

A photograph of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter, specifically a buoy tender, with a large red inflatable tube on its deck. A group of U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, including several young men and one young woman, are standing on the deck. They are wearing camouflage uniforms and orange life jackets. One cadet is waving. The cutter's hull number '45629' is visible on the side. The background shows a body of water and a bridge in the distance.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

SEAFARER

SPOTLIGHT: U.S. COAST GUARD

ALWAYS READY

Small Boat Operations

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11 Mar 24

Sea Cadets,

Thank you and Congratulations!

Thank you for learning about the sea-going services of our country. I admittedly knew very little about our Nation's maritime history when I joined the U.S. Coast Guard more than 25 years ago but have grown to admire all those who have gone to sea before me. You are now part of that legacy. The motto of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy is 'Scientae Cedit Mare', which means 'The Sea Yields to the Wise', but the work you are doing as Sea Cadets today does not just smooth the seas; it applies everywhere.

Congratulations for being part of something bigger than yourselves and for taking time away from everything else in our world that calls for attention to focus on becoming the best version of you. The lessons you are learning as a Sea Cadet will pay dividends for the rest of your life, regardless of your next steps. If you choose to join a military service, you will undoubtedly be a step ahead of anyone who did not join your ranks. If you choose a different path, these lessons are still yours and still apply just as well. Every organization needs hard workers, every organization needs leaders, and every organization needs dedicated people – you have all those qualities in excess.

Please enjoy the stories and lessons about the Coast Guard in this issue and enjoy your time as Sea Cadets.



Bravo Zulu and Semper Paratus!

Ben Keffer
Captain
Commanding Officer
Coast Guard Recruiting Command



A low-angle photograph of a young man with short brown hair, looking upwards with a slight smile. He is wearing a light blue polo shirt. Behind him, the American flag is draped, showing the stars and stripes. The background is a clear blue sky.

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**WORDS FROM REAR ADMIRAL ANDREW LENNON, USN, (RETIRED)
SEA CADETS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**




Above: Rear Admiral Mike Johnston, USCG (right), presents a chain link to Sea Cadets. Admiral Johnston and Admiral Lennon (left) signed a memorandum of understanding to ensure the Sea Cadets and U.S. Coast Guard work seamlessly together.

"THE MAIN THING IS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING."

This recommendation from author Steven Covey reminds me to focus on what's important and not to let trivial interruptions consume my time. This advice is more relevant today than ever as there are so many distractions. Without serious discipline, it's hard to keep what I truly care about top of mind.

With a smart phone constantly buzzing and with easy access to social media (You had quinoa for lunch? Great photo!), news feeds (people still disagree), and texting friends (all of whom are having much more fun than I am), it is a real challenge to concentrate on a truly important topic. It's hard to just do what I want to do when everyone else's thoughts are filling my head.

This year I'm trying to minimize devices and give my attention to real people and real books. I'm also trying to be intentional about how I spend my time. Rather than the random, mostly useless information that is fed to me by bots or sent to me by well-meaning colleagues, I will be the one who chooses where my attention goes.

When you "pay" attention, try to think about actually "paying." When you "spend" time, consider the expense. There is a cost, and your attention is valuable. Do not let others steal this valuable resource. When you choose where to focus your attention, you create time for hobbies, relationships, and other things that are important to you. 

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Our Seafarer Magazine is Award-Winning!
2022 28th Annual Communicator Awards
Award of Distinction in Newsletter-Non-Profit
for Marketing/Promotion

SEA CADETS PARTICIPATE IN

**ARTICLE BY: SO-PB MICHAEL BOWSER, USCG AUXILIARY
ENS SARA JACKSON, NSCC AND AUX RYAN ROUSH, NSCC
FROM BATTLESHIP UTAH (BB-31) DIVISION IN UTAH**



On Saturday, 13 AUG 23, two U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps units, Battleship Utah BB-31 Division and the Jake Garn Squadron, attended the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Joint Training OPEX (Operations Exercise) event at Jordanelle Reservoir, Utah. The joint exercise allowed participants to engage in U.S. Coast Guard education, operations, survival systems, telecommunications, and culinary training.

Groups rotated through training stations while receiving guidance from qualified U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members. The OPEX training environment consisted of five operational facilities: an auxiliary communications trailer, a telecommunications training station, a course-plotting station, a survival systems station, and a station providing meals of the day working with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Culinary Chef program.

Leading up to this event, Sea Cadet Battleship Utah BB-31 Division and Jake Garn Squadron had joint drills to reinforce their knowledge on the importance of map charting, land navigation, shipboard terminology, and reference points.

Cadets were taught how to board a ship. (This procedure also follows how most Sea Cadets typically board their drill sites for their monthly drills.) Recalling shipboard terminology helped these cadets be successful when out on the Coast Guard ship.

Cadets participated with cooking and serving meals while also learning and applying proper food sanitation practices. During these opportunities, cadets learned what it takes to prep, cook, and serve a large gathering of people. During chow times, Sea Cadets, Sea Cadet officers, and members of the

U.S. COAST GUARD JOINT OPEX EVENT




Coast Guard Auxiliary had the opportunity to talk with each other, found common interests, discussed what they learned, and talked about their career aspirations. The Coast Guard Auxiliary chef informed the cadets of the opportunity to earn up to \$75,000 annually for cooking and serving shipmates.

During the OPTREX (Operational Training Exercise), countless individuals stated they would love to do more of these types of drills. Fifteen-year old Sea Cadet PO1 David Jackson remarked, "My time during the field training exercise (FTX) with the Coast Guard Auxiliary was amazing! That night, we went over the different types of personal protective equipment (PPE) worn by the Coast Guard and reviewed the importance of navigation lights. When on a reservoir or lake at night, you need to know which navigation lights are needed to stay safe. On the water, one must always remember to wear the proper life-saving gear. I was able to board and man a boat, the Challenger, on the reservoir. The helmsman in charge was James Losi. That evening, my shipmate and I were given the opportunity to go on a night ops mission with Tony Zocchi and his wife. I can't wait until I can go out again. Everything I learned during the FTX can be applied to everyday life."



The Sea Cadets who participated experienced the adrenaline rush from being at the helm of a vessel to feeling the waves crashing against the boat making it rock beneath the bow. For some, it was reigniting the passion of being on the water, aiding civilians in distress, and teaching the importance of navigation lights required to be out on the water at night.



Joint operations implement a hands-on approach for cadets to gain experience in diverse, training utilizing knowledge gained from monthly Sea Cadet drills. Coast Guard Auxiliary members were able to share their seamanship knowledge and skills to recertify themselves in their OPTREX evolution. For some members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, it was the first time they had ever heard of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. It was a wonderful learning experience for all involved. 


CHARTING SUCCESS AFTER SEA CADETS

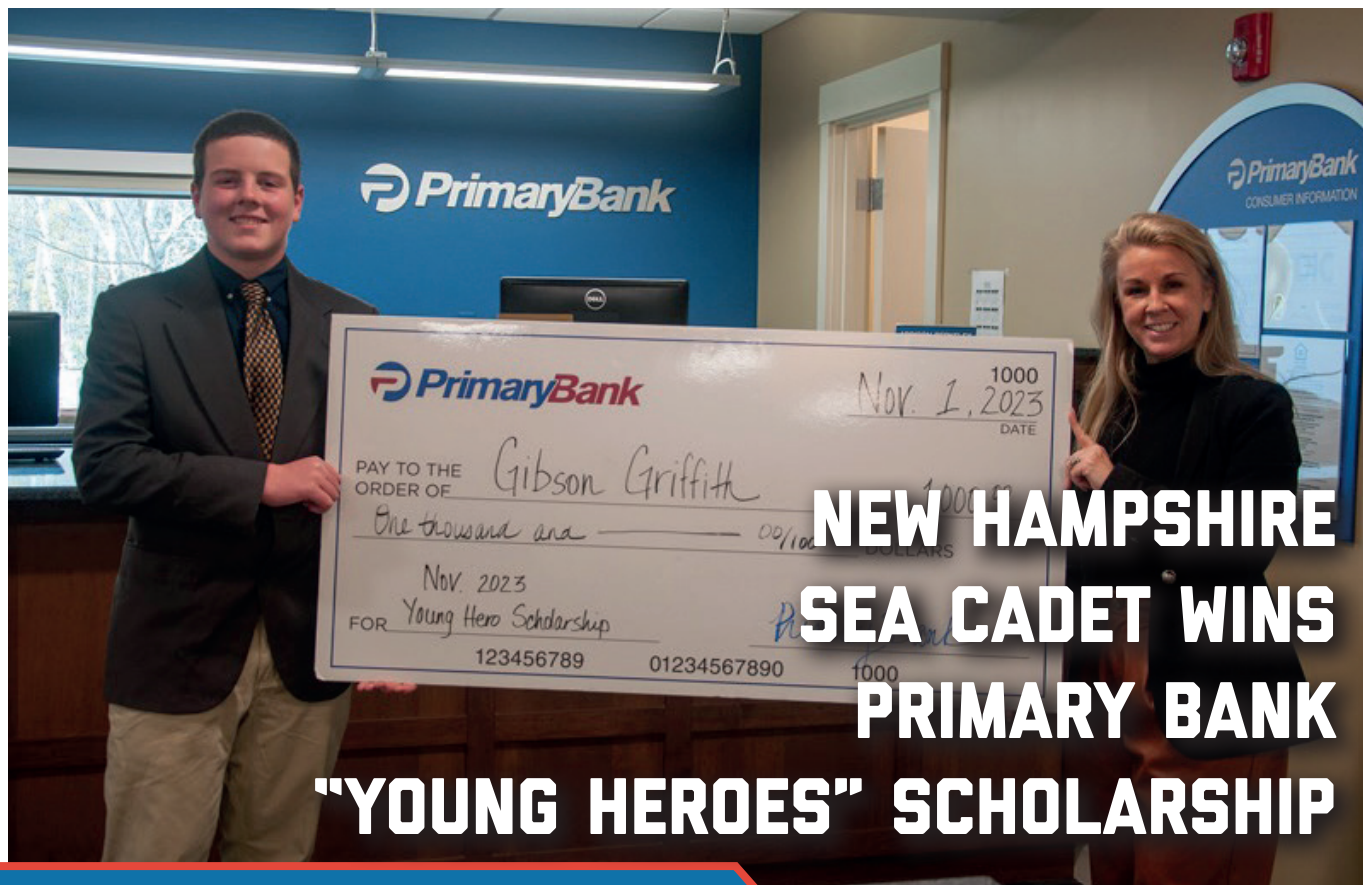
ARTICLE BY: THOMAS MANLEY, SEA CADET ALUMNUS
FROM MASON (DDG-87) DIVISION IN PENNSYLVANIA

**"I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY WITHOUT THE
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT EXPERIENCE I RECEIVED AS
A UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADET."**



I am presently a 3/C cadet majoring in civil engineering at the United States Coast Guard Academy and my sister, also a former Sea Cadet, is a freshmen at the US Air Force Academy. Sea Cadet trainings were an invaluable part of my journey. I learned what it meant to be a subordinate as well as to serve in leadership positions in training new cadets. I had the opportunity to join the Sea Cadets National Public Affairs Committee, Arctic Buoy STEM program, and attend an FAA Pilot Training course.

As a result of my Sea Cadet experiences, I applied and was admitted to five summer programs from the Marine Corps, West Point, Naval and Coast Guard Academies, as well as the American Legion's Keystone Boys State program. Ultimately, I received five separate congressional nominations and three appointments to service academies before deciding on the Coast Guard. I was also admitted to every civilian university I applied to, with the option of choosing from two ROTC scholarships to fully fund my education. I would not be where I am today without the extremely important experience I received as a United States Naval Sea Cadet. 




NEW HAMPSHIRE SEA CADET WINS PRIMARY BANK "YOUNG HEROES" SCHOLARSHIP

ARTICLE BY: SEA CADET PUBLIC AFFAIRS



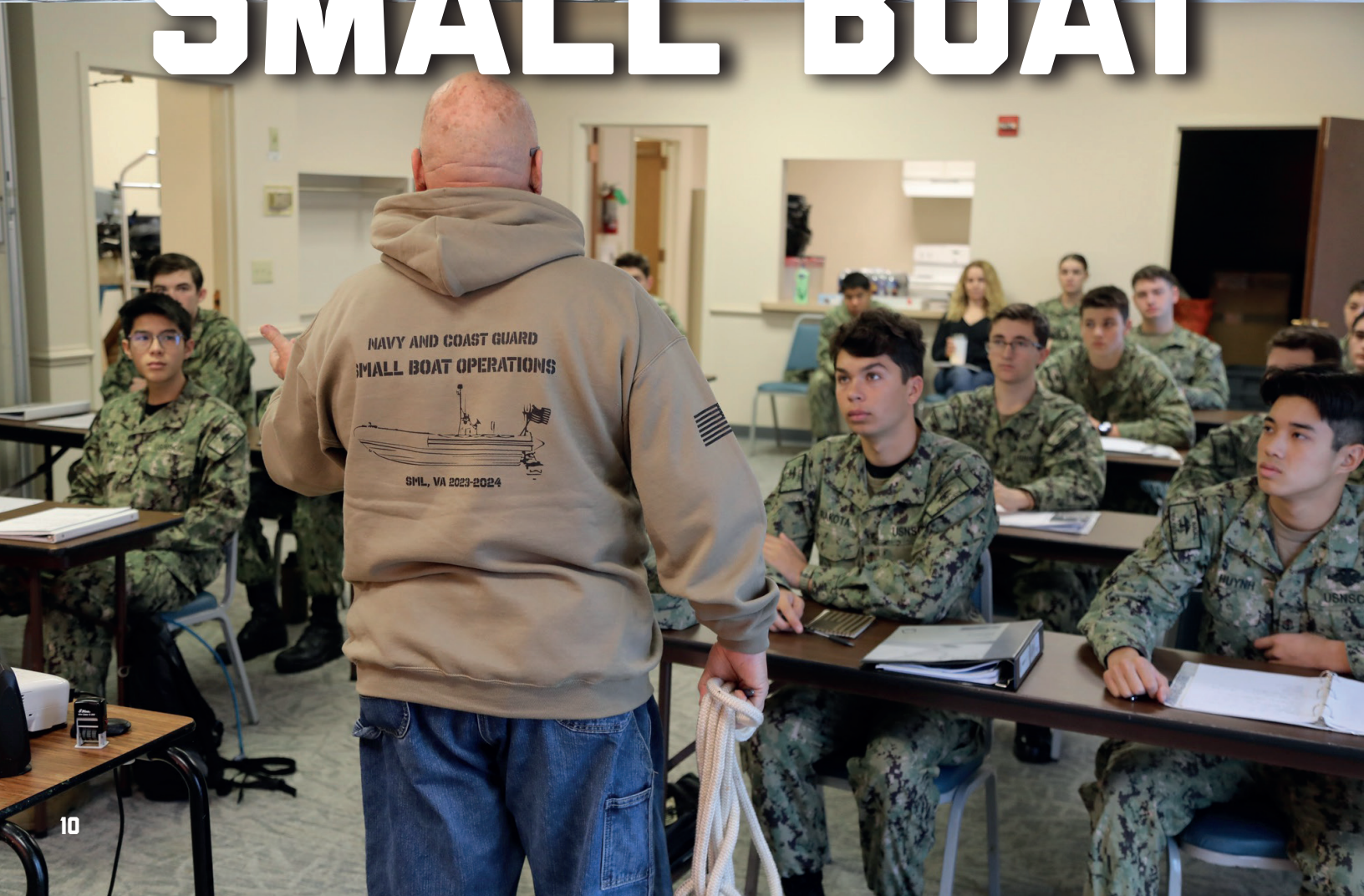
A New Hampshire Sea Cadet has been selected as one of twelve Primary Bank Young Heroes. Each winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship to honor their great work and commitment to service. Primary Bank states that it offers scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,000 to New Hampshire residents between the ages of 14 and 19. This award is based on the merit of applicants' civic and community service.

Sea Cadet PO3 Gibson Griffith is a member of the Dan Healy Division in Kittery, ME and was recognized as the founder and organizer of the group One Kid Can Make a Difference. This group finds opportunities for youth volunteers and offers monthly community service programs to kids and families of all ages. Gibson also gives back to the community through the Boy Scouts of America, the 4-H Program, and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Gibson is among 12 students who are now in consideration for 2 additional awards totaling \$12,500.

We're very proud of Gibson and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. 



SMALL BOAT





OPERATIONS



PO1 JACK RIGGS, NSCC FROM EL TORO BATTALION IN CALIFORNIA

Small Boat Operations is more than picking up a man overboard – which you do learn – but you also learn maritime law enforcement. As a part of the law enforcement training, we conducted scenarios. This is the most fun and also a scary process. You'll have so much fun that you'll never want to quit!

PO2 CASPIAN COLLETT, NSCC FROM TOP HATTERS SQUADRON IN VIRGINIA

The Sea Cadets offers a winter Small Boat Operations Training in Roanoke, VA that I was able to attend. The training focused on the operation of small boats used by the U.S. military, primarily in port and coastal operations, which range from rescuing distressed boats to protecting high value assets.

The W.E. Skelton 4-H Center was our home for 10 days where we met our instructors, ranging from several active duty and former Coast Guard service members to military officers in training. Some of our instructors were former Sea Cadets, who had themselves attended the very same training in years past. One of the core components of the training was our ability to go up to our instructor and ask questions to gain mastery over the small boats, which was recorded by a document known as a personnel qualification standard, or PQS, a requirement for graduation.

**"WE HAD BEEN ABLE
TO PUT OUR NEW
KNOWLEDGE TO THE
TEST IN OUR TRAINING
EXERCISES WHILE
FORGING CAMARADERIE
ALONG THE WAY."**

We spent the first few days learning the basic ins and outs of our boats, learning their operation, and their practical uses by the Coast Guard. We also learned line handling, practiced going on and off the dock, as well as towing. We spent time learning the mechanics of our boats' engines, which had practical use on the water when trying to address engine problems. We applied all these skills to navigate effectively through the waterways of Smith Mountain Lake, our training ground.

One of the major exercises we did at training was high value asset protection. This is essentially protecting a target from enemies, an essential task in the Coast Guard and port security forces. Near the end of the training, we learned how to beach boats under motor power and perform platoon infantry tactics. This led to our ultimate exercise: an amphibious assault nearby. After making an action plan the night prior, we grabbed our charts, jumped into our boats, and motored off for the 30-plus minute journey. We arrived at the island and performed reconnaissance. After that, we quickly landed on the beach. After facing fierce opposition, we secured the island which wrapped up a major portion of our training.

The experience that we Sea Cadets had gained at the training was incredible. We had been able to put our new knowledge to the test in our training exercises while forging camaraderie along the way. It broadened all of our horizons; and for me at a personal level, it made the Coast Guard a possible future opportunity for me. So much occurred during this training, with much more substance than can be accurately described in any article. That is why I highly recommend applying for this training the next time it's held so that you may see for yourself how incredible it is.







ARTICLE BY: JASON DUNOVANT (REPRINTED FROM ROANOKE TIMES)

WIRTZ — Several young adults from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps braved the cold at Smith Mountain Lake recently for a two-week training program focused on instilling skills on and off the water.

The Sea Cadets program was formed in 1958 by the Navy League of the United States. Since then, it has been providing youth between the ages of 13 and 18 with a greater appreciation of sea services and military life.

The program held at Smith Mountain Lake is one of several Sea Cadets training camps held across the country. This camp focuses mainly on small boat operations and maintenance.

“Our goal is to get them to be more confident boaters,” said former Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Adilynn Walker, one of the adult training officers at this year’s program and current Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets student and United State Naval Reserve Midshipman.

The W.E. Skelton 4-H Center in Wirtz has hosted the event for the past few years with cadets traveling from all over the country for the training. This year’s 14 cadets arrived from as far away as Texas, Florida, Ohio, and even California.

Cadets’ days are split between learning in classroom settings as well as participating in activities on the water and on land. The activities teach leadership and teamwork with a heavy focus on boat operation. “We choose this time of year because the lake is empty,” Walker said. The few boaters willing to brave the cold are usually those out fishing.

Using small rigid inflatable boats (RIB boats), the cadets learn how to properly maneuver craft and the mechanics of the different types of motors. Using the skill they have learned, Walker said cadets practice maneuvering beside a vessel to board and apprehend a subject.

Another game played by the cadets involves multiple RIB boats protecting a “high value asset” in another boat. Cadets are tasked with maneuvering their boats to keep away other boaters attempting to get near the asset.

Cadets also learn skills on land as well. Cadets will train clearing areas to assure they are safe from opposition forces. The cadets use replica weapons clearly marked with orange muzzles during the training.

Walker said the training staff keep a close eye on cadets to assure they stay safe and warm. Each of the cadets wears a survival suit that keeps them warm — even if they fall into the water. The waterproof full-body suits are made with elastic around the elbows and knees to prevent cold water from reaching the torso to prevent hypothermia. The suits can also keep the cadets buoyant in the water. All the training culminates with an assault on Lucky Island each year on New Year’s Eve. Walker said the training ends with a large bonfire with cadets enjoying some free time as well as the chance to make s’mores.

Walker, a California native, was also a former Sea Cadet herself. She attended the program at Smith Mountain Lake in 2021. That was one of the more eventful years with heavy snow blanketing the area at the time. One of the days on the water was also cut short due to the rare occurrence of thunder mixed in with the snow. Training is required to stop whenever thunder is heard nearby. Walker is now a sophomore at Virginia Tech enrolled in its ROTC program. She has signed up to join the U.S. Navy as soon as she graduates.

Walker said her time as a Sea Cadet helped to reinforce her interest in joining the military. “Once I arrived, I said ‘Yep, this is for me,’” she recalled of her initial introduction into the program. Walker returned last year as an instructor and plans to continue instructing up until her graduation from Virginia Tech and possibly beyond if the Navy allows it.



**WORDS FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER
OF THE SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS
LT GABE LAMARTINA, USCG
CURRENTLY STATIONED
AT SECTOR LOS ANGELES LONG BEACH**

LAMARTINA IN 2004



LAMARTINA NOW




You wouldn't have heard me talk about the U.S. Coast Guard when I first joined the Sea Cadets in 2004. I was first exposed to the Coast Guard (CG) when I attended a Sea Cadet Master-at-Arms training in Perth Amboy, NJ at a decommissioned CG Small Boats Station. This gave me my first insight into maritime service outside the Navy.

My cousin, who was then a senior chief yeoman at CG Headquarters in Washington, D.C., did a service presentation for my Sea Cadet unit. She recognized my personal interest in the Coast Guard, and her presentation and guidance brought me closer to making the jump towards it. After participating in the Sea Cadet International Exchange Program, I began an appreciation for small boat handling, which was a large part of our Sea Cadet training. It was around this time I knew the Coast Guard was the branch of service I wanted to join as I strongly desired to be a Coast Guardsman.

Coast Guard boot camp was a challenge, but I felt prepared from my experience and training in the Sea Cadets. I started out as a USCG Boatswain's Mate, then made a lateral move to yeoman, eventually commissioning as an officer in the Coast Guard. I loved the multitude of missions the Coast Guard performed, and I couldn't have asked for a better service to join.

The sense of belonging I owed to the Sea Cadets motivated me to give back to the program by becoming an adult volunteer. My most rewarding engagement with the program has been running the Small Boat Operations training and River Reconnaissance (RIVRON) training. It's an opportunity for me to share my professional expertise with Sea Cadets in a high-speed and exciting environment.

These trainings give cadets the chance to operate their own small boats and execute missions just like the Coast Guard. It's extremely rewarding to hear how cadets will consider the Coast Guard as an option for their future and reminds me of how I was like many who aspire for military service, but I didn't know about the Coast Guard option. Their excitement about joining the Coast Guard is evidenced by the large amount of Small Boat Operations training and RIVRON training graduates going on to enlist in the Coast Guard, or get accepted to the Coast Guard Academy.

The Small Boat Operations training staff have been fairly consistent for the last ten years with occasional additions from Coast Guardsman and former Sea Cadet graduates. About half of the staff are former Sea Cadets who had attended this training, including many who joined the Coast Guard. With longevity like this, I expect this training to continue well into the future providing many Sea Cadets with their first taste of what opportunities the Coast Guard can provide to those wishing to continue their adventure from their time in the Sea Cadets. I know I will be involved in the Sea Cadets as long as I am able. 



**"COAST GUARD
BOOT CAMP WAS
A CHALLENGE,
BUT I FELT
PREPARED FROM
MY EXPERIENCE
AND TRAINING IN
THE SEA CADETS."**

AN UNFORGETTABLE VOYAGE

ARTICLE BY: CPO JAYDON ANDERSON, NSCC
FROM AMERICAN VICTORY DIVISION IN FLORIDA

As a Sea Cadet, this training gave me the best and most treasured experiences I've had with the Coast Guard. My shipmate, Sea Cadet PO2 John Humphreys and I learned so much and got to experience things that many who serve in the Coast Guard don't experience too often.

On the first day of training at Station Sand Key, Clearwater, FL, we went on patrol with four other Coast Guardsmen who taught us about the inside and outside of the boat. Later that day, we had the opportunity to drive the boat and learn how to operate it fully. After we got back to the station, we took a trip over to Air Station Clearwater where we got a full tour on both the MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter and the HC-130H Hercules airplane.

By the second day, we learned how to operate the station's communication systems. During lunch, the Search and Rescue (SAR) alarm sounded. We jumped out of our seats, ran to the communications (comms) room, and got firsthand experience on how to react and dispatch a boat team to rescue somebody (that was stuck on rocks with their jet ski). Although we didn't get to go with them as they towed the jet ski to safety, we got to help inside the comms room and learn behind the scenes of dispatch calls.



On our third day of training, we boarded a 45-foot response boat with the Coast Guardsmen and women of Station Sand Key headed to Sector St. Petersburg where we then helped clean our boat.

At this station, we immediately got to go on our first patrol where we accompanied the Coast Guardsmen on a SAR case. We were extremely excited to tag along; however, this ended up being a false alarm, so we had to return to base -- but it was still an extremely exciting experience.


The next day we conducted boat checks with a few of the non-rates at the station, learned some more about what each boat carries, went on a patrol, and conducted basic law enforcement such as asking about life jackets and other mandatory items required on a boat. Later, we received two SAR calls and rode along to both of them. The first one came in around 2100 hrs. -- a call from a 30-ft sailboat with a disabled motor and without an anchor.

MY INSPIRING COAST GUARD TRAINING



We assisted in towing the boat to the nearest safe harbor and tied it up so the crew could get home safely. As soon as we got back to base, another SAR alarm sounded. This distress came from someone reporting an anchored boat dimly lit 5 nautical miles away from shore. We were told to assess the situation; and if needed, tow the boat to shore as that night the water would be reaching 10-foot swells. Once we got to where the boat was reported, we couldn't find it and returned to base by 0230 hrs.

We slept in a little longer than we typically do at training, attended a Coast Guard full retirement ceremony, and got the opportunity to meet the USCG Vice Commandant Admiral Steven Poulin. After the ceremony, we took a ride on a 45-foot boat with the vice commandant. After we returned to port, Admiral Poulin honored my shipmates and myself with his personal challenge coin. We took many pictures with him.

I would recommend this training to all of my fellow shipmates in the Sea Cadets looking into attending a Coast Guard training or considering the Coast Guard when enlisting or applying for service academies. 



USCGC BARQUE EAGLE SAILING TRAINING



ADULT VOLUNTEER PERSPECTIVE BY: LCDR EDITH O'BRION, NSCC FROM ATLANTIC CITY DIVISION IN NEW JERSEY

I became a U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps adult volunteer in 1993 when my daughter joined the program as a cadet. After her graduation from the Sea Cadets, my daughter sailed on the U.S. Coast Guard cutter (USCGC) Eagle (also known as Barque Eagle) in 1998 as part of her Coast Guard recruit training.

The USCGC Eagle is a 295-foot barque used as a training cutter for future officers of the United States Coast Guard. (Simply put, a barque is a tall ship with 3 or more masts.) While attending my daughter's USCG graduation in New London, CT, I got to tour the

USCGC Eagle and even climb her rigging. I have sent several Sea Cadets to sailing training on the USCGC Eagle, all of whom had wonderful experiences.

Last summer, I escorted four Sea Cadets from across the country on the Barque Eagle from Portland, ME sailing to New London, CT. We were assigned berthing spaces (I later found out that my daughter had berthed in the same compartment I had been assigned, occupying the rack across from mine). The cadets were then assigned to different divisions on the ship. It was close quarters, so you had to learn quickly how to work around each other.

ADULT AND CADET PERSPECTIVES

Our first two days were spent in Portland, and the ship was open for public tours. We attended the "School of the Ship" in the morning before the tours began, were given an opportunity to climb the rigging, and learn a few seafaring basics. On day three, we went underway for New London. The weather was good, but it got a little rough on our full day at sea which led to a bit of seasickness (I fortunately missed that!). Despite it all, we set some sails.

There's absolutely nothing like being under sail! The freeboard (the distance from the waterline to the upper deck level) was only 9.1 feet, so we got splashed by waves coming over the side a couple of times. Although it was still August, the northern Atlantic Ocean was cold! That night, I went out on deck to see the stars, and it was an extraordinary sight.

This experience was the fulfillment of a 25-year personal dream. I learned so much and enjoyed every challenging minute. As an adult, I'm glad I was able to experience it. Never give up your dreams, especially if you're a Sea Cadet or an adult volunteer in the program – the Sea Cadets just might make it possible.



Below: (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Lauren Jorgensen) Coast Guard Barque Eagle crewmember Seaman Steven Kain directs U.S. Coast Guard Academy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officer candidates as they set sails aboard the Eagle.






CADET PERSPECTIVE BY: CPO MAGDALENA PARISH, NSCC FROM THE SULLIVAN'S DIVISION IN NEW YORK

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Eagle (also known as the Barque Eagle) is the U.S. Coast Guard's flagship. The USCGC Eagle is one of only two commissioned sailing vessels (the other is the USS Constitution), and it's currently the only active duty sailing vessel in the U.S. military. The 295 ft. barque's homeport is in New London, CT -- home of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Originally, the Barque Eagle was a German sailing vessel predating WWII. At the end of the war, the U.S. took the vessel as a war reparation. It was re-commissioned into the U.S. Coast Guard in 1946. The tall ship is primarily used as a training cutter for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Four Sea Cadets were given the opportunity to join U.S. military academy cadets, known on board as SWABs, for a five-day sail from Portland, ME to New London, CT. This gave the Sea Cadets a rare opportunity, over the course of the five-day sail, to ask questions and discuss the different programs each of the academies offer. The Sea Cadets were split up and integrated into divisions with the SWABs. The Sea Cadets participated in all the evolutions and stood watches alongside the SWABs. During the training, all cadets went through safety training for climbing rigging, overboard drills, and damage control.

One of the last nights underway, I recall standing the 2000-2400 hrs Helm and Lookout watch. It was rough seas that night with a possible storm ahead. The watch was split up: 2 hours at the helm steering the vessel and 2 hours on the bow standing lookout. While at the helm, I witnessed a pod of dolphins swimming alongside the ship. It was my first-time seeing dolphins out in the ocean. Shortly afterward, we rotated our posts and my shipmate and I were on lookout. The seas had continued to worsen as there were waves coming up over the bow of the vessel, water going up the port and starboard hawsepipes (anchor holes), and water shooting up through the gratings (metal covers on deck). It was so windy, you couldn't stand straight; and if you were standing, you had to hold onto something.

We made it to New London and felt pretty accomplished at what we Sea Cadets had experienced. In my 6 years in the Sea Cadet program, this was one of my favorite, most challenging trainings. 



SOAR AND SAIL

ARTICLE BY:
DUNLAP DIVISION IN ALABAMA

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' Dunlap Division near Mobile, AL is sponsored generously by the Mobile Council of the Navy League of the United States, and these Sea Cadets call the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center (CG AVTRACEN) in Mobile, AL home. Being onboard CG AVTRACEN gives these Sea Cadets unprecedented opportunities, through the Coast Guard Auxiliary, to active-duty personnel as well as unique access to Coast Guard training and equipment.


In the summer of 2023, several Dunlap Sea Cadets trained under Coast Guard personnel on boater safety, while also gaining vital knowledge of damage control systems and being hands-on with Coast Guard simulators at USCG Sector Mobile. Sea Cadet PO3 Jakob Maddox recalls, "I learned how to patch up holes in pipes and in wall leaks. It was particularly intriguing and a great thing to learn about." Following classes with their Coast Guard instructor, the cadets passed the boater safety course and are now working toward their captain's licenses.

The professionalism of these Sea Cadets while training has not gone unnoticed. They were invited by the Fairhope Yacht Club to be part of their committee during the Wadewitz Regatta, and they served as understudy rescue crew for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Of his experience aboard the

commodore's vessel, Sea Cadet SN Burkett said, "We talked a lot about his [commodore] experience. He gave me advice. It was a privilege to work with one of the best captains from the Fairhope Yacht Club."

Aiming high, these Sea Cadets have also set their eyes on the skies thanks to the Coast Guard. In June, they paused from studying flight theory in the classroom to fly alongside Coast Guard instructors in the simulators used to train Coast Guard pilots, introducing them to real-life Coast Guard scenarios. Sea Cadet SA Brewer said, "It was so different than flying in a video game. Now I want to be part of Search and Rescue for real." Similarly inspired, Sea Cadet SR Sledge said, "I hope to one day be a pilot in the military. I feel like I am one step closer to my dream."

Adding fuel to their fire within, Dunlap Division cadets assisted with a fly-in of epic proportions during the holiday season. CG AVTRACEN welcomed Santa Claus aboard an MH-65 Dolphin, and Dunlap Division was there to greet Santa and the crew. Sea Cadet SA Thomas said about touring the helicopter, "The helicopter was cool and having access to the pilot was nice. The overall experience was amazing."

Anchors Aweigh and Semper Paratus! 

ENABLING TWO CAREER PATHS


ARTICLE BY: LCDR JONATHAN HSIEH, USCGR

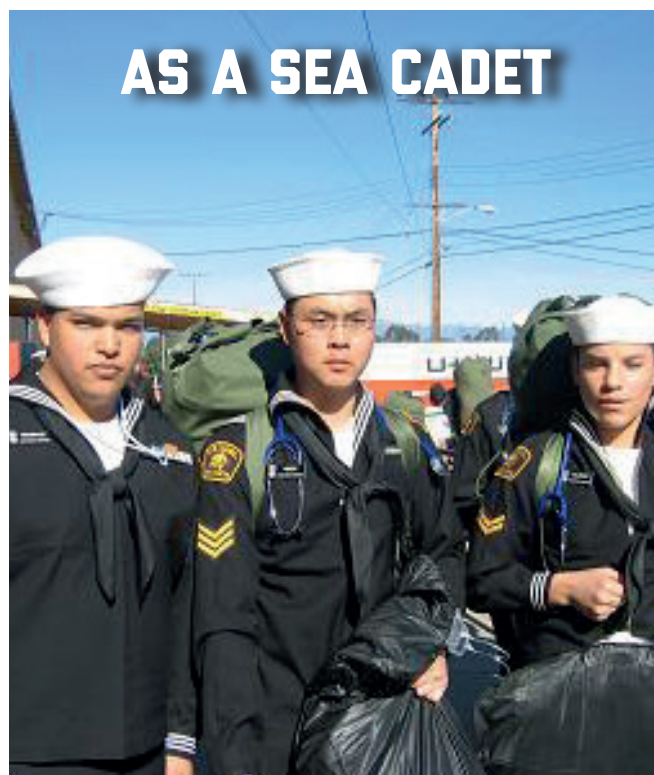
As I graduated from the Sea Cadet program in the summer of 2005, I thought my career path was set in stone. I would attend the California Maritime Academy. After, I'd commission into the U.S. Coast Guard on active duty by 2009 and serve a full 20-year career. However, that wasn't meant to be when I left active duty in 2012. This forced me to quickly figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up. (Isn't adaptability one of those traits they teach you as a Sea Cadet?)

Since then, I've been able to maintain two careers: one in the Coast Guard Reserve and the other in the federal government. In the federal government, I've been involved in data analysis for maritime policy, hydropower safety, and now as a Coast Guard civilian working in recreational boating safety.

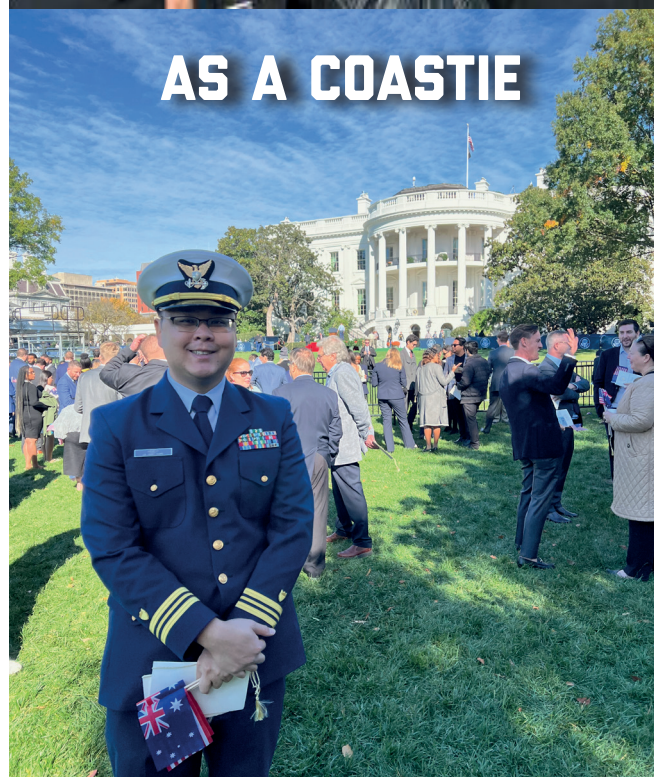
In addition to a fruitful federal career, the Coast Guard Reserve has enabled me to build a second career in emergency and incident management. It has given me opportunities to be mobilized to support national contingencies. During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was mobilized for my skills as a maritime analyst. I have also been afforded the opportunity to study at both the National Defense University and the U.S. Naval War College.

I attribute this crazy adventure to what I learned in the Sea Cadets. Ironically enough, the weekend drill structure of the Sea Cadets helped when I became a Coast Guard Reservist. It taught me the importance of maintaining open lines of communication throughout the month with my members and building friendships and rapport beyond the drill weekend.

Considering college or exploring a civilian career path after the Sea Cadets? Consider joining the Coast Guard Reserve! We consist of around 7,000 Reservists from all different backgrounds and ranks. The Coast Guard Reserve allows you the flexibility to serve in the military and build a military career part-time. 



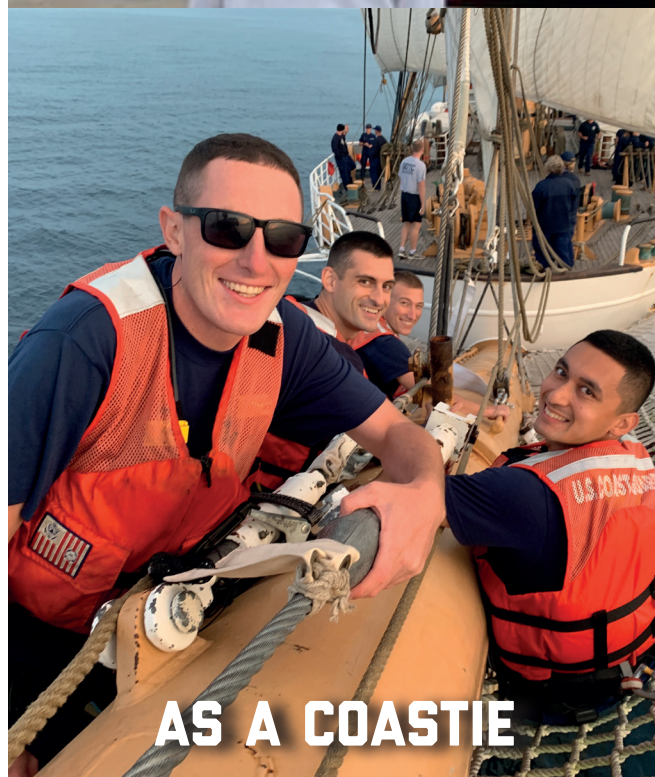
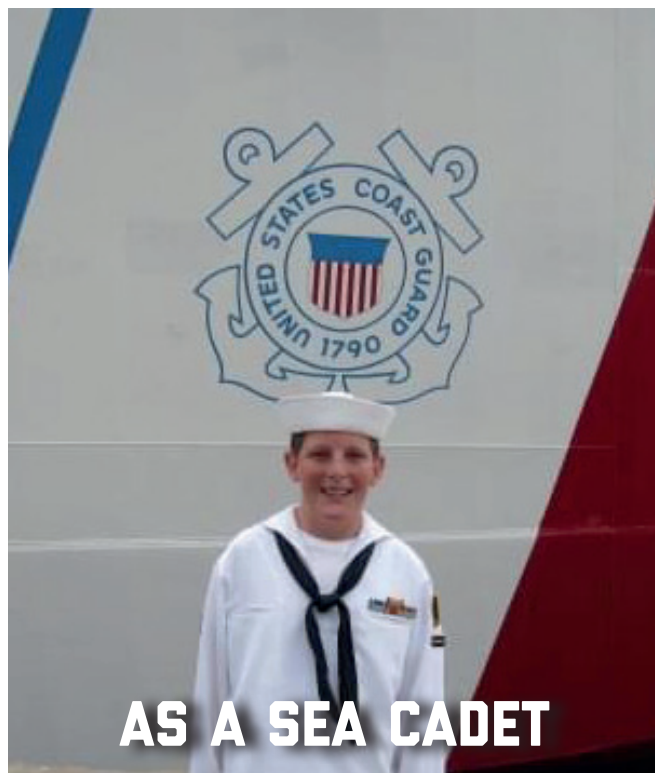
AS A SEA CADET



AS A COASTIE

FROM SEA CADET TO AVIATOR


ARTICLE BY: LT RYAN MCINTIRE, USCG



My journey began in 2007 when, at the age of eleven, I joined the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps as a Navy League Cadet in Western Michigan, eventually advancing to the Sea Cadets. Over the following five years, I had the opportunity to train on a retired World War II submarine, a Coast Guard cutter, and attend training in Washington state, Massachusetts, and Illinois. I originally joined the Sea Cadets dead-set on attending the U.S. Naval Academy. However, my time with the Sea Cadets opened my eyes to the opportunities available in the Coast Guard.

At the age of thirteen, I had the opportunity to spend two weeks at a Coast Guard small boat station in Michigan. Looking back, it was an incredible and surreal experience to live and work directly with small boat crews for an extended period of time. I was shown the capabilities of the station's 25' Response Boat-Small and 47' Motor Life Boat; assisted in basic maintenance, cleaning, and painting; learned about radio communications; and observed helicopter hoisting operations while underway.

Fast forward seven years, and the time that I spent at the small boat station as a Sea Cadet helped shape my decision to enlist in the Coast Guard. The experiences I was able to have at a young age enabled me to observe the autonomy, resourcefulness, and confidence exhibited in even the junior-most members of the Coast Guard. Over the past seven years, I've had the opportunity to be stationed in South Carolina, Illinois, Florida, and Texas. I've been stationed on two cutters, traveled throughout the Western Hemisphere, and am currently at flight school learning to fly helicopters.

My time as a Sea Cadet helped form good habits and character traits that have shaped me into an officer in the Coast Guard. While it may have been unconventional, my experiences in the Sea Cadets have been paramount to my career and will continue to guide me in the future. 

A GLIMPSE AT COAST GUARD LIFE

**ARTICLE BY: PO3 MADILYNN PENNEY, NSCC
FROM COURAGEOUS DIVISION IN FLORIDA**

The Courageous Division Sea Cadets were wheels up and headed to Naval Station Mayport, Ft. Lauderdale, FL by 0530 on Thursday, 03 AUG 23 to view the day-to-day workings of military life. The drill weekend was not an actual training, but more of a learning opportunity and introduction to seeing the up close and personal workings of many different careers.

When we arrived, we immediately jumped into the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Training Facility tour and were able to pilot a simulated ship, experience firearms training, as well as experience a simulated course that actual sailors use to learn about the surroundings of their ship.

After noon chow, we made our way over to the USS Cooperstown (LCS-23) tour where we were shown the Waterborne Mission Zone at the LCS training facility. We got to see the ship's galley and one berthing area. After our tour, we were able to buy some awesome USS Cooperstown merchandise.

We dove head-first into the Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM-50) Squadron tour. We got to meet Commanding Officer (CO) CMDR Katie J. Lunser, USN and Executive Officer (XO) CMDR Jeremy Hall, USN who told us their callsigns and shared their interesting stories with us. Learning about their personal outlook on the military and life resonated with the cadets. I'd definitely say the HSM-50 Squadron tour was one many cadets couldn't stop talking about.



After our day of touring and evening chow, we changed into our bathing suits and PT gear and got ready for an evening at the beach! Honestly, after a day spent with all of your shipmates learning and sharing time with each other, nothing wraps it all together like a two-hand touch football game and lots of laughs in the sand!

The next morning's muster was at 0615. After chow, we made our way to Building 1 of the base and were given the honor of meeting the naval base's leadership, including the commanding officer of the Naval Station Mayport CAPT Brian A. Binder, USN and the command master chief CMDCM Ian Thompson, USN, who gave a meaningful speech on the history of the base and its future along with what leadership meant to them. After our short meeting, we were given the opportunity to do morning colors for the base itself. Performing morning colors with Courageous Division Lead Petty Officer, Sea Cadet PO2 Jakob Southerland, was an honor.

We moved on to the Military Working Dogs (MWD) demonstration. It was so cool to see how well-trained the dogs were, especially after learning that the owners weren't their forever partners. Each serviceperson switches, depending on where they're stationed, so they can get different experiences with different types of dogs. Watching the demonstration, you could tell that each dog respected its owner as well as the other way around.

Our next tour was the Firearms Training Simulator (FATS), something that all the cadets were really excited about! We were able to use the training 9 mil firearm, including the Sea Cadet adult volunteers, along with the Armalite Rifle (AR)-10, all under close, one-to-one direct supervision. It was super fun to test our accuracy.

Later in the afternoon, we went on the USS Sullivans (DDG-68) tour. The ship was named after five brothers from Waterloo, IA, who served



together on the USS Juneau during World War II. After exploring most of the ship, we were able to stop off and see the operations (OPS) room. Almost every question we asked was met with "That's classified."

For our fun evening, Courageous Division went bowling at Mayport's Cosmic Bowling, then, we were back at the hotel to comfortably sleep in our racks.

There was still much more to learn on our last day at NAS Mayport! Sea Cadet RC Aaron Edwards and Sea Cadet SA Julian Perez performed morning colors on the USS Cooperstown. By 0900, we were

already fed and at the USNS Burlington tour and visited the engine room on the ship. Trust me, it was hot! After noon chow, we made our way back to the Navy Lodge and packed for our trip home.

I'd like to say thank you for the support of Naval Station Mayport CO CAPT Brian A. Binder, USN as well as Master Chief Chapin (Instructor, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps), Sea Cadet Commanding Officer Heather Owen of Courageous Division, and all the active military personnel who took the time out of their busy schedules to make time for the Sea Cadets to give us a glimpse at military life. 🇺🇸



DIARY OF A SEA CADET SAILING TRAINING

ARTICLE BY: SN LANA LE, NSCC & PO1/LC6 LENA LE, NSCC
FROM PATHFINDER SQUADRON IN GEORGIA



DAY 1

During our first day of Sea Cadet Sailing Training, Sea Cadet adult volunteer auxiliarist Mr. Lawrence Landrigan provided a brief lesson on sailing. After the session, we were fitted with personal floatation devices (PFD), helmets, and radios. We then learned basic radio communication. We split into groups and went to the docks to board sailboats and get used to the feeling of being on the water. Afterward, we returned to the pavilion to watch a short video about sailboats.

DAY 2

All the Sea Cadets watched educational videos about how to attach the mainsail and the jib of a sailboat. We then had to go on the sailboats and do it ourselves! The guidance of Sea Cadet Auxiliarist Landrigan made it more understandable. My group was the first to sail. When we were on the sailboat, we felt the breezy wind, got to touch the water, and we almost tipped over at times. My group had a great time sailing.

DAY 3

We learned how to drive a powerboat, which included man over-board practices, much like the US Coast Guard. It was my first time, so I was a bit

nervous; but I caught on quickly. The man-overboard practices were also fun. We used a ring buoy in the water pretending it was an actual person drowning. After that, we had to say, "Man overboard!" Driving the powerboat was very thrilling. The Sea Cadets in my group had a great time. Sadly, we had to go in because there was a thunderstorm.

DAY 4

We did some knot tying and learned how to tie various knots like the bowline knot, the figure 8 knot, and many more. We had additional Coast Guard-style instruction in search and rescue, and radio communications. We also learned a different technique to do the search and rescue using the powerboats. The mission was thrilling and fun at the same time.

DAY 5

On the last day of training, we wore our Sea Cadet Navy Working Uniforms (NWUs). Each group had 20 minutes in the boat. The instructors ensured that everyone had a turn. After the boating activity, we proceeded to graduation. It was an exciting moment when we received our awards. Afterwards, we helped with cleanup before heading to the Space Museum. 🚢

MILWAUKEE SEA CADETS' MARITIME MASTERY

ARTICLE BY: PO2 EUAN LACEY, NSCC
FROM NINE ONE ONE DIVISION IN ILLINOIS

We received our training from U.S. Coast Guard personnel with our days starting with PT, followed by amazing chow, and then classroom learning via a well-designed curriculum. Throughout the day, we learned about basic seamanship such as throwing a heaving line, towing a boat, knot tying, and various aspects of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and its mission. The highlight of this training was doing a man overboard drill on the water with a training dummy named "Oscar."

We learned about the various systems and functions of a USCG response boat. Sea Cadets went underway on a 45-foot Coast Guard medium response boat on Lake Michigan, working as a team to rescue "Oscar" out of the water! Another aspect of our training was going to the Coast Guard Auxiliary to do a safe boating course to acquire our Boater's License, which is good in all 50 states. All the Sea Cadets at the training passed the final exam with flying colors!

On the last day of training, we faced the Coast Guard's damage control simulator, which simulates different kinds of leaks on a ship. Our USCG trainers provided us with equipment to stop the flooding on our "boat." This simulator helped us work as a team by communicating effectively, problem solving, collaborating, and ultimately stopping the flood to save our "boat."

I will never forget this incredible experience! It really heightened my awareness of the U.S. Coast Guard and its mission to keep not only our country but also people safe by patrolling and protecting our waters. This training was my best yet in the Sea Cadets! 🇺🇸



COAST GUARD CHRISTENS FIRST OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTER



**ARTICLE BY: U.S. COAST GUARD ASSISTANT
COMMANDANT FOR ACQUISITIONS (CG-9) NEWSROOM**




Above: First offshore patrol cutter (OPC), Argus being launched for the first time.

The Coast Guard christened the first offshore patrol cutter (OPC), *Argus*, on Oct. 27, 2023, and Eastern Shipbuilding launched the cutter into the water for the first time.

Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Linda Fagan described the OPC as a “game-changer for the Coast Guard and for the nation” in her keynote address, adding, “Demand for Coast Guard missions – and cutters that execute them – has never been higher and that demand is global; and this ship will contribute to helping ensure maritime governance and sovereignty across the world.”

The ship’s sponsor, retired Capt. Beverly Kelley, was the first woman to command a U.S. military vessel. The cutter is named for the Revenue Cutter *Argus*, one of the first 10 ships assigned to the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, one of the predecessor agencies that merged to form the modern Coast Guard. The original *Argus* entered service in 1791, two years after the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

The Coast Guard considers the OPC program one of the service’s highest acquisition priorities, stating that it is the best way to fill the service’s need for long-term offshore capability to maintain effective current and future missions. It will replace the existing medium endurance cutters, which are becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and operate. The OPC will provide a capability bridge between the national security cutter, which patrols the open ocean in the most demanding maritime environments, and the fast response cutter, which serves closer to shore.

The OPCs will conduct missions including law enforcement, drug and migrant interdiction, search and rescue, and other homeland security and defense operations. Each OPC will be capable of deploying independently or as part of task groups, serving as a mobile command and control platform for surge operations such as hurricane response, mass migration incidents and other events. The cutters will also support Arctic objectives by helping to regulate and protect emerging commerce and energy exploration in Alaska. 



Above: USCG Commandant
Adm. Linda Fagan.




Right: Sea Cadet Color Guard
at launch of the OPC Argus.



SEA CADETS: A PIPELINE TO SUCCESS



ARTICLE BY: THOMAS DUCEY SEA CADET ALUMNUS
FROM TENNESSEE BB-43 DIVISION IN TENNESSEE

Without the Sea Cadets, I would not and could not be the person I am today. The leadership positions I held in the Sea Cadets brought me to leadership positions outside of Sea Cadets, due to the guidance I was given in the program. The program helps develop sound character. The lessons that you learn in the Sea Cadets will transfer outside of the program and into your future. I would like to thank the Sea Cadets for all the lessons, guidance, and opportunities provided since I joined. 

**“THE LESSONS THAT
YOU LEARN IN THE
SEA CADETS WILL
TRANSFER OUTSIDE
OF THE PROGRAM
AND INTO YOUR
FUTURE.”**

SEA CADET BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

George E. Kovatch

While studying business in college, George Kovatch wanted to do something fun and different during his last summer; something that combined his love for the ocean, so he interned with the U.S. Coast Guard and remained during his senior year. Although they tried hard to recruit him for active duty, he graduated college and chose a full-time civilian position at the First Coast Guard District office in Boston, MA instead. His boss would send George down to the Coast Guard air station to fly in a helicopter or jet as well as go on large ships, small surf boats, and a 110-foot patrol boat in Cape Cod, MA. This was very exciting and even more special because they were the same waters he used to fish with his grandfather.

What got him to join the Coast Guard was the famous perfect storm rescue off the coast of New England on Halloween 1990. He really wanted to go out on the ocean and save lives after that.

George joined the Coast Guard and attended their Officer Candidate School, where he set out to be a Coast Guard ship's captain. He says the great thing about the Coast Guard is that you get some important, hands-on experiences at a junior level. He eventually served as a ship's captain on a 110-foot patrol boat in Miami, FL. After that, he returned to graduate school for his master's in business administration. Once he completed graduate school, he was sent to Washington, DC, where he worked for the Coast Guard Headquarters' chief financial officer.



George had a dual career path for the rest of his career, serving as a financial manager and Coast Guard ship's captain. George served aboard CG Cutters SPENCER (twice), BARANOF, and VIGILANT, patrolling the waters of the east coast from South America to Canada. His last assignment in the Coast Guard was as a fellow on the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee in Washington, DC. That brought him to the 20-year career mark when he transitioned from active-duty into civilian life.

George took the time to answer a few questions and share some advice for current Sea Cadets.

Was it hard to join the Coast Guard after college?

The Coast Guard is the smallest of all the military services, so joining the Coast Guard is very competitive at any level, officer or enlisted.


How do you think Sea Cadets can help you if you want to join the Coast Guard?

Before learning about the Sea Cadets, I used to tell people that if I were to do it all over again, I would have joined the Coast Guard reserves while in high school. Once I learned about the Sea Cadets, though, I changed that to say I would have joined the Sea Cadets at age 10! The Sea Cadets is as great as any youth program, scout program, or summer camp you will ever find, with the added benefits of learning about service to the country and great adventure!

Did the Coast Guard pay for graduate school?

Yes. I had a boss who said, "There are lots of Coast Guard good deals out there, but you have to seek them out." Having the Coast Guard pay for my graduate school was a great program, plus I got to attend what was at the time the number one executive MBA program in the country.

What advice do you have for Sea Cadets considering joining the Coast Guard?

Think a little further down the road about what you want to do for a career. It is a great exercise to take time to see where you picture yourself in 5, 10, even 20 years. Next, I would try to talk to as many Coasties as possible. You will learn a little something from each person you meet. Finally, I would pick the option that gives you the most future options. Life will change. It is great to have a goal and a vision but prepare for change and learn to recognize an opportunity. 

THE SEA CADETS LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

The 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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To learn more, contact Jennifer Gregg at development@seacadets.org

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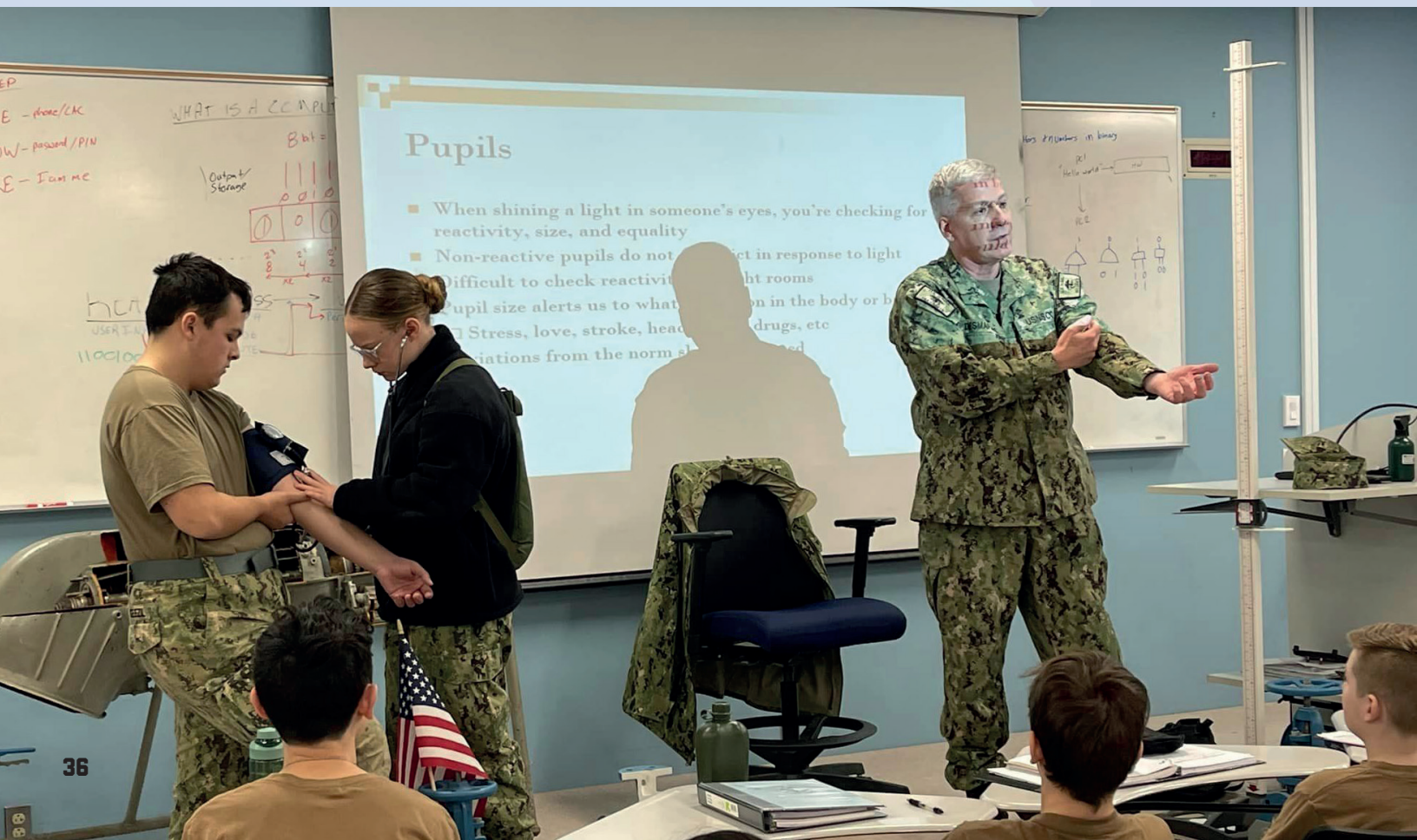
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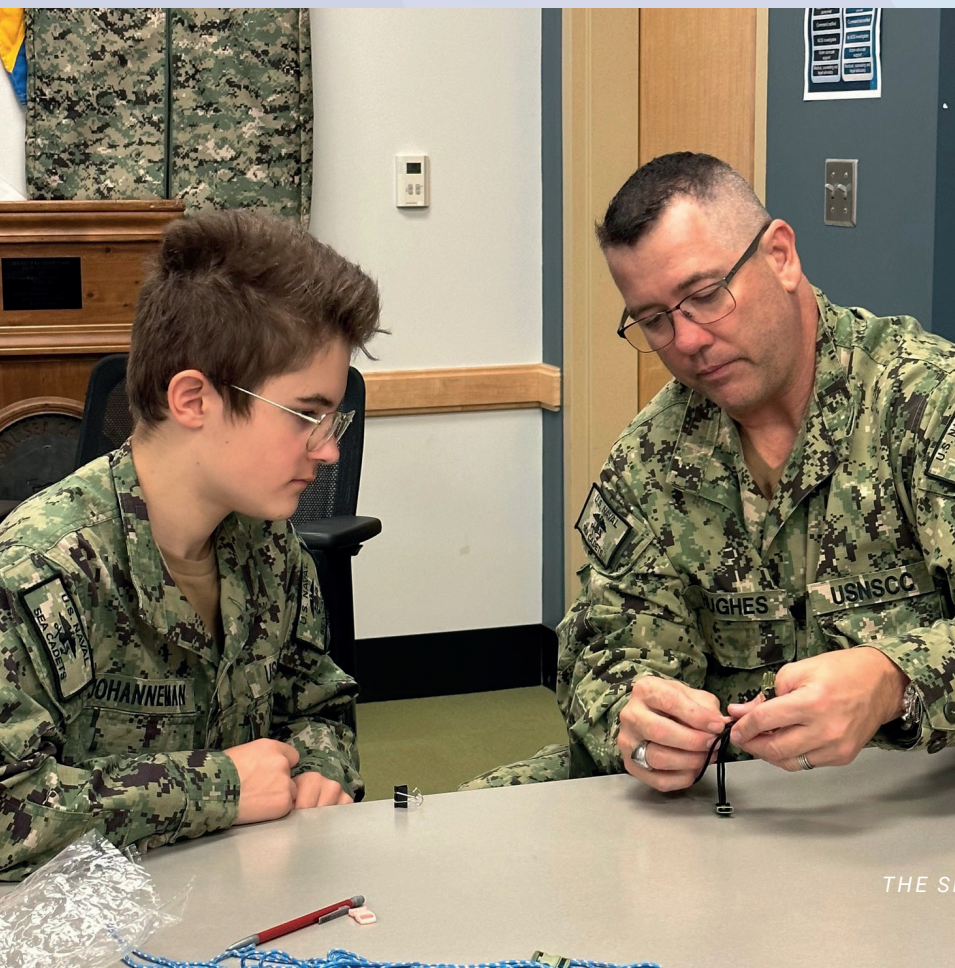


NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK





APRIL 21-27, 2024



A JOURNEY OF SERVICE AND ADVENTURE

ARTICLE BY: **DHIREN MICHAEL KETTISH, USCG**

Ever since I stumbled upon a book about Navy SEALs back in the third grade, my fascination with the military has been constant. From dressing up as a soldier and doing backyard missions with NERF guns to discovering the Sea Cadets, my journey toward the Coast Guard began early.

At the age of 10, I eagerly joined the Sea Cadet Charette Division in Bethesda, MD and later transferred to the Viking Division in Purcellville, VA where I led the color guard, recruiting, and leadership teams. My enthusiasm towards the program led me through a junior year summer packed with trainings that resulted in my achieving the rank of Sea Cadet chief petty officer. As a result of the constant travel to and from Sea Cadet trainings, I spent about 48 hours at my home all summer!

One of the highlights of my journey was participating in the Coast Guard Academy's Academy Introduction Mission (AIM) program through the Sea Cadets. Over the course of five intense days, I immersed myself in the life of a SWAB (a Coast Guard Academy freshman), drawing on my six years of Sea Cadet experience to excel in drill and leadership tasks. The culmination of the program saw me awarded the title of Honor Grad, and I was presented with a letter of assurance guaranteeing my place in the academy's next incoming class – an opportunity of a lifetime.




AS A SEA CADET

After graduating from high school and the Sea Cadets, SWAB summer in 2022 marked a significant chapter in my Coast Guard journey. I was assigned to U.S. Coast Guard Station Charlevoix in Michigan where I served as a boat crew member, actively participating in over 17 search and rescue missions and conducting 199 vessel boardings. The experience not only tested my skills but also solidified my commitment to service and the people I worked with.

Returning to the academy for my second year, I found myself surrounded by a tight-knit group of friends with whom I shared countless adventures. Together, we navigated the challenges of coursework while taking time to travel the country and experience a ton of new adventures together.

My journey reached a new milestone when I was selected as an AIM platoon commander entrusted with leading a team of Sea Cadets through the very program that had once shaped my own experience. It was a moment of validation, underscoring the growth and development I had undergone since my early days in the Sea Cadets.

Reflecting on my Coast Guard journey thus far, I am grateful for the opportunities that have shaped me into the leader I am today. Each experience has reinforced my commitment to the values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. I look forward to continuing to serve and share the amazing things this service has to offer! 



AS A COASTIE

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Submit articles by April 15 to
pao@seacadets.org

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Bravo Zulu to these exceptional leaders of character!
Advancements from **01 OCT 23 to 29 FEB 24**

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