



# United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

3 February 2000

## MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

Subj: 2000 NSCC OFFICER/CADETS OF THE YEAR SELECTIONS

Encl: (1) Officer of the Year Biographical Profile  
(2) NSCC Cadet of the Year Biographical Profile  
(3) NLCC Cadet of the Year Biographical Profile

1. A selection board presided over by Mr. James R. Ward, NSCC National President, met in closed session to select the 2000 Officer and NSCC/NLCC Cadets of the Year. I am pleased to approve the recommendations of the board and announce the honored selectees as follows:

### NICHOLAS BRANGO AWARD FOR INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP

LCDR Daniel D. Van Arsdall, NSCC  
Commanding Officer, LEXINGTON Division  
Aurora, Colorado, sponsored by Denver Council and American Legion Post 183

### WILLIS E. REED NSCC CADET OF THE YEAR


Cadet CPO Zachary D. Collard, NSCC  
GREATER OZARKS Division  
Springfield, Missouri, sponsored by the FRA Ozarks Branch 316

### KEITH T. WEAVER NLCC CADET OF THE YEAR

Cadet PO2 Jason L. Steinhoff  
Training Ship MICHIGAN  
Traverse City, Michigan, sponsored by Traverse City Council

2. Lieutenant Commander Van Arsdall and Cadet CPO Collard will be invited to attend the Navy League Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 15 to 17 June 2000 as guests of the Navy League and the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Cadet Steinhoff will be honored at an appropriate ceremony in Traverse City, Michigan.

3. Biographical sketches of Lieutenant Commander Van Arsdall, Cadet CPO Collard, and Cadet PO2 Steinhoff are enclosed for your information.

  
B. B. Smith

Copy to:  
Nicholas Brango  
Mrs. Willis E. Reed  
Keith T. Weaver  
NSCC Field Representatives  
NSCC Regional/Associate Regional Directors/NSCC/NLCC Commanding Officers

## **NICHOLAS BRANGO AWARD FOR INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Nicholas Brango has exemplified the Navy League of the United States' commitment to the education and training of American youth in his various positions of leadership in both the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Navy League. In his honor, this award is made annually to that NSCC officer who has excelled in all phases of NSCC/NLCC training, and whose leadership has made a significant contribution to attaining Navy League goals in training and education of our youth. The 2000 recipient of this award is:

**LCDR Daniel D. Van Arsdall, NSCC  
Commanding Officer  
LEXINGTON Division,  
Aurora, Colorado**

LCDR Van Arsdall first affiliated with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps in March 1988 as a Sea Cadet. He has remained with the program ever since. He was appointed a Midshipman in September 1990 and later appointed an Ensign in the Sea Cadet Corps in August 1993. Since his first years in the Sea Cadet Program he has been a heavy and consistent contributor to the program in a myriad of ways. As an officer, he immediately contributed his time and energy by assisting as an escort at various summer training duties as well as being active in the local command in Nebraska. Moving to Colorado in 1996, he affiliated with the LEXINGTON Division as Executive Officer. He was appointed Commanding Officer of LEXINGTON Division in October 1996. Since his appointment as Commanding Officer, he has served with distinction, and has produced superior results in all phases of his unit's recruiting, training and administration. LCDR Van Arsdall has consistently provided strong leadership, direction and meaningful, interesting training for his unit. The LEXINGTON Division has ranked as one of the top units in Region 15 for the past few years and continues to get better each year. LEXINGTON Division's steady, strong performance, and regional rankings are tribute to LCDR Van Arsdall's command skills and management ability.

LCDR Van Arsdall is a true professional and the consummate Commanding Officer. Since assuming command, he has led his unit to new standards of excellence. LEXINGTON Division has grown and excelled under his command, showing marked increases in the manning levels of NSCC and NLCC cadets, with all demonstrating individual achievement and personal growth. A compassionate Commanding Officer, he is known for putting the needs of the cadets before his own. He works exceptionally hard to ensure his cadets attend recruit training, and that they take follow on advanced training to get promoted. He also works to make the program better for all of Region Fifteen. For the past few years he has made great efforts to get NLCC Orientation training and NSCC recruit training located locally in the Colorado area. He has done this because of the great cost to his cadets in travelling to Navy sites where recruit training was given. In the course of his efforts to gain a recruiting site in Region 15, he has gained access to the Air Force Academy to use their facilities. As a result of this, the first ever recruit type training has been held in Region 15.

In addition to serving as Commanding Officer, LCDR Van Arsdall has volunteered to assist the Regional Director in performance of the Regional Director's duties. This was a result of the assigned Regional Director having a debilitating illness which has precluded his travelling around the Region. As the Regional Director's assistant, LCDR Van Arsdall has performed admirably. The region has shown growth for the first time, rising 36% above year 1998 enrollment figures. This is directly attributable to the leadership shown by LCDR Van Arsdall. LCDR Van Arsdall is authorized to wear the Meritorious Recognition Ribbon, Officer Citation Ribbon and other awards. LCDR Van Arsdall's dedication to the NSCC program and inspirational leadership provide an example to which all should aspire. He is most worthy of receiving the Nicholas Brango Award for Inspirational Leadership for 2000.

Enclosure (1)

## **THE WILLIS E. REED NSCC CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD**

This award honors past National Chairman, Willis E. Reed, and recognizes annually the Naval Sea Cadet who has excelled in all phases of Naval Sea Cadet Corps training and whose achievements mark him or her as Cadet of the Year. In tribute to one whose participation in the program has been marked by excellence and accomplishment, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps makes this Award for 2000 to:

**Cadet CPO Zachary D. Collard, NSCC  
Greater Ozarks Division  
Springfield, Missouri**

for excellence in performance of assigned duties and achievement while serving as a member of Greater Ozarks Division. Cadet CPO Collard first enrolled in the Navy League Cadet Corps in July 1995. After completing various training activities in the NLCC, he transitioned to the NSCC in December 1996. Graduating from NSCC recruit training at Naval Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, on 5 July 1997, he aggressively participated in numerous advanced evolutions at various U.S. Navy, and other DOD bases on the East Coast and in the Midwest. He has completed extensive training duties which included; Military Familiarization School, Scuba Diving School, Aviation Challenge I and II, United Kingdom Sea Cadet Foreign Exchange, Petty Officer Leadership Academy, Marine Recruiting Duty, and Mountain Survival Training. His participation in basic and advanced training resulted in over 85 days of training duty over a period of four plus years. In each of his training periods, Chief Petty Officer Collard received superior performance grades marking him as a cadet who thrives in challenging environments, and one who seeks diversity in the pursuit of excellence. As the Greater Ozarks Division Chief Petty Officer, he is a superb mentor for passing along his experience and expertise to new cadets.

In addition to his Naval Sea Cadet activities, CPO Collard excelled academically. Home schooled, he completed high school requirements at age 14. He is now a sophomore enrolled in Southwest Missouri State University majoring in physics/math with a 3.87 GPA on a 4.0 system. He is a member of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, American Physical Society, Society of Physics students and an Amateur Astronomy Club. He is also an intern for NASA activities based at SMSU Campus. He tutors algebra and calculus classes. A gifted student, CPO Collard has received numerous NSCC awards which include; Distinguished Service Ribbon, Meritorious Recognition Ribbon, Cadet Citation Ribbon, Sons of American Revolution Bronze Citizenship Medal, Academic Achievement Ribbon, Physical Fitness Ribbon, Recruiting Ribbon, Year Ribbons and numerous other awards. The quality of Cadet Chief Petty Officer Collard's participation in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps program, and his overall excellence sets an example of achievement to which all cadets should aspire, and which marks him as Naval Sea Cadet of the Year.

Enclosure (2)

## **KEITH T. WEAVER NLCC CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD**

This award honors the past NSCC National Chairman and Executive Director, Keith T. Weaver, and recognizes annually the Naval League Cadet who has excelled in all phases of NLCC training, and whose achievements mark him as the Cadet of the Year. In tribute to one whose participation in the program has been marked by excellence and accomplishment, the Naval Sea and League Cadet Corps makes this award for 2000 to:

**Cadet PO2 Jason Lee Steinhoff, NLCC  
Training Ship MICHIGAN  
Traverse City, Michigan**

Cadet Jason Steinhoff has been a member of the Navy League Cadet Corp Program for two years. He became a member of the Training Ship Michigan in November 1997. He attended NLCC orientation training on board Ft Custer, Battle Creek, Michigan in July 1998. Since completing orientation training, Cadet Steinhoff has completed Staff Cadet duties at Alpena, Michigan, July 1999, and numerous additional weekend training duties encompassing over 25 days of various special Navy and nautical instruction. Training received included; shipboard training, Great Lakes Merchant Marine Academy training, staff cadet duty, leadership training, flagship competition, and damage control training. In each of these evolutions, Cadet Steinhoff excelled, and was a model for others to emulate.

An active and willing individual, Cadet Steinhoff is a standout in whatever the tasking or mission assigned. Cadet Steinhoff has served in over 22 military evolutions for his unit providing direct support for the various ceremonies in and around Traverse City, Michigan. In each of these endeavors he has excelled. He willingly fulfills all requests for assistance and frequently volunteers to take on more responsibility. Cadet Steinhoff's other achievements include; Honor Roll student at Mancelona Grade and Middle Schools which includes extra math and science courses, awards for Social Studies, attendance, Scholarship and Good Citizenship, and Student of the Month (November 1998). In addition to these awards, Cadet Steinhoff participates in athletics.

Cadet Steinhoff exhibits outstanding leadership skills through out the Naval League Cadet Corps. He shows a high degree of maturity and enthusiasm. He consistently wears his uniform in a manner that reflects pride in himself and the NLCC. Cadet Steinhoff is authorized to wear the Cadet Citation Ribbon, color guard, recruiting, marksmanship, and year ribbons. Cadet Steinhoff's positive attitude, initiative, military bearing, and deportment exemplify the highest traditions of the United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, the Naval League Cadet Corps and the Navy League. It is fitting that he be recognized for his achievements, which mark him as the NLCC Cadet of the Year and recipient of the Keith T. Weaver Award in 2000.

Enclosure (3)