

New NSCC National Chairman Takes Post

On 3 June there was a change of National Chairman of the NSCC and the Vice President for NLUS Youth. Over the past two years, Hal W. Learson has led the NSCC/NLCC organization as Chairman. During that time many changes were instituted which have improved the NSCC organization. Our federal funding has increased to the present level of \$1.7 million, which allows for the funding of almost all of the cadets' training cost.

We have also been able to reimburse the adults attending the officer professional development courses for much of the training cost which they were required to incur. We have been able to pay modest amounts for the travel of adults to act as escorts for cadets for summer training.

Another major accomplishment of Hal W. Learson has been the forming of the Sea Cadet Foundation, a place to hold all of the NSCC scholarship funds. Hal was instrumental in the formulation of the Foundation along with the NSCC Judge Advocate General, Ray Couture. They received authorized and filed the tax-exempt status for the foundation in record time. Hal has also been critical in getting the NLUS behind the NSCC units.

This increased support will be vital in years to come. We will miss the superb things that Hal accomplished for the NSCC while he was the Chairman.

The new Chairman of the NSCC, James D. Erlinger, was elected at the NLUS convention earlier this month in Norfolk, VA. He has a long history with the NLUS and in supporting the youth of America. Jim is from the St. Louis Council and is well versed in NLUS youth activities. Jim has discussed the NSCC program with the new President of NLUS and we can expect continued excellent support from John Panneton. We expect Jim will serve the normal 2 to 3 years as Chairman of the NSCC.

Enrollment Goals and Federal Funding

The new Chairman has expressed concern over the decrease in enrollments over the past 18 months. The organization's total enrollment is significantly down from a high of almost 12,000 members to just a little over the current 10,050 members.

We must keep our numbers up if we are going to continue to get federal money for summer training costs.

Congress looks at how successful a program is before and after they fund programs. Right now, we register as negative since our enrollments have gone down while funding has gone up.

All cadets are urged to bring in a member so we may continue to get federal money to fund summer training.



Promo Marketing

Our vendor for military insignia and NSCC unique military devices reports there are about 82 units which have not bought anything from the marketing group. That is roughly 22 % of the NSCC/NLCC organization and is cause for concern. When we solicited bids for the replacement of Dondero, Inc., we advised all vendors that our units would buy all their military paraphernalia from just one vendor.

Well, so far we haven't fulfilled our commitment to the vendor by insuring all the NSCC-specific merchandise is bought through them. We need to do a better job of this and start buying through PROMO Marketing. They are linked to our web site, for those who have not used them as of yet. There have been very few negative reports on this vendor. They have quality items and excellent service. All units are urged to buy from the new NSCC authorized vendor, PROMO Marketing from their website at <http://www.seacadetshipsstore.com/>

NSCC Announces New Recruiting Campaign

Last April the Internet Development Group (IDG) released the newest version of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) Recruiting Web Site. Different from past web sites is that the web site is just one part of a multimedia advertising campaign that includes posters and new recruiting pamphlets for officers and cadets.

The campaign focuses on the unique challenges that the NSCC program offers today's young Americans under the banner "Test Your Limits." The edgier and more visually appealing design is tailored to attract the NSCC's core recruiting base of 11-16 year olds.

The web site is located at <http://www.seacadets.org/>. The "Test Your Limits" media center is located at <http://www.seacadets.org/public/testyourlimits/>.

The campaign was created by LTJG Andrew Munoz, NSCC (ENS, USCGR) of the Internet Development Group.

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Advancements

Congratulations to these outstanding Sea Cadets; and sincere thanks to the Officers, Instructors and parents for encouraging these special young people to achieve this very high level of achievement.



Chief Petty Officer

CPO Isaac Piche, NSCC
FLYING EAGLE Squadron

CPO Brandon Potratz, NSCC
PHOENIX Division

CPO Evan Dundas, NSCC
PHOENIX Division

CPO Richard Rainbolt, NSCC
TICONDEROGA Division

CPO Mike Bell, NSCC
LONE STAR Squadron

CPO Aaron Speaks, NSCC
CAPE FEAR Division,

CPO Alexandra Kulinkina, NSCC
ATLANTIC SEABEE Battalion

CPO Daniel Hooven, NSCC
AKRON Battalion

CPO Andrew Roscoe, NSCC
TOMCAT Squadron

CPO Nathan Schmidt, NSCC
MAHAN Division

CPO Tiffany Deahl, NSCC
SEAL BEACH Battalion

CPO Charles Cain, NSCC
OREGON Division

CPO Miguel Gutierrez, NSCC
DIABLO Squadron

CPO Patrick Lee, NSCC
PYRO Division

CPO Corbin McGraw, NSCC
CHENNAULT Division

CPO John Coffey, NSCC
TWIN CITIES Division

CPO Mark Rutherford, NSCC
PHOENIX Division

CPO Brandon Porthouse, NSCC
INDEPENDENCE Division

CPO Ryan McNichols, NSCC
VADM JAMES H. FLATLEY, Jr. Division

CPO Helen Rose, NSCC
TWIN CITIES Squadron

CPO Zacharie Dumont, NSCC
ORION Squadron

CPO Jennifer Lat, NSCC
GHOSTRIDERS Squadron

CPO Tyler Wilson, NSCC
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY Division

CPO Timothy Gookin, NSCC
PAUL REVERE Division

CPO Matthew Mackenzie, NSCC
FREEDOM Division

CPO Matthew Erbe, NSCC
JOHN F. KENNEDY Division

CPO Nathan Montgomery, NSCC
WICHITA Division

CPO Matthew Albert, NSCC
MOFFETT Squadron

CPO Jonathan Kan, NSCC
MOFFETT Squadron

CPO Anthony Lacina, NSCC
GOSNOLD Division



Petty Officer First Class

PO1 Patrick Weber, NSCC
RICHARD HIGGINS Battalion

PO1 Brittney McGinty, NSCC
CHALLENGER Division

PO1 Paul Bland, NSCC
AKRON Battalion

PO1 Matthew Keller, NSCC
MAHAN Division

PO1 Kelly Kolterman, NSCC
TOP HATTERS Squadron

PO1 Patrick Cosgrove, NSCC
ATLANTIC CITY Division

PO1 Jonathan Pierce, NSCC
GREATER OZARK Division

PO1 Victoria Curnow NSCC
CHOSIN Division

PO1 Erick Gilbertson, NSCC
KNIGHTHAWKS Squadron

PO1 Angela Le Sage, NSCC
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY Division

PO1 Jason McCabe, NSCC
GROUND ZERO Battalion

PO1 Robert Del Conte, NSCC
BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY Division

PO1 Bradford Lockridge, NSCC
233rd SEABEE Battalion

PO1 Ashley Valanzola, NSCC
WORCESTER Division

PO1 Erik Lin-Greenberg, NSCC
VAN VOORHIS MEMORIAL Squadron

PO1 Christopher Gannon, NSCC
KITTY HAWK Division

PO1 Jon Thoms, NSCC
NAVAL STATION EVERETT Division

PO1 Andrew Bornholdt, NSCC
BATTLESHIP MISSOURI Division

PO1 Bridget Stevens, NSCC
MAHAN Division

PO1 Geoffrey Jablonski, NSCC
BLUE ANGELS Squadron

PO1 Mary Witherspoon, NSCC
CLEVELAND Division

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Advancements from Page 2

PO1 Kimberly Yee, NSCC
CLEVELAND Division

PO1 Johnathan Brecht, NSCC
TRIDENT PATROL Squadron 65

PO1 Josephine Divarco, NSCC
GHOSTRIDERS Squadron

PO1 Richard Fitzpatrick, NSCC
FREEDOM Division

PO1 Mark Steele, NSCC
PALM BEACH Division

PO1 Dustin Tate, NSCC
NEWPORT NEWS Division

PO1 Corinne Gilmer, NSCC
233rd SEABEE Battalion

PO1 Alanna Mitchell, NSCC
233rd SEABEE Battalion

PO1 Travis Stone, NSCC
TWIN PORTS Division

PO1 Brian Rolfe, NSCC
VADM J.B. STOCKDAEL Division

PO1 Karianne Voight, NSCC
BATTLESHIP WISCONSIN Division

PO1 John Carreon, NSCC
POINT DIVIDE Division

PO1 Alexander Jacobson, NSCC
TWIN CITIES Squadron

PO1 Aimee Langley, NSCC
BATTLESHIP WISCONSIN Division

PO1 Sarah Ross, NSCC
DECATUR Division

PO1 Jesse West, NSCC
LITTLE ROCK Division

PO1 Pamela Fife, NSCC
HOUSTON Division

PO1 Jonathan Hsieh, NSCC
LONG BEACH Division

PO1 Adrian Garcia, NSCC
PAUL REVERE Division

PO1 Jacob Riffe, NSCC
NSCC-14 C-BEE STINGERS Battalion

PO1 Benjamin Hastings
NSCC-14 C-BEE STINGERS Battalion

PO1 Joshua Maye, NSCC
CENTRAL MARYLAND CORSAIRS Squadron

PO1 Marcus Valencia, NSCC
POINT DIVIDE Division

PO1 Kenneth Worthington, NSCC
TRENTON Division

PO1 Thomas Toole, Jr., NSCC
NSCC-14 C-BEE STINGERS Battalion

PO1 Jonathan Allison, NSCC
LONE STAR Squadron

PO1 Christopher Pewitt, NSCC
LONE STAR Squadron

PO1 Hugo Spinoza, NSCC
LONE STAR Squadron

PO1 Collin Meador, NSCC
LONE STAR Squadron

PO1 Michelle Woods, NSCC
SAN BERNARDINO Division

PO1 Ernest Tostado, NSCC
GHOST Battalion

PO1 Jordan King, NSCC
TOMCAT Squadron

PO1 Stephanie Cornwell, NSCC
TOMCAT Squadron

PO1 Clifford Borgstedt, NSCC
HOUSTON Division

PO1 Jeffrey Hawkes, NSCC
AMERICA Division

PO1 Robert Scherer, NSCC
HOUSTON Division

PO1 Jessica Vance, NSCC
SPRUANCE Division

PO1 Matthew Valencia, NSCC
POINT DIVIDE Division

PO1 Robert Hodgson, NSCC
BARQUE EAGLE Division

PO1 Grace Roman, NSCC
DEALEY Division

Administrative Items

ENS Evelyn Tadle, NSCC

Promotional Material

For repeat promotional material request, please allow 3 months before placing a repeat order. We have a limited supply on hand to serve the entire country.

Considered having your Cadets create their own unit promotional material. Have them create a flyer on brightly colored standard size paper to distribute in your area with your unit's specific activities and contact information listed. Most office supply stores will give a discount to a not-for-profit organization if you purchase the ream of paper at their store. Nothing sells the unit better than a teenager inviting another teenager to join in their activities.



Uniform Ordering

When placing orders, you may either fax or mail the NSCSUP 002 form to NHQ. Complete one form only for all members of the unit. We cannot process individual orders. Do not send payment when placing the order. Please provide a street address as shipments will not be made to a Post Office Box. When the shipment is sent to you via UPS, an invoice will be included with it. **The invoice will be folded and taped to the side of box # 1 of your shipment.**

Please send your check payable to Naval Sea Cadet Corps at NHQ Arlington, Virginia within 45 days of the date of shipment of the order. It is important that units pay the uniform bill in a timely manner as this is reflected in the unit's Annual Inspection Report. To new COs, we understand that delinquent payments are not a result of your oversight; however, it is still imperative that prompt action is taken to resolve the unit's pre-existing issues. Please contact Rsilva@Navyleague.org regarding questions or payment.

Enrollments

Please note that the **Duplicate I.D. Card fee has increased to \$5.00 each**. Requests with incorrect fee will not be processed. When sending in checks for enrollments, please send one lump sum check for all Cadets being enrolled and one lump sum check for Adult enrollments. Please do not send one check per enrollment. When possible please send a unit check.

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Administrative from Page 3

Monthly Activity and MARS Reports

Monthly Activity Reports are due on the 15th of the following month of the report. MARS Reports are due within 60 days of receipt. Either may be returned via mail or fax to NHQ at (703) 243-3985. If faxed it is not necessary to mail a hard copy. Please mark your changes clearly in red or mark "no corrections required and return promptly.

- Unit members who transfer to another unit are recorded as "dropped by the old unit".
- The new receiving unit must "add" them to their MARS report.
- Proof of course completion must be faxed or mailed for OPD record update.
- Please make note when a Cadet transfers from NLCC to NSCC
- Please submit NSCADM009 to NHQ for all Cadets leaving the program.

If one report is for two units, please clearly list both unit and T.S. names.

Insurance - Accident & Liability

When completing an accident report, please remember to be specific and include *all relevant details* concerning the accident. All pertinent blanks must be completed. Please send report ASAP to NHQ.

If needed and when requesting a *Certificate of Liability Insurance*, please remember to include all required data, i.e. name and address of certificate holder, their fax number, to whom should it be addressed and needed time period. Please contact: Cooney@Navyleague.org with any questions.

Unit Websites

Unit websites must be approved by the NSCC - Internet Development Group (IDG) before we can add the link to our website. It is not automatically done. Send requests to NHQ and we will submit the requests to the IDG.

Officer Midshipmen Study Guide

NHQ does not mail completion letters for passing subject guide. Completion letters are issued automatically when they take and pass the test online.

Promotions for Officers

Promotion requests **must** go through the Chain Of Command for LT and LCDR. Please do not send directly to NHQ. Promotion or new enrollments for WO, ENS, and LTJG that **do not require a waiver** may be mailed directly to NHQ rather than via the Chain of Command, if permitted by directive from your HQ Representa-

Naval Sea Cadet Testifies Before Senate Committee

It's not unusual to see someone in uniform testifying before the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee during the annual Defense Budget Appropriations cycle. Usually the witness is an Admiral, General or a top government official. On Tuesday, May 17th Senator Ted Stevens, Chairman and Senator Daniel Inouye, Ranking Democrat, convened a session for public witnesses regarding the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Budget input. The person in uniform on that date was wearing the uniform of a Naval Sea Cadet Corps Chief Petty Officer – high school senior Michael Silver from the Ben Morrell Naval Sea Cadet Corps Battalion in Port Hueneme, California. Cadet CPO Silver spoke on behalf of the entire Corps. CPO Silver was accompanied by the National Headquarters Liaison Officer, CAPT Robert Hurd USN (Ret.) and was escorted by his unit Commanding Officer, LCDR Vahan Manoogian NSCC. There were over 20 witnesses testifying that afternoon, the majority being Presidents and Directors of organizations partially supported by Defense appropriations, which included numerous retired military flag officers.

CPO Silver requested support of the \$2,000,000 request to assist individual Sea Cadets offset out-of-pocket costs for summer training. He gave a brief overview of the Corps, including his personal experiences during the six years he has been in the program, stressing the value of the training he has received which has helped to mold his life in recent years and has led him to the decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps upon graduation.

Congress has provided a portion of the \$2,000,000 requested over the past five years, ranging from \$1,000,000 in FY 2001 to the FY 2005 appropriation of \$1,700,000. Last year the members of Congress urged the Navy to fund this program for future years. The Corps budget sponsor, the Navy Recruiting Command, has informed Congress that they will fund the program from existing budget line items for FY 2006 at the FY 2005 level of \$1.7 million and will include the Corps in their five year defense plan (FYDP) at the original \$2 million level. CPO Silver asked that Congress appropriate an additional \$300,000 for this year to bring the level of support back up to the \$2M level.

The members of the Committee were highly complimentary of CPO Silver's presentation and indicated their support for this request as well as their congratulations for his service in the Corps. They made a point of congratulating him on his decision to join the USMC. CPO Silver stressed to the Committee that those Sea Cadets who choose to enter the Services following high school graduation enter the Service as highly motivated and well prepared young men and women who have a very high degree of success during their military careers. CPO Silver's presentation was time constrained by Committee rules, and he ended his presentation by indicating that time precluded his sharing those stories that CAPT Hurd shared with their staffs during the year, pointing out acts of courage, community service and successful youth development of his fellow Sea Cadets as well as of those ex-Cadets so gallantly serving in our armed forces. He indicated that these stories are regrettably the youth stories that they don't always read about in the press.

In closing he thanked the Committee for the opportunity to testify and on behalf of the entire Sea Cadet Corps, he expressed appreciation for their support for this fine program that has meant so much to him over the past six years – and which will continue to influence him for the rest of his life.

Last year the NSCC was represented at these hearings by Naval Sea Cadet PO1 Kyle Daly from Maryland, then a 16 year old high school sophomore with aspirations to attend the Naval Academy. Following CPO Silver's presentation, Chairman Stevens indicated to CAPT Hurd that the Committee will most likely continue its support for the Naval Sea Cadet Corps program "as long as he keeps bringing such outstanding young Naval Sea Cadets to testify."

Note: The entire text of the official testimony submitted for the record can be found at: <http://appropriations.senate.gov> and clicking on "Hearings/Testimony – May 17, 2005)

The Congressional Award – America's Award for Youth

Several Commanding Officers have asked whether or not Naval Sea Cadet activities can count as qualification for the Congressional Youth Award.

Congress has a special award's program for youth ages 13-24. The program is cumulative and covers the areas of volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness and an expedition/exploration event. CAPT Hurd has met with the program Director in Congress and has determined that almost everything Naval Sea Cadets do in the program can be applied towards achieving this award.

The award has six levels leading up to a Gold Medal which is awarded by your Senator at an annual banquet in Washington, D.C. The levels, from lowest to highest are: Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates followed by Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals.

To earn the lowest level, the Bronze Certificate requires 30 hours of volunteer public service, 15 hours of personal development, 15 hours of physical fitness and a one-day expedition or exploration activity. As an example, attending "boot camp" will cover all areas for this award except for the volunteer public service – which is often provided by unit activities. There are certainly physical fitness activities there, and everything you learn at boot camp falls into the area of personal development. Just going to boot camp qualifies for the "expedition/exploration event." The hours are cumulative (through age 24).

The actual Congressional Award medals (gold, silver and bronze) can be viewed at www.congressionalaward.org. These medals are the type of medallions which are suspended on a ribbon, placed around the neck, similar in appearance to those types awarded at Olympic ceremonies.

While the Congressional Award represents a significant achievement and is certainly a prestigious honor, the actual medals themselves are not considered appropriate, and will not be authorized, for wear with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps uniform.

CAPT Hurd has confirmed that unit Commanding Officers, or their designated representatives, can serve as the required "adult advisor" for this program. There is a one-time registration fee of \$15.

Anyone interested in participating in this program can find out more information and/or register online at www.congressionalaward.org. If you do participate, let them know that you are a Naval Sea Cadet and are participating concurrently with the program.

If there are any questions concerning applicability of a NSCC activity for purposes of award achievement, CAPT. Hurd will work directly with their Washington Office to resolve any questions.

National Awards

The following are the national NSCC winners and sponsors for 2004:

John J. Bergen Trophy

Best NSCC Unit in the Nation
NSW-Team Trident, sponsored by Southern Okeechobee
County Sheriff's Office, FL
LCDR Marshall Muros, Commanding Officer

Morgan L. Fitch Trophy

Best NLCC Unit in the Nation
Training Ship Turk Powell, sponsored by Southern Miami Navy
League Council, FL
LCDR Manuel Perez, Commanding Officer

George S. Halas Trophy

Best Combined NSCC/NLCC units in the Nation
Enterprise Division / Training Ship Turk Powell, sponsored by
Southern Miami Navy League Council, FL
LCDR Manuel Perez, Commanding Officer

Navy League of Canada Challenge Trophy

Most Improved NSCC Unit in the Nation
James B. Stockdale Division, sponsored by Empire Central New
York Navy League Council, FL
LCDR Peggy Farnsworth, Commanding Officer

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Top Hatters Squadron, sponsored by Mid-Atl. Hampton Roads  
Navy League Council, VA  
LCDR William Gallagher, Commanding Officer

#### Anthony H. Murray Sr. Seaman Award

Most Advancements to Seaman During the Year  
Spruance Division, sponsored by Southern Fort Lauderdale  
Navy League Council, FL  
LCDR Alan Starr, Commanding Officer

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Twin Cities Squadron, sponsored by Great Lakes Twin Cities
Navy League Council, MN
LCDR Keith Larson, Commanding Officer

Scholarships

The Scholarship Selection Board met and announced the following 2005 winners:

Morgan & Helen Fitch Scholarship Fund:

\$5,000 SN Kelsey L. Paras - CLEVELAND Division, OH

NLUS Stockholm Scholarship Fund:

\$2,500 CPO Michael D. Hoffman - Thomas Jefferson

Henry Lee & Rose Howell Scholarship Fund:

\$2,500 PO2 Matthew W. Edgmon - LITTLE ROCK Division, AR
\$2,500 CPO Margaret E. Stoneback - LEHIGH
\$2,000 PO3 Julian Arnaud - PHOENIX Division, AZ

NSCC Scholarship Fund:

\$2,000 CPO Jessica L. Hoffman - Thomas Jefferson

NSCC Board of Directors Scholarship Fund - Nick Ricco in honor of Anna Ricco:

\$1,500 CPO Jame McLaughlin - PAUL REVERE Division, CA

NSCC Scholarship Fund - LCDR Gary Young:

\$1,500 PO3 Margaret R. O'Toole - TOP HATTERS Squadron, VA

Robert & Helen Scharf Hutton Scholarship Fund:

\$1,000 PO1 Kristin R. Larson - TWIN CITIES Squadron, MN

USS Bole (DD755) Junior Officers (1961-1963) Scholarship Fund:

\$1,000 PO2 Ryan Miller - FALCON Division

Alternate(s):

Cadet Jacob R. Godchaux - DIABLO Squadron, CA

Congratulations to all the recipients!

A special thanks to the Commanding Officers and the sponsoring organizations for investing their time to encourage their nominees to enter the competition.

Cadets Get 'Leg Up' on Counterparts

Friday, April 08, 2005

Story and photos by JO2 David Van Scoy - Navy Compass

Weeklong training session at Medical Center aids in choice of career field

SAN DIEGO - Thirty-one Sea Cadets, a majority of them expressing interest in the medical field, descended upon Naval Medical Center San Diego last week for a jam-packed, weeklong training session aimed at showing them what being a surgical technician entails.

The training, the first of its kind to be offered to the cadets, incorporated the use of a human brain, a leg and bovine eyes for the high school students to get a better grasp of anatomy. A trip to the Naval School of Health and Sciences (NSHS), and the Vivarium, a place to research animals, was also in part of the week-long course.

Despite that it was Spring break and being put in some awkward positions, such as around a table with a detached human leg, the cadets were eager to learn. Doctors from the medical center made incisions to open up the foot and knee and directed the students to tug on tendons to show how strong they were.



Cmdr. Charles Merbitz, MC, points out a tendon in a human leg to visiting Sea Cadets. The cadets participated in a week long training session at NMCSD to enhance their medical knowledge.

the students to tug on tendons to show how strong they were.

At first, 17-year-old Brittany White felt a little strange about the 62-year-old woman's leg that lay before her, but really identified with the different parts of the knee. "I had minor knee surgery in November," said White, a native of Southbury, Connecticut. "I had built up scar tissue, so to actually get to see it and touch it too; it was a kind of creepy, but I'm actually glad I did it because it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience." White, who was personally informed by Rear Adm. John Mateczun, commander, Naval Medical Center, that she had been awarded a medical Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship for Northeastern University, said she had heard nothing but positive feedback from the other cadets. White said she is going to be a nurse, a longtime dream of hers.

Fifteen-year-old Andrew Marsiello, a resident of Staten Island, N.Y., expressed his interest in the brain, which he said was his favorite element of the training. "You don't get to see one of those dissected everyday," said Marsiello, adding that he too plans on joining the Navy's medical team in the future. "To see the inside and how everything came apart, it was very interesting." The brain had come from the same 62-year-old woman, a sufferer of multiple sclerosis.

"So, they actually had the chance to explore the brain of somebody who had a degenerative neurological disorder," said Cmdr. Jacqueline Rychnovsky, NC, Nursing Research and Analysis Department, who also serves as the cadet Coronado Battalion commanding officer.

Rychnovsky said that cadets are offered medical training on a regular basis, but nothing compared to what these cadets learned.

[See Leg Up, Page 8](#)

Torpedo Hits U.S.S. Buttercup in High Seas, Cadets Save Ship

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Story by Kristian Gove

NEWPORT - Two torpedoes smacked the ship's steel hull and thousands of gallons of water rushed in below deck. Cold water quickly filled the small space as several teenagers, struggling against intense water pressure, tried to stop the flooding. The water swamped in nearly to the ceiling, up to the necks of most and over the heads of others. They struggled in the frigid water, some diving under several feet to plug cracks that gushed water at an unfathomable rate. Organized chaos filled the quarters; condensation ran from light fixtures and a rubber duck floated by a porthole window. Then someone pushed the stop button. The water, which smelled like chlorine not seawater, slowly drained out of the USS Buttercup, a US Navy wet trainer used to train sailors in the skills of damage control.

The teenagers were actually members of the US Naval Sea Cadets Corps, based at Quonset Point. The Sea Cadets are a group that gives 11- to 17-year-olds a taste of Navy life. The Cadets train with the US Navy and the US Coast Guard on real ships and wear official uniforms. Located inside a building on the Newport Naval Base, the USS Buttercup is a wet trainer that is an exact replication of quarters inside a real ship. Except the Buttercup is actually just a few 'rooms' sitting in a giant pool of chlorinated water that operators can 'sink' and can simulate serious damage, like torpedo hits or an iceberg ramming.

Typically the Navy uses the trainer for sailors who are actually in the Navy. The Cadets, however, have acquired special access, as the group is one of only two US military sponsored programs. The primary use of the simulator is to train sailors in proper 'damage control' aboard any ship. Since the USS Forestall accident, damage control has become a major training facet aboard ship. The aircraft carrier Forestall, which is docked next to the carrier USS Saratoga in Newport, suffered heavy loss of life and damage when a Zuni rocket was fired accidentally on the deck of the ship, killing 134 on board and wounding 161 in 1967 off the coast of Vietnam.

Damage control incorporates the containment of shipboard fires as well as heavy flooding as a result of attack or accident. Recently the Sea Cadets got their chance to test their own ability to plug up a sinking ship. According to the Buttercup's crew and instructors, the Cadets held their own pretty well. While 13 Cadets participated in a training session two weeks ago, there was an instructor/safety staff ratio of about one red-shirted instructor to three students, including two EMT's just 'on-shore'. Safety, according to Damage Controlman First Class (DC1) Jon Presley, is Job One.

"If you get a paper cut in this classroom, we want to know about it," Presley said. "If you get hit with a four-by-four piece of wood in the trainer, we want to know about it." Presley paused for effect during an intensive pre-trainer classroom session. Presley added, "Training pain is the same as real pain." Once inside the trainer, instructors Presley and Interior Communications First Class (IC1) Matt Bennet, who survived a real, life-threatening accident when his ship was broadsided off the coast of South Carolina, swam about the quarters as Cadets tried to plug up holes and seal broken pipes.

The Cadets used an elaborate structure of four-by-four wooden planks to hold bulkhead doors closed, buckets and clamps to seal holes, and something called a Jubilee Pipe Patch to seal off pipes that needed to be repaired, but could not be shut off, like the fire main. Once a repair was made, the Cadets were to post a watch on those repairs to make sure fixes stayed fixed. In the confusion of rushing water, loud noises, and a soundtrack of doom blasting through speakers out of sight, the occasional cadet would move to the next broken pipe or gushing crack to try to help. Most often however, once that cadet left his watch, the fix 'somehow' worked its way back open, usually by way of sneaky instructor.

[See Torpedo, Page 7](#)

One Dousing Drill Navy Sea Cadets Feel the Power of Rappahannock

Monday, June 13, 2005

Story by Emily Battle

Sea Cadets learn firsthand that a river can be powerful and dangerous

The bright-blue raft drifted steadily toward rough water as five kids struggled to climb its slippery sides and paddle it safely to shore along Fredericksburg's Riverside Drive. Grabbing a yellow rope to pull herself in, 16-year-old Terissa Culhane became the first member of the group to flop triumphantly into the inflatable boat.

She immediately grabbed 13-year-old Mike Buffum's life jacket and yanked him into the raft with her, and the pair gradually hauled their friends out of the water. That might sound like river fun gone wrong, but Culhane, Buffum and a dozen or so other young people had come to the Rappahannock River on Saturday morning to learn a little about swift-water rescues. The adolescents—ages 11 to 18—are all members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a program run by the Navy and the Coast Guard. It gives middle and high school students a chance to learn about military life, but doesn't obligate them to serve.

Fredericksburg is home base of the Sea Cadet Corps' Pentagon Division, which draws members from Alexandria to Charlottesville. One weekend a month, some 26 members meet at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3103, near the river, at Princess Anne Street and the U.S. 1 Bypass in the city.

During the weekend sessions, which resemble the drill sessions that National Guard members and reservists commit to, the young cadets have a workout and then a lesson, which could be anything from first-aid training to career lectures from business owners or government officials.

On Saturday, John Nunnally, a lieutenant with the Fredericksburg Fire Department and father of one of the cadets, gave the group a beginner's course on the power of the river. His lesson was timely, considering that lots of Fredericksburg-area residents start enjoying the Rappahannock more as the weather warms.



Pointing their legs downstream, Sea Cadet members Valerie Perry (left), 14, Trevor Harlow, 15, and John La Mere, 14, are swept by the current through a swift-moving stretch of the river. The weekend course taught youths how to safely float down rapids.

Keith Steiner, 16, pulls a fellow Spotsylvanian, Zachary Murphy, 12, to shore using a throw rope. Mary Margaret Payne of the Fredericksburg Rescue Squad supervised the rescue training.



Whether they're taking the plunge from Diving Rock off Fall Hill Avenue or wading in from one of the area's riverside parks, swimmers and bathers keep rescue workers busy in the summer. Last summer, two men drowned in the river just below the Falmouth Bridge. Neither was wearing a life jacket. Nunnally said that with an average current of 3 to 6 mph, the Rappahannock around Fredericksburg can make lifting a swamped canoe as hard as picking up a 672-pound weight. "If you get caught between a rock and a swamped canoe, you're going to turn into less than a pancake," he told the cadets. Nunnally took the cadets to the Rappahannock's shore on Riverside Drive and led them through several rescue drills. While one group practiced getting back into a capsized raft, other kids threw rope bags—the No. 1 tool in river rescues—to partners who pretended to be victims.

The cadets got a firsthand look at how quickly the current can accelerate when Nunnally led them up Fall Hill Avenue to a spot called First Drop, where they waded into the water wearing shoes, clothes and life jackets. Floating on their backs with their feet up and pointed downstream, they let the river take them through two small sets of rapids back to the bank on Riverside Drive.

As the rapids approached, the pull of the water grew stronger, and the rocks hidden below the surface seemed to come out of nowhere, producing cries of, "Ow, my tailbone!" from some of the cadets. John LaMere, a Riverbend High School student who participated in Saturday's lesson, said he thinks more people should understand how powerful the Rappahannock can be before they wade in with minimal swimming skills. "The main thing is to prevent drowning so people just need to be aware," the Spotsylvania student said.

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On their first try, the Cadets, only two of which had been to the trainer before, took too much time making repairs, and operator Damage Controlman First Class (DC1) Matthew Pierce made the Buttercup list dangerously by pushing a few buttons in an adjoining - and dry - control room, where onlookers could get a close-up view of the action. The second try was much more successful. Despite the chaos, rushing water, and confusion, the Cadets appeared to be in good spirits and more than willing to participate in everything from asking questions in class, to helping the Machinist Mate Third Class (MM3) Daron Mangan coil up the fire hoses after the session. One female cadet, who seemed shy in class, simply attacked the pipe patch during the exercise and sealed it off from the rushing water.

Commanding Officer CWO-2 David Kerwood heads up the Sea Cadet program, which sees enrollment from all over Rhode Island. Participating in the USS Buttercup wet trainer program were Apprentice Cadet Garrett Plath, Apprentice Cadet Kevin Cordoba-Llano, Able Cadet Caleb Comstock, Seaman Apprentice Derek Elswick, Seaman Apprentice Jennifer Lee, Seaman Apprentice Holly Anderson, Seaman Apprentice Ashlee Snow, Seaman Josh Spearin,

Seaman Timothy Wahl, Seaman Joseph Kerwood, Seaman Ben Pino, Petty Officer Third Class Patrick Kerwood, Petty Officer Third Class Mercedes Wilkins. In addition to Kerwood, the other adult leaders at the training were Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Gen Guimond, Instructor John Spearin and Instructor Denise Wahl.

The Sea Cadet program involves numerous activities from training programs like the Buttercup to sail training to participating in travel programs. Those who sign up for Sea Cadet training are not required to serve in the military. According to Kerwood, about half of the graduates do. Those who do, could receive advanced pay scales, or accelerated promotion. This summer, the US Naval Sea Cadets will host the International Exchange Program as part of the International Sea Cadet Association where member associations from numerous countries will attend a two-week program from July 24 to August 6, 2005 at Quonset Point.

For more information about the Sea Cadet program, contact David Kerwood by telephone at 401-932-2396, by e-mail at contact@riseacadets.org, or visit the web site at www.riseacadets.org. The US Naval Sea Cadets of Rhode Island is a nonprofit organization.

Sea Cadets Lend a Hand Locally

CAPE NEDDICK - Young men and women dressed in camouflage have been a familiar site at White Pine Programs education center in Cape Neddick. Cadets from the Atlantic Seabee Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, who wear modified U.S. Navy uniforms, have been assisting with the construction of a traditional lodge at the local nature-based learning center. "Our partnership with White Pines has been a win-win situation, we have been able to help the center with construction for the new lodge, and they have provided our cadets with a valuable hand-on learning opportunity," said ENS David Shaw, executive officer of the cadet unit.

The lodge, inspired by those built by the Mandan Indians of the Great Plains, will serve as a community gathering place for educational activities such as processing acorns to make flour, making traditional wild-crafted mats and baskets, and story-telling. It will also be used to provide children, teens and adults participating in overnight programs at the facility with a covered shelter in case of inclement weather.

Cadets have been involved throughout the building process. They helped clear brush and prepare the lodge site, harvested saplings and trees to construct the rafters, collected stones for the foundation and local grasses for thatching, and hauled tools and materials to the remote woodland site. Cadets are now assisting with roof construction, the final stage of the project. "The cadets' help on the Mandan Lodge project has been invaluable. They exhibited an impressive work ethic and self-discipline," said Amy Beal, a member of the board of directors at White Pine. "We are so grateful for their willingness to help on this project."

Cadets gained hands-on experience with a number of different power tools and were also given instruction on primitive fire-making and other wilderness survival skills as thanks for the help.

Located at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, the Atlantic Seabee Battalion is part of the National U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a nonprofit organization that aims to introduce youth to Naval life, to develop in them a sense of pride, patriotism, courage and self-reliance. In addition to regular local drills held on the first and third Wednesday night and the last Saturday of each month, cadets participate in two-week-long summer training programs, including recruit, airman, medical and SEAL training. They also participate in regional training, community service projects and special events.

Learn more about Sea Cadets at www.jrseabee.com or the national program Website at www.seacadets.org. Young people, age 11 to 18, interested in joining the unit can contact Commanding Officer Lt. Sean Norton at scnign@comcast.net or (603) 778-8572.

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Because of the fast pace and graphic nature of the training, she asked senior, more mature cadets around the country to participate. The cadets, apart from the basic parts of training - such as donning a gown and gloves, or learning CPR - were privy to what many doctors and hospital corpsmen don't get the chance to experience, she said, adding that she hopes this training continues in the future.

"Even the doctors that have given us tours come up to us and say that they never had the chance to do the things we've done, so they were very happy for us," White said.

Other training sessions the Cadets participated in throughout the week were dissecting a lamb heart, suturing, dissecting bovine eyes, viewing a live surgery and conducting surgery on a patient simulator (\$5 million dollar man).

"I learned more here in three days than I did in an entire semester of Biology," said Margaret Stoneback, from Allentown, Pa.



Sea Cadet Brittany White was personally notified of her selection to receive an NROTC scholarship by Rear Adm. John Matexzunn, Commander, Naval Medical Center.

Important Web Sites

Share these sites with your friends:

<http://resources.seacadets.org>

<http://www.seacadets.org>

<http://compass.seacadets.org>

Being an American Soldier

Little River, North Carolina - Pinehurst Pilot

The Sea Cadets of CITIZEN Division participated in the Company A 1-252 Armor ceremony in Parkton on Sunday, June 12th. Several cadets presented the colors.

Each soldier received a folded flag encased in walnut with two coins on the front. They also received a set of lapel pins, which the soldiers pin on their spouses for their continuing support.

During this ceremony, soldiers read poems about their time spent in Iraq and what being an American soldier and what freedom means to them. They also gave a special tribute to a soldier who was wounded in action.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps

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Send e-mail submissions to:
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