battalion, Fruitland Park, Fla.  
 Photojournalism, Apopka, Fla.

Photojournalism is a unique training. Instead of focusing on a class, photojournalists spend the majority of the time outside observing and interacting with other trainings. Here in Wekiwa Springs, Florida there are two other trainings with photojournalism: Navy League Orientation and Culinary.

Since there are two photojournalism cadets, each is assigned to one of the trainings based on the plan of the day (POD). Over the course of training, the photojournalist's assignment is to write two articles and select ten photos per article. Next, the photojournalists post these articles and photos on a Facebook page designated for the audience of parents and other Sea Cadet units. With a POD to follow, photojournalists must plan out time during the day to complete these assignments. However, the most crucial aspect of photojournalism is effective communication between the commanding officer and staff to ensure that one of the trainings are responsible for the photojournalist. Since photojournalism is integrated in both League Orientation and Culinary, their power is considered the most important in the entire training.

Since photojournalism permits certain power, notable observations can be made from frequently socializing with each training, such as how different leadership creates a specific ripple effect. In the NLCC training, the staff cadets use their own methods of leading the League Cadets. In the end, the quality of leadership from each staff cadet was reflected on the performance of the cadets. A specific staff cadet, Petty Officer 3rd Class Pupo, is an outstanding representation of a good leader with her connection to the cadets. As the designated master-at-arms (MAA), Pupo was entrusted with major responsibility for the well-being of all cadets in training. Pupo still managed to build a strong relationship with the staff and cadets equally.

Needless to say, photojournalism is a beneficial experience for Sea Cadets who want to learn about the important roles that coordinate a training.



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# What Kind of Staff Cadet Should I Be?

**By Petty Officer 1st Class Collin Mendoza, NSCC**

Houston Division, Houston, Texas

Staff Cadet, Recruit Training, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

I staffed a training for the first time in my career at Camp Pendleton's Recruit Training. The reason I staffed there is because that is where I went to Recruit Training. The reason I originally staffed RT was because it was needed to become a chief. But, as time went on and the training progressed, I discovered the real reason I wanted to staff RT. I felt the need to give back to the place where I learned how to be a Sea Cadet. I realized that I really wanted to staff RT was because I wanted to pass on my knowledge and help shape the future of the organization that I gave so much of my time to.

On the way to Camp Pendleton, I was already wondering how I would present myself to my recruits when I met them. Would I be the quiet, caring, one-on-one kind of staff cadet? Or would I be the mean, rigorous, always-yelling staff cadet? At first, I chose to be a small mix of both — being rigorous yet caring for my cadets and having one-on-one courses. But as always, as soon as I was given my position as RDC of Division 5 and as time in training went by, I learned that I could not be a small mix of both. I had to be a full mix of both. At times, I had to be rigorous and shout to get my point across. I also had to be caring and I had to have one-on-one conversations when one recruit needed more instruction on certain lessons. Being a staff cadet, I felt relieved that I wouldn't have to go through the stress that I experienced as a recruit. Yet, I was also scared that I would fail at my job and some of my recruits wouldn't pass RT. This was probably my biggest fear. Having been both a recruit and staff cadet, I was able to understand the stress and hardships that recruits go to. This enabled me to mediate between being rigorous and being calm.

Graduation day was probably the best day of the training. I learned that all of my recruits were going to graduate and when we sounded off with ditties and cadences, my recruits seemed to sound off the most that day. I guess they were just happy to be finished with the stressful training. At the end of graduation, most of my cadets came up to me and thanked me for being a great RDC. They told me that I helped them get through the training and that without me and my staff, they would not have been able to graduate and persevere through the hard times. This gave me a feeling of great satisfaction. I was satisfied that I was able to succeed as a RDC and that I was able to have an impact on some of these cadets. When I got home, I felt that I had done my best in my position and that I had an impact on my cadets. I felt satisfied with myself. From the instant that I left Camp Pendleton, I was already planning a summer training. I wanted to staff RT again and make an impact on more cadets and pass onto them the knowledge that I gained throughout my entire Sea Cadet career.



# Wreaths Across America

**By Seaman Rebecca Durinick, NSCC**

Nautilus (SSN 571) Division, Groton, Conn.

The Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown is where my grandfather, Frank C. Durinick, Sr., a World War II Army veteran, is buried. My tradition of placing a wreath on his grave started eight years ago when he was to join the many who have so greatly served our country. This year was a special year and my first in the Sea Cadet uniform. My grandfather wore his uniform proudly and always marched in our local Haddam Memorial Day parades. This time it is my turn. I can remember as a little girl how proud I was watching him march with the other soldiers, and then sitting on his lap feeling special. It's about all the soldiers who didn't get to see their grandchildren or didn't have the chance to see their children. There still are not enough wreaths for every grave, but every wreath represents more than one grave. They are for every grave and place that a soldier finally lies to rest.



# New Goals: From NLCC to NSCC

**By Seaman Apprentice-Trainee Matthew Zampaloni, NSCC**

United States Division, Lansing, Mich.

I just moved up from NLCC in January. It was a big step which I had been waiting to take for some time. While in NLCC, I made it up to ships leading petty officer and earned the "Cadet of the Year" medal in my training ship. I completed my Basic Military Requirement, Seamen, and Airman courses before I "crossed the bridge." I have met a lot of new people and friends and have done things I would have never done if I wasn't in the program.

I want to thank the officers who pushed me to do better during my four years as a League Cadet. I led my training ship for about two-and-a-half years and I wish their new leading petty officer luck. My new goal is to make it to chief. I have been looking forward to this for a long time and hope I do well in the Sea Cadets. I am excited and hopeful for the future.



# The Eyes of an Observer

**By Petty Officer 3rd Class Noelle Rubijono, NSCC**

Alexandria Division, Alexandria, Va.

Photojournalism, Apopka, Fla.



To sign up for this photojournalism training, there was a requirement to write a 100-word essay on why you wanted to go and what you expecting from the training. The two available slots were competitively given to cadets based on the essay and the CO's recommendation. I wrote about how I originally thought this training would be a formal training, with classrooms about photography and how to make your articles short and sweet yet thorough. It wasn't any of the above. What I pictured in my mind wasn't what I got, but in a way, I'm glad it wasn't. What this training did deliver was the opportunity to observe both trainings and find a way to balance the schedule to find time for the stories you wanted to cover.

On the first day of training, we were given three simple tasks to keep in mind for the duration of training. The first was to produce an outline for what we planned to write for the week. This step required coordination with the officers and staff for access to the training plans. The second task was to write two short articles per day with 10 photos per article and publish them on the training's Facebook page before lights out. That step was probably the most difficult since we had to find time to write and also borrow the wifi hotspot from the officers. Our last task was to use the last three days to write our feature article to submit to the Sea Cadet Quarterly. That was our requirement to graduate.

The best part about social media is the way it can change one's perspective. Whatever I wrote and posted on the training's Facebook page is what my audience would receive. This made me realize the importance of a photojournalist. Their

ability to observe is crucial in determining what their audience will view through the small keyhole that they had to look through. To them, a photojournalist is pretty significant. I remember that on our first report on the webpage, a mother of a League Cadet commented. She was so grateful to finally get an update on her cadet. Who knew that little deeds would result in a big thank you?

Another interesting thing about being at a combined training is that you have to interact with practically everyone! At Wekiwa Springs, there were three trainings: Culinary, Photojournalism, and League Orientation. I was able to interact with all of them and even the officers! Every group was different, and everyone was their own individual, with personalities, goals, and mindsets. I interviewed many of them. Asking them questions about how training was and sometimes just had small talk mixed in with some banter. Being the observer in the background, you had to ask questions to get the full picture and praise them for sharing their thoughts. It surprised me how much I actually interacted with others and how much each person thrived with praise.

I thought going to a photojournalism training meant being in the back, serving as the support group to everyone else. During the training, as I realized that my articles and photos influenced my audiences' perspective, allowed me to interact with more than one training, and let me experience the significance of an observer, I felt important.

So even when you don't think your role will be impactful, or you're mainly the support group, just think about how much one picture can affect the families of so many cadets. You are influential and should accept your role with pride. Whether it is being an observer, an LPO, or even being chief, do the best with what you are given. Every gear in the machine fits so that the machine will work. Be the most efficient gear possible.

# My RT Experience

**By Seaman Apprentice Erik Thomas, NSCC**  
 Gulf Eagle Division, Fort Myers Beach, Fla.  
 Recruit Training, Keystone Heights, Fla.

My RT training was a rather emotional experience. I had several ups and downs. I didn't enjoy much of it, but that's not what Recruit Training is for. I was there to learn!

I was taught many things in recruit training: tying knots, the ranks of the USNSCC, all the ranks in the U.S. Navy, first aid, and fire fighting. We were also given the Sea Cadet "Bible," which covered how to shine your boots, the Eleven General Orders of a Sentry, our chain of command, the Sailor's Creed, and the Sea Cadet Oath.

My Recruit Division Commander (RDC) and my Assistant Recruit Division Commanders (ARDCs) were encouraging throughout my entire time at RT. They were always correcting my mistakes and making sure I didn't mess up. The best thing was they wouldn't let me give up. I am very grateful for all of them.

Speaking of giving up, I was close to throwing in the towel and quitting. I am thankful that I did not quit, and that I got the full experience of the training. I owe all that to one of my ARDCs, Petty Officer 2nd Class St. Pierre, as well as my shipmates. They encouraged me the entire time, and made sure that I was able to stick through it! I am very appreciative and I made some great friends in the process.

I am very glad I participated in this Recruit Training and am very thankful to have gotten this experience through the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. I was able to accomplish something I didn't think I could do — complete the rigorous experience of RT. Now I will go on to additional trainings to push my limits even further. In doing so, I am certain I am going to create great memories.



# Brick-By-Brick

**By Seaman Apprentice-Trainee Alessia Velasquez, NSCC**  
 Seminole Battalion, Altamonte Springs, Fla.



I never thought a person like me would ever join this program. My introduction to the Sea Cadet program was serendipitous; my brother and mother attended a meeting, and I tagged along. At the conclusion of the presentation, my brother decided that the program was not for him. I had been listening intently, and I was very interested. I said to my mother: "I want to join." Now, two years later, I have developed a stronger sense of self-control and a deeper level of maturity. One of the greatest gifts that the Sea Cadets has given me is self-confidence. I never considered that I could possibly hold a leadership position (not at all!).

When I joined the Sea Cadets as recruit in Sept. 2015, I never imagined I would rise to be a petty officer. In this role, I am not only a teacher, I am an ongoing student. Every day, I learn more from my fellow cadets; I can only hope that they are learning just as much from me. In the beginning, I was oblivious to the process of becoming a leader. Because of this, I doubted myself, and became miserable. My first drill did not go smoothly, and I thought about leaving the program. Upon returning home, I reflected on what originally attracted me to the Sea Cadets. I made up my mind to see it through. My step-dad (a former Army Sergeant) said to me that night: "There is no such thing as a natural born leader; leaders are built one brick at a time." This motivated me to keep marching forward.

The growth that I have experienced since becoming a League Cadet has been filled with self-discovery. While preparing for my first training (League Orientation), I was apprehensive. Upon arriving, my nervousness intensified. I relaxed over time, as I met one wonderful person after another. What a blessing! After what seemed like a day, my training was over. The feeling of getting that bronze boot on my first year ribbon was satisfying; I cannot wait to relive this experience as a full-fledged Sea Cadet!

"The Sea Cadet Corps was an amazing opportunity to learn in a structured environment, travel and see things that I could not have seen otherwise, and get a taste of what the brotherhood of military service is about. I enjoyed being a part of something important, something bigger than just our unit. **Even today, after 19 years of active duty, I still draw on the knowledge and lessons I picked up while drilling with the Sea Cadets.** It cannot be overstated how important an impression this program can leave on a young cadet. As the Commanding Officer of a Navy Operational Support Center, I'm all in — I love any opportunity I get to interact and mentor young cadets, especially knowing the profound positive impact the program had on me."

We love hearing from our alumni! **Commander Christopher Peppel, USN** is the current commanding officer of Navy Operational Support Center in Columbus, Ohio. Peppel is a former Sea Cadet petty officer first class from Columbus Squadron.



**Are you a graduating senior? Don't miss your opportunity to apply for the NSCC Scholarship Program!**

## Interested in applying this year?

You are eligible to apply if...

You are a Sea Cadet who has achieved the grade of NSCC E-3 or higher and has been in the program for at least two years at the time of application; an excellent student with a B+ average or above; accepted into an accredited university, college, or technical school.

### How do I apply?

Read Information Letter 05-17 on Homeport for application instructions. Applications are due on May 10.

# Sea Cadet Takes Charge in Neighborhood Fire

By **Kate McIlvaine**  
Director of Communications, NHQ

On Saturday, Dec. 10, Airman Dylan McMaster of Twin Cities Squadron had just arrived home from drill, when he noticed a fire in his neighbor's garage. Still in his uniform, he ran out the door to help the group of people who were fighting the fire by throwing buckets of water on it.

He quickly assessed the futility of their efforts and directed the homeowners to get their vehicles and 20-foot construction trailer out of the driveway to make room for the arriving firefighters. After taking his neighbor's dogs to his house for safekeeping, he noticed the street filling with bystanders and cars. He knew he had to do something. Walking over to them, he began directing the onlookers to clear a path for the arrival of the firefighters.

"Giving direction while in uniform commands people to follow the direction," McMaster said. "I jumped in to help because that is what neighbors do. I think any Sea Cadet would have reacted just the same as I did. Not everyone has fire hose and a wrench on hand. The training we get with the Eagan Fire Department was a great foundation for being able to know what was happening and quickly assessing the situation for the action needed."

McMaster will report to the Navy's Recruit Training Command after he graduates from high school in June 2017.



# Wrapped in Memories

By **LCDR Lisa Stoyanovich, NSCC**  
Wolverine Division, Monroe, Mich.

It started with a project for the Easter Seals Fill the Truck program. I cleaned out all of our closets and drawers of unused clothing, shoes, and bedding for donation. A sense of peace and calming settled over me as I decluttered excess stuff.

I got down to the last trunk, and there they were: my collection of NSCC T-shirts. What do you do with 17 years of T-shirts? Donating them was out of the question and keeping them hidden in the trunk was pointless. I remembered a Facebook ad I had seen about turning T-shirts into a quilt. I did some research and found a company that suited my needs. I prepared the shirts per instruction and mailed them off.

What I received back six weeks later was beyond my expectations. Each panel elicits a special memory: the surprise gift of a shirt from another unit, flagship event, and the reunion of old friends and making new friends. These training shirts hold memories of the things I learned, a particularly funny story, or the cadets I met from around the country. A particular treasure was a former cadet, now in her thirties, who reached out to me after she saw the post on the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' official Facebook page. She described how I went with her to the ER after she had passed out from heat and dehydration after a 4th of July parade. I had not thought about this in years! At the heart of the quilt are the two units I have had the privilege to serve as commanding officer of: Tomcat Squadron and Wolverine Division.

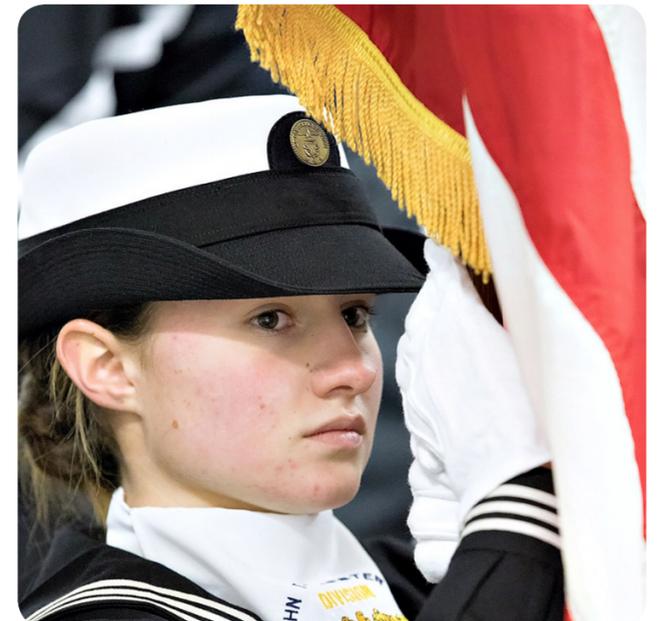
Now every time I cuddle with my quilt, I realize I am wrapped in memories. What a special way to honor them.



COURTESY OF LCDR STOYANOVICH, NSCC

Whatever you do in life, try to do it as well as these cadets perform their color guard duties.

Photos of John T. Dempster, Jr. Division by Mike Schwartz



# Fair Winds and Following Seas

## CAPTAIN NYLAND RETIRING AFTER 19 YEARS

After 31 years of service to the U.S. Navy and 19 years of service to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Captain Nyland has announced his retirement. Effective March 24, he leaves the program in the very capable hands of our new executive director, retired Navy Captain Paul Zambarnardi.

Since his arrival in 1998, Captain Nyland has been instrumental in the training of more than 116,000 cadets. Guided by a firm belief that America's future depends on its youth, he led the development of an innovative and cohesive training program that exposed cadets to the challenges and rigors of the Navy. As deputy director and then executive director, he tirelessly advocated for our volunteers and kept everyone around him focused on what our program is about: our cadets.

We wish him a retirement full of time with his children, grandchildren, and his beloved wife Patricia — as well as many years of Patriots victories, international travel, and gardening. Fair winds and following seas, sir!



LT CRYSTAL COX, NSCC



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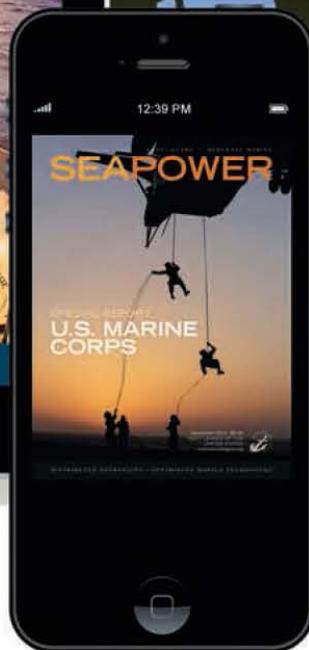
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