

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

SEAFARER

October 2023 • No. 6

SPOTLIGHT: U.S. MARINE CORPS

TEST YOUR LIMITS

From Sea Cadet to Marine, Page 14





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**WORDS FROM RADM ANDREW LENNON, USN (RET.)
SEA CADETS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Ductus Exemplo. While most are familiar with the Marine Corps motto, *Semper Fidelis*, always faithful, I want to remind you of another Marine Corps principle: *Ductus Exemplo*, lead by example. To me, ductus exemplo is the foundation of all leadership. It's a challenge to behave and perform as well as or better than those you seek to lead. Setting a good example is no easy task. When we think of Marines, we may conjure up notions of racing into a battle and continuing to fight when injured. Perhaps we think of cold and muddy troops crawling through barbed wire while carrying heavy packs or parachuting into a dark forest behind enemy lines. The leader is in the thick of things encouraging fellow Marines to fight on.

For most of us, *ductus exemplo* does not involve mud, barbed wire, or a heavy pack; but setting an example is still a challenge and requires courage. At Sea Cadets, we take pride in building leaders of character, and self-reflection is an important part of that. We should ask ourselves, "Do we speak well of our teammates when others are spreading rumors? Do we hold ourselves to the high standards we want our shipmates to meet? Are we as punctual, organized, prepared, and squared away as we want our team to be? Do our social media comments weaken the corps or build up people?"

I hope that Sea Cadets gives you a chance to become a better leader. I'm certain that every member of our team from coast to coast has frequent opportunities to be a good example.

Ductus Exemplo.

THE SEA CADET SEAFARER • October 2023 • No. 06

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF

Sea Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Gregory Peters, NSCC
of the Harlan R Dickson Division in Londonderry, New Hampshire

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8 Sep 23

Dear Sea Cadets,

For more than six decades the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps has provided young men and women opportunities to experience teamwork and what it means to serve. Your elite organization has provided a disciplined environment that builds confidence, invaluable life skills, and knowledge. The values of service, commitment, respect, and honor that you have learned as a Sea Cadet will guide you throughout your life.

Sea Cadets have gone on to lead successful careers in corporate America and within our Armed Forces. It is a great honor to see so many Cadets make the commitment to continue service to our Nation while serving in the Navy and United States Marine Corps. Not every Sea Cadet will qualify or make a commitment to serve in the military, but I have seen firsthand how the experiences and life skills learned as a Sea Cadet transition well within our military ranks. In fact, one of my best friends is Major General Jason Bohm, who is a former Sea Cadet and an esteemed leader in our Marine Corps.

You are the future leaders of the United States of America! I thank all Sea Cadet Corps leaders, volunteers and Cadets for your commitment and willingness to volunteer, serve, and uphold critical values of our Nation!



Semper Fidelis!

William J. Bowers,

Major General

Commanding General

Marine Corps Recruiting Command

CHARTING MY PATH TO SERVICE

ARTICLE BY:
LTCOL W. GEORGE DRAGAN, USMCR (RET.)



Pictured: The author officiating at USMC Birthday Ceremonies, November 10, 2005.

Looking back on my 23-plus years of service as a Marine Corps officer, I'd have to say the start of that service in many ways began twelve years before I was commissioned when I joined Training Ship Enterprise of the U.S. Navy League Cadets, then out of Stirling, NJ, at age 11. At 14, I transitioned to the USS New Jersey Division of the Sea Cadets, which by then had moved to Bridgewater, NJ., and remained highly active with them--along with my father, my brother, and two of my three sisters, until I aged out as a midshipman.

My father's service in the Army Air Corps of World War II had already inspired my love of all things military, but joining the U.S. Navy League Cadet Corps gave me an outlet, focus, and real-world adventure with our naval sea services. As with everything in life, you get in return that which you put into it. Immersing myself 100% into the Sea Cadets not only enabled me to enjoy seven years' worth of opportunities and adventure that my peers could only dream of, but also set a pattern of self-discipline, personal motivation, and perseverance that would help me obtain an appointment to and graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy and put forth my best efforts as a Marine Corps officer knowing that giving anything less would be a disservice to our nation.

Take every advantage that the Sea Cadet program offers you. I encourage you to spend your summers with its summer training offerings to participate in the real-world Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard as I did. Doing so will give you a sense of service to something higher than yourself and set lifetime patterns of self-discipline, professional growth, and service to others.

God bless and *Semper Fidelis*, cadets!



Pictured: The author on pre-Deployment Exercise Mojave Viper Twenty-nine, 2006



Pictured, from left to right, top to bottom:

(1) Author about to set sail on the USS Juneau.

(2) Author with his oldest son, Andrew, at Parris Island, South Carolina, boot camp graduation.

(3) Author at Crossroads Checkpoint, Camp Viper, Iraq, late March 2003.

(4) Author with his son, Alex, at his USMC Commissioning, May 2020.

(5) Author with his sister Daria, a former Sea Cadet, and our executive director in Charleston, SC, circa 1993.

(6) Author with Scout Observer Subic Bay, Philippines, February 1988.



DEDICATION AND TRIUMPH

ARTICLE BY: LCPL JESSICA NAGEL, USMC
CURRENTLY STATIONED AT MCAS IWAKUNI JAPAN

My voyage into the armed forces commenced as a Sea Cadet from 2011 to 2016, culminating in my graduation as a Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer, an achievement I hold with great honor. My commitment to the program has continued since 2016, manifesting in active volunteering.

Early in life, a fervent aspiration to serve in the military was instilled within me, staunchly supported by my parents who enrolled me in the Sea Cadets. At the age of 13, I joined the Paul Revere Division in Norco, California. Under the mentorship of MGySgt Jason Williams, USMC, my unit was immersed in comprehensive learning about the Marines, encompassing the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), land navigation, rappelling, and the Marine Corps Combat Fitness Test (CFT).

My years in Sea Cadets were enriched by diverse trainings including Search and Rescue, Seabees, Petty Officer Leadership Academy, and staffing Sea Cadet Recruit Training. Particularly, the Sea Cadet International Exchange to the United Kingdom in 2016 left an indelible mark on my Sea Cadet journey. Notably, I clinched the title of Sea Cadet of the Year at the unit and regional level in 2015 and carved my place in history as the first female member of my unit to ascend to the rank of Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer in nearly two decades.

Post high school graduation in 2016, my dedication to service remained steadfast, leading me to channel my efforts into volunteering with Sea Cadets. Over the years, I've actively participated in various capacities,



A MARINES' JOURNEY AFTER SEA CADETS

providing mentorship and training to new cadets, along with managing the unit's social media and recruitment. This journey culminated in my enlistment in the Marine Corps in 2021, where I excelled, graduating in the top 10% of my recruit training company and then later assuming the role of squad leader at Marine Combat Training (MCT).

Upon achieving excellence in Air Traffic Control school, securing the second position in my class, I was posted to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, where I presently serve as a tower controller. My responsibilities encompass ground control operations, facilitating seamless communication between American and Japanese pilots, to ensure their safety in the airspace. Additionally, I have demonstrated leadership through roles such as squad leader for Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar and class commander for Water Survival Advanced course, coupled with training as emergency police backup in the Security Augmentation Force.

Furthering my dedication to Sea Cadets while stationed at Pensacola, FL, I contributed my free time to the re-establishment of the Independence Squadron, imparting knowledge in close order drill, color guard presentation, and assisting in recruitment events.



The invaluable skills honed through my Sea Cadet experience have consistently set me apart within my peer group and fueled my unwavering passion for volunteerism. Recognized for my contributions, I earned the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2022, honored to be selected for the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Color Guard team, and later recognized as Marine of the Quarter in the summer of 2023 for MCAS Iwakuni.

It is with great conviction that I share my narrative, hoping to inspire aspiring Sea Cadets with an interest in aviation and the Marine Corps, urging them to persevere in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S. 2023

SEA CADET SN BRIAR LAMBLEY, NSCC GULF EAGLE DIVISION IN FLORIDA

S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S. was a one-of-a-kind experience. The instructors and cadets created such a collaborative, uplifting environment that inspired me to challenge myself. Even when faced with arduous scenarios, working as a team and respecting each other's roles developed skills and memories that will last a lifetime. Specifically, hiking to the bluff, finishing setting up our system, seeing everything come together, and getting to rappel down Edward's Point was so special. Although the view was unique and spectacular, it was a reminder of all the hard work and synergy that went into making it happen.

SEA CADET SN KALLYN MOORE, NSCC MICHIGAN COMMANDERS BATTALION IN MICHIGAN

S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S. mountain rescue training has given me a new perspective on a lot of things. One of the many things I learned is to think outside of the box, that anything is possible with just a few pulleys. S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S. is not just about learning how to rappel off a 200-foot bluff, it's about working as a team. The first time you step off that bluff, you're going to be scared out of your mind; but knowing that your teammates have your back, you're going to have the experience of a lifetime. Even if you're not interested in pursuing a career in mountain rescue, the things you learn from your instructors and your teammates will stick with you forever.

SEA CADET PO3 VISHWA DURGAMPUDI, NSCC AMERICAN VICTORY DIVISION IN FLORIDA

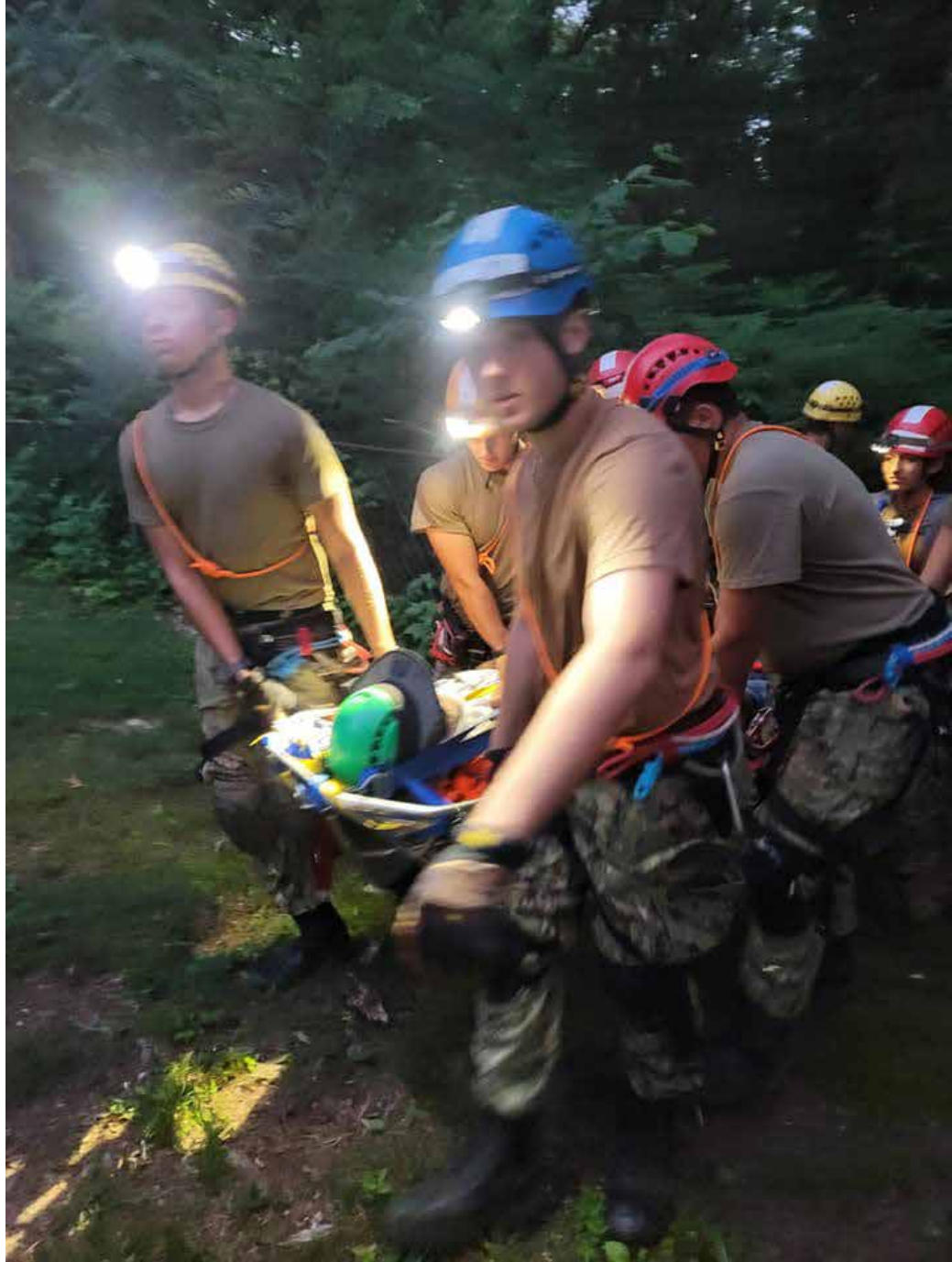
I had heard of S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S. training from cadets in my Sea Cadet unit, and they described it as being really fun. I also read about it in the Sea Cadet Seafarer Magazine. The training really lived up to all the stories I heard and read about, from rigging to rappelling. All of the amazing places and people at the training made it one of the most fun experiences I've ever had in Sea Cadets.

SEA CADET PO1 COLBY TOWNSEND, NSCC CHARLOTTE DIVISION IN NORTH CAROLINA

S.E.T.R.O.P.E.S. mountain rescue training has been one my favorite trainings because it was such a real-world experience. At the training, we learned how to set rock climbing anchors, complete high or low angle rescues, rappel, and lots of different knot tying techniques; but more importantly, we learned the value of teamwork. It was really hard on our first day setting up all the rock climbing anchors, because each of us was trying to complete the various tasks as individuals. Once we learned to work as a team and eventually delegate tasks, the anchoring setup and rappelling went much faster and smoother. In a real-world scenario, working efficiently and effectively as a team will ultimately increase a victim's chance for survival.







FROM SEA CADET TO MARINE

**ARTICLE BY: SEA CADET ALUMNA COLLEEN PETERS
FORMERLY OF THE HARLAN R. DICKSON DIVISION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Joining the Sea Cadet program was one of the best decisions I made. Just being a part of it gave me so much that I am grateful for. Not only did I experience endless opportunities and a variety of events, but I was also introduced to another version of myself that I never knew was there. Overall, I became a more mature, better behaved, and a more confident young girl who has now blossomed into a United States Marine.

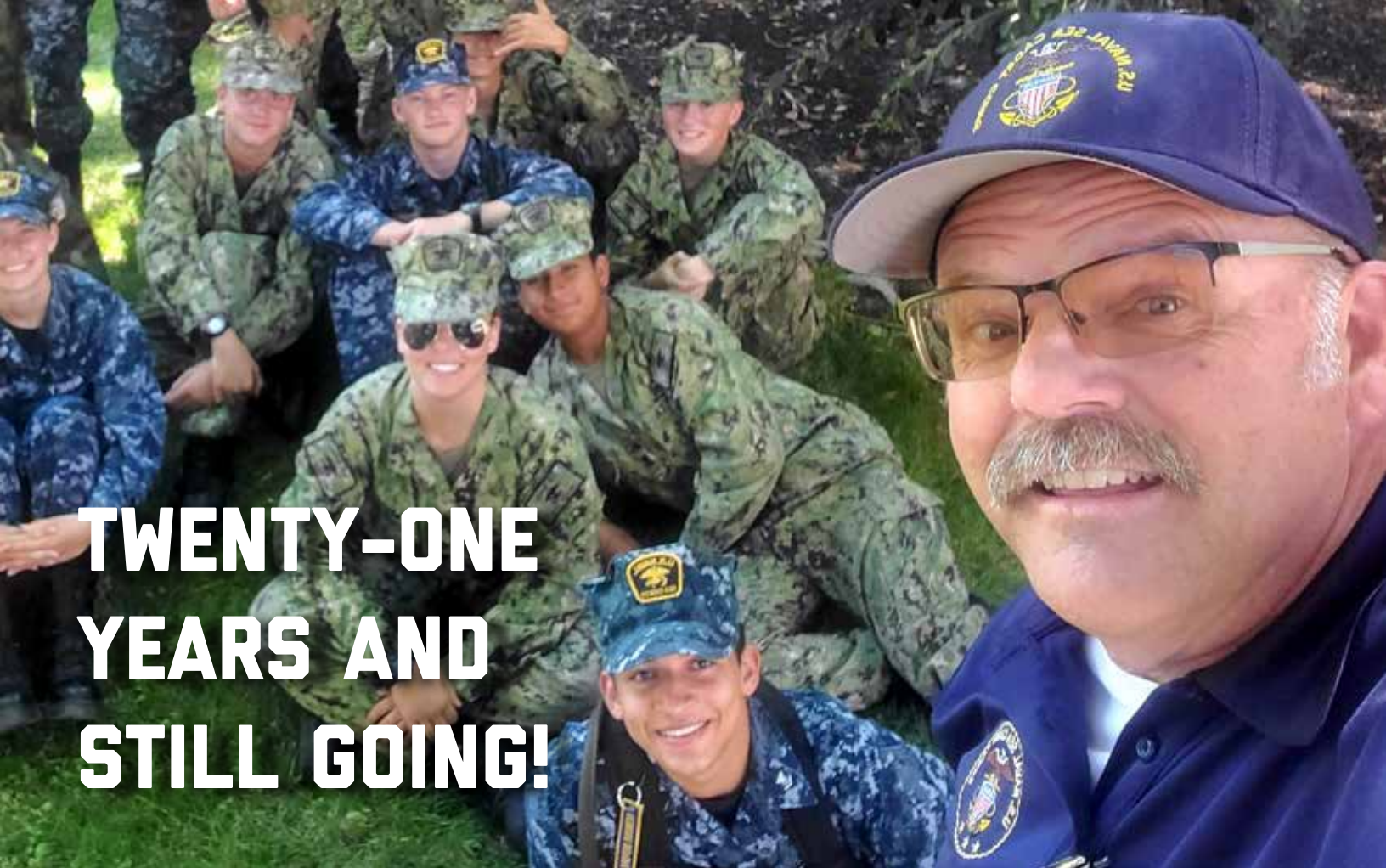


Because of the Sea Cadets, I was 100% prepared going into the 13-week USMC Recruit Training; and because of my experience in the Sea Cadets, I was able to hold myself to higher standards than most and graduated one of the top of my class. I was even able to help out my fellow Marine sisters along the way. As most know, the military is male-dominated and females have to work twice as hard just to prove they are capable of standing alongside males. To be able to push past those standards and outdo a majority, if not all, the males now and then was (and is) an indescribable feeling of accomplishment.

I wouldn't be where I am today without the Sea Cadet program, and it will always have a special place in my heart. Whether the end goal is military, college, trade school, or the workforce, I highly recommend the Sea Cadet experience because it's truly life-changing.







TWENTY-ONE YEARS AND STILL GOING!

**ARTICLE BY: LCDR ERIC THIESSEN, NSCC
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGION 12-06 IN CALIFORNIA**

I'm a high school principal and many people ask me why I work with youth. I enjoy it because I like to work with young people, and I really enjoy logistics and organizing events. I've been a volunteer in the Sea Cadet program since April 2002, and my delight is in introducing cadets to what it's like to be in the U.S. Navy. One example is Sea Cadet Airman Training at NAS Lemoore in Lemoore, CA.

At the training, we have cadets up early for breakfast and a foreign object debris (FOD) walkdown afterward. They spend the day in the squadron shops learning about the F/A-18 Super Hornet airplanes and what it takes to keep them flying. The cadets crawl all over Navy fighter jets, assist in airplane maintenance, and assist in prepping jets for flights. In addition, we

let them have some of the fun sailors enjoy, like swimming in the pool, bowling, and going to the movies. The days are long, but very rewarding.

Introducing teenagers to airman training is a small part of what I enjoy doing as a U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps adult volunteer. I tell people that most of our cadets come to us with aspirations of joining the military. What better way to see and learn if the military is right for them than to have them experience an introduction into different military (or even civilian) career fields.

LEAGUE CADET FINDS STRENGTH FROM WITHIN

ARTICLE BY: LTJG STEVEN ENFIELD, NSCC
FROM MAJOR BRENT R. TAYLOR BATTALION IN UTAH

League Cadet Annabelle Contard, who recently turned 10 years old, proudly marched with her fellow shipmates on a 1.2-mile uphill hike enroute to the Camp Williams base rappel tower in Bluffdale, Utah. At the top of the hill, she saw the giant rappel tower and was given the thumbs up to climb. She quickly took to the 3-story flight of stairs; and with the return call of "on belay," she was ready to begin her descent. So high above the ground, she wasn't sure about taking the first step. She stood on the ledge waiting for courage to take hold. Retired Army Command Sergeant Major Webb quickly

went to work harnessing himself in preparation to tandem rappel.

This young League Cadet, with the encouragement of Sergeant Major Webb, made it safely to the ground and the air filled with cheers and clapping from her fellow shipmates. She had tackled her fear and smiled from ear to ear. Sea Cadets is about charting your course, testing your limits, and finding your courage. League Cadet Anabelle Contard successfully did all three!





SEA CADETS: A PIPELINE TO SUCCESS

**ARTICLE BY: FORMER CAPT NICHOLAS HANE, USMC
FROM BRYCE CANYON DIVISION IN CALIFORNIA**

In 2000, the Sea Cadet program sent four cadets to Portsmouth, England as part of the international exchange program. I was lucky enough to be selected. Two weeks with the Royal Navy and Marines meant living on a training ship and meeting hundreds of Sea Cadets from England, Scotland, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Poland. Then we toured London for 3 days. This culminated my Sea Cadet experience that already included winning our region's flagship competition several times with the Bryce Canyon Division, playing with the Marine Corps Band in Quantico, Virginia, master-at-arms training in Kings Bay, Georgia, 3 weeks working at the U.S. Coast Guard station in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and learning amphibious assault on Coronado Island, California.

If your goal is personal success, travel, and life experiences that don't come from a screen, then the Sea Cadets can provide that. Join Sea Cadets early and make it a priority. Sea Cadets focuses on physical fitness, but also numerous technical skills and complex leadership. Take every opportunity to grow your knowledge base and practice leadership. Leadership requires the ability to plan. Cadets should, under the guidance and mentorship of the adult volunteers, organize unit trainings to build their leadership and planning skills. Also, go to as many Sea Cadet training events as you can.

I attended The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, starting in 2001, and one of my good friends from the Bryce Canyon Division simultaneously went to Annapolis. After 3 combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan in the United States Marine Corps, I was a Captain who commanded over 550 Marines. Eleven days

later after leaving the USMC, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill paid for me to go to law school. My academic success at The Citadel, my leadership ability as a Marine officer, and my time management skills as an attorney all stemmed from my years in Sea Cadets.



FIELD OPERATIONS – TRAINING LEADERS

**ARTICLE BY: SEA CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ANNA O'DELL, NSCC
FROM PATRIOT DIVISION IN OKLAHOMA**

This past summer, 3 Sea Cadets from Patriot Division, Oklahoma, attended the field operations training in Missouri. Field operation training tests your ability to work under very stressful, dirty, and physically challenging conditions. Everything the cadets went through was either mentally or physically taxing, often both simultaneously. To succeed, teamwork was essential!





SUPPORT SEA CADETS ON GIVING TUESDAY!

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TUESDAY**
NOVEMBER 28, 2023



Without you, we cannot conduct our vital program, transforming the lives of the thousands of young men and women we serve each year.

More than 7,000 young men and women participate in our program each year, learn in a disciplined environment, and live our Sea Cadet core values of honor, respect, commitment, and service. **Cadets across 325 units** attend monthly unit drills and participate in exciting activities such as robotics, cyber security, medical training, SCUBA, search and rescue, and more.

Your continued partnership will help shape these young lives and strengthen our commitment to nurturing future leaders who embody the values of discipline, honor, and service.



Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving. We're humbly asking for your support. **We have a goal to raise \$25,000.** We appreciate your donation!

Visit www.seacadets.org/donate-now/ or scan the QR code above to make your gift toward our Giving Tuesday goal. If you have any questions about your donation or want to explore other ways to give, contact Jennifer Gregg at development@seacadets.org

Your dedication to Sea Cadets empowers future leaders and strengthens our maritime services for generations. **Thank you again for helping us chart a course of opportunity and growth for young men and women!**

Very respectfully,

Rear Adm. Andrew Lennon, USN (Ret.)
Sea Cadets, Executive Director

SEA CADETS LEADERSHIP SOCIETY



Sea Cadets Leadership Society recognizes donors who give \$1,000 or more in a calendar year. The extraordinary generosity of Leadership Society members enables our cadets to enjoy life-changing experiences and prepare for life as young adults.

Thank you to our Leadership Society Members!*

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SEA CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER LIST

Bravo Zulu to these exceptional leaders of character!
Advancements from **01JUN23 to 30SEP23**



Derrek Bitner	Daniel Leaycraft	Grace Rutherford
Lennart Brigham	Kale Lo	Kaylee Sandell
Roxanne Casey	Hunter Madrid	Kyle Schipf
Adriana Connolly	Vincent Manninen	Jaskaran Shekhon
Augustin Costa	Aidan McAllister	Abigail Slaughter
Evan Crouse	Carter Monaghan	Maximus Summar
Justin Cuevas Riego De Dios	Braxton Nickols	Maximilian Swift
Francis Derollo	Daniel Nixon	Ashley Tan
Alejandro Diaz	Samuel Noonan	Yashita Tanwar
Charles Dubos	Colin O'Toole	Alyssa Theodore
Dakota Furrow	Magdalena Parish	Dylan Tran
Zack Garrett	Dean Phillips	Joseph VanHorn
Elijah Hammond	Kenna Powell	Christopher Velasquez
Carol Han	Cooper Raffety	Joseph West
Elizabeth Holt	Anthony Rakota	Nathan Wrigley
James Jewell IV	Garrett Rees	Nicholas Yagnik
Jake Jones	Christopher Rendon	
Katherine Kim	Jacob Rhude	

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