

## **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)