



# USNSCC Twin Cities Squadron

## Scuttlebutt\*

A periodic newsletter from the Twin Cities Squadron Parent Auxiliary (TCSPA) to squadron families.

### WINTER 2016

*This newsletter highlights recent and upcoming squadron and TCSPA activities and provides suggestions on how you can get involved. If you have suggestions for the newsletter, contact a TCSPA board member.*

#### From the TCSPA President

##### TCSPA Families:

It was great to see so many of you at our December meeting. We are busy putting the final touches on our upcoming Squadron Ball. I hope to see you all there for this wonderful event. February drills will bring our annual swim qualifications on Saturday, 7 Feb, and our Annual Inspection with Chili Cook-off on Sunday, 8 Feb. Please plan to join us on Sunday with your favorite crock-pot of Chili. No need to sign-up, just drop in and enjoy a great lunch with the cadets and staff.

The squadron will be moving into our new location for the March drills. As discussed at the December meeting, drills will be held at N1, on the secure base. Because of the security requirements, all parents and families who wish to enter the base will need to register as Auxiliary members (you will be issued a Sea Cadet ID) or contact the CO the week prior to drill to get on the list. We are encouraging all family members to join as Auxiliary staff. We are working with staff to determine the needs for the move. Stay tuned as I will likely be looking for assistance once we have a detailed plan.

A big thanks to all who volunteered to assist with the Squadron Ball, Swim Qualifications, and Lunches. Your help makes all this work!

We will hold our quarterly TCSPA meeting and annual board elections on Sunday, 6 March. Please mark your calendars and join us.

Denise Seck, TCSPA President

#### Welcome Aboard!

We would like to welcome the following new cadets and their families to the Twin Cities Squadron!

Vladimir Doyle

Jonathan Hill

Jocelyn Jenneke

Christian Mansfield

Owen Naumann

Ahren Seifert

Dysin Strate

Aidan Barnes

Prospective recruit briefings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1900 at N2. See the POM for dates, and RSVP to LTJG Allyson McCormack at [allyforcm@comcast.net](mailto:allyforcm@comcast.net). At least one parent is required to attend that briefing with their son or daughter, and are welcome to attend again to get questions answered. We need at least one, if possible two cadets at the prospective briefing to provide a cadet's view. If a recruit joins and does not have a personal recruiter, the volunteer cadet is offered "mentor" status and is eligible for the recruiting incentive.

#### Coming Soon – New Squadron Reference Documents

Three new reference documents will be available soon from our squadron website at [www.SeaCadetsTwinCities.org](http://www.SeaCadetsTwinCities.org).

- **Administration & Advancements** – Includes information on keeping IDs current, advancement requirements, attendance, callouts, service jackets, contacts, record keeping, and tips for families.
- **Training** – Includes information on training requirements, the BMR and Recruit Training (RT), Advanced Training (AT), coursework & exams, where to submit assignments, requests, and forms, and the parents' role.
- **Uniform Care** – Includes an overview of uniform care responsibilities, dress uniforms, and tips.

Our goal in creating these documents is to provide helpful, up-to-date, and easy-to-find reference materials for squadron families. As such, we have removed duplicate information from this newsletter. We will let you know by email when these and additional reference documents become available.

## Prep for Annual Inspection in February

Drill on Saturday February 7 is devoted to prep for annual inspection as well as conducting our annual swim qualification. The inspection will occur on Sunday February 8. It includes a full muster of all hands (cadets and officers) who will be inspected by active duty Navy and Regional headquarters staff. Proper wear of the uniform and all authorized insignia and decorations is key. Not as visible to the cadets is the inspection of personnel and financial records which will take part of the afternoon. Attendance of both days of the February drill is absolutely required, and (except for those on LOA) failure to attend is grounds for immediate disenrollment.

**Background:** Every military organization is subject to inspection once a year. In the Navy, this is called Annual Inspection. For Naval Sea Cadets, the purpose is to determine whether the squadron is a well-run organization based on standards set by USNSCC national headquarters. Passing inspection is a matter of personal honor and pride for cadets and the squadron overall. Having a well-run organization also helps the squadron meet its mission, which is to acquaint cadets with life in the Navy as much as is possible. Last year, our squadron ranked highest compared to other 9-7 region units (Twin Ports, Osceola, Poseidon, and Polaris).

Inspectors first assess the extent to which our squadron demonstrates proper customs and courtesies. Every cadet and staff member is inspected physically from cover to toe – from the right haircut to correct ribbon placement to properly shined shoes. Cadets are also assessed by their responses to the inspector – from how they address the inspector when spoken to, to their knowledge of Chain of Command general orders.

Inspectors next turn their attention to administration. Inspectors assess whether personnel and non-personnel files are in order and up-to-date. Personnel files are spot-checked for proper signoff, current ID, timely promotions, and many other details. Non-personnel files are checked as well – from paperwork that establishes the squadron to copies of POMs. An audit of the unit's finances is also part of the inspection. While the primary responsibility for this area is with the squadron's officers, instructors, and other volunteer staff, cadets have a big responsibility here as well: Complete the BMR in the first months as an Induc, attend boot camp in the first year, complete advanced coursework and training annually, work with Admin to keep files and ID current, and meet standards for attendance.

### Tips for cadets:

- Know the general orders, chain of command, and proper salute.
- Make sure your dress blue uniform is clean and tailored correctly, with no stray threads and a clean cover.
- Address every inspector by his or her "first name", that is "Sir" or Ma'am", or "Chief" or "Master Chief".
- Don't lock your knees.
- Shine your shoes!

## Who to Contact

As part of their experience with Sea Cadets, cadets learn to follow their regular chain of command (squad and section leaders) to get questions answered and provide feedback. Families also filter questions through their cadet, or reach out to staff officers and TCSPA. For general questions and comments, all of this is expected and entirely appropriate.

One clarification we would like to make is regarding questions related specifically to training, administration, and supply. For questions in these specific areas, the correct points of contact are as follows:

- Training – LTJG Loretta Cameron, Operations and Training Officer, [Training.twincitiessquadron@gmail.com](mailto:Training.twincitiessquadron@gmail.com)
- Administration – LTJG Amy Jirik, Administration Officer, [dajirik@bevcomm.net](mailto:dajirik@bevcomm.net)
- Supply – ENS John Brown, Supply Officer, [jebf18@hotmail.com](mailto:jebf18@hotmail.com)

Contacting the officers with best knowledge in these areas will ensure cadets and families get correct information.

## Highlights from Recent Drills and Activities

### September and October 2015: Chief Petty Officer Pinnings

Congratulations to Chief Petty Officer Blake Holman on his advancement to CPO at September drill! CPO Holman has been part of the squadron since February 2012.

Congratulations also to Chief Petty Officer Benjamin Foster on his advancement to CPO at October drill! CPO Foster joined as a leaguer and has been part of the squadron since August 2011.



Chief is the highest cadet rank in Sea Cadets, and one which very few cadets achieve. Having two chiefs is unique – we have never had two at the same time, and most units have none. Due to timing of their advancements, Holman is designated Command Chief Petty Officer and Foster Chief Petty Officer. Both share the bridge between officers and senior cadets.

### Summer Training Highlights

We asked cadets to tell us about their summer training experiences – what they did, what was particularly surprising or memorable, and whether they recommend the training to other cadets. Following are their stories and pictures.

#### Public Safety / Advanced MAA Training at Upper Peninsula Training Contingent in Alpha, MI –Command Chief Holman

CPO Blake Holman attended Public Safety / Advanced Master at Arms (MAA) training (the Navy version of the Army's Military Policy (MP)) which featured live fire training, low light shooting, shooting while moving, moving in a group while shooting, shooting with flares at night, hand-to-hand combat, pistol shooting, shotgun shooting, and threat identification. He particularly enjoyed shooting a grenade launcher and shooting with night vision goggles. In addition to shooting and combat, the group participated in SEAL PT and beach PT. He highly recommends this training, where he was awarded Honor Cadet.



#### Advanced Culinary in Buffalo, NY – Petty Officer Miller and Airman Apprentice Smith

PO3 Martha Miller and AA Sara Smith attended Advanced Culinary training and were part of a team of seven cadets who were responsible for cooking three meals a day for 163 people aboard the USS Little Rock. They reported to the galley at 0500 each morning. They learned a lot about cooking, especially under pressure, and how to work well as a team. One unexpected event was that all female cadets were called top-side at 0030 one night. You can ask them for details, but they both recommend this training.

## Summer Training Highlights, continued

### Navy League Orientation at Fort Custer Combined Training Command in Battle Creek, MI – Chief Ben Foster

CPO Ben Foster was the LPO for Alpha Company for the NLO contingent of the combined training held at Fort Custer. He was in charge of the company and responsible for making sure they were successful. In fact, Alpha company was the 2015 Fort Custer NLO Honor Company, which he takes great pride in. He noted the training staff did a lot to make the training fun outside of a military setting. They scheduled a movie night, talent show, dance, and other activities to enhance the cadets' experience. He highly recommends this training experience, where he met people from around the US. He indicated attending the training was worth the long drive, and the food prepared by cadets attending Culinary training was amazing.



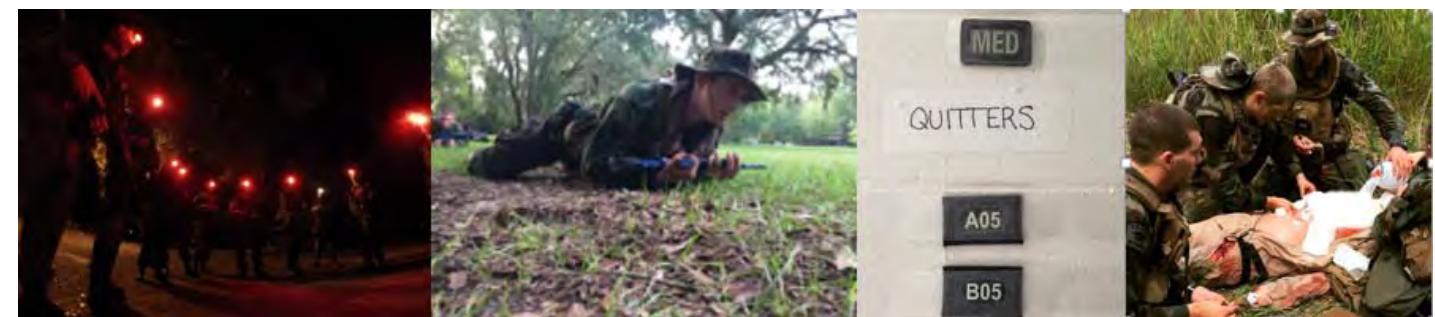
### POLA Training on the USS Hornet in San Francisco, CA – Petty Officer Seck

PO3 Will Seck attended POLA training aboard the USS Hornet. Topics in this intense 60-hour, 5-day training included leadership and counseling training, a day in San Francisco, and a tour of the USS Hornet. He recommends the training for cadets who want to rank up!



### Combat Casualty Care (C3) in Gainesville, FL – Petty Officer Gallentine

PO3 Ben Gallentine recommends C3 training where he learned how to assess, treat, and evacuate trauma patients in a hostile environment. Flash bangs and tear gas were commonly used against them during missions. What surprised him most was how much he learned in this 8-day training that included 100 hours of classroom instruction. He reports this training was an amazing experience that gave him confidence treating trauma injuries.



### Photojournalism in Cascade, WI – Petty Officer Brossard

PO3 Caitlyn Brossard learned about taking photos and writing articles at Photojournalism training. Cadets at this location also got to experience a virtual combat simulator, which she enjoyed.

## Summer Training Highlights, continued

### Medical Internship Training at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, MD – Airman Dion

AN Edward Dion recommends the training he attended, which provided insight into medical and hospital operations at his training. He even got an opportunity to watch a surgery!



### Law Enforcement Government Services (LEGS) Training in Cascade, WI – Petty Officer Kubes

PO3 Brad Kubes recommends the fun training he attended, where he learned to breach and enter and about the Wisconsin court system. Cadets had a surprise on the second day of training when the CO took the group to McDonalds during some free time.

### Advanced Maritime Interdiction in Cascade, WI – Airman Erickson

AN Jonathan Erickson recommends the Advanced Maritime Interdiction training to cadets who might be interested in joining the coast guard or other maritime interdiction agencies. Cadets learned about coast guard law enforcement tactics, advanced room clearing, self-defense and hand-to-hand combat, firefighting tactics, and marksmanship. They also got to experience a virtual combat simulator, which Erickson described as fun and intense.



### Airman Basic at NAS Lemoore, CA –Airman Apprentice McMaster

AA Dylan McMaster worked with the Navy and observed how they did their jobs around the airbase. He took a tour of the air traffic control center, the hangars, and FRC West. He was interested to discover the administration side of the base had a pool with a pretty steep, fast slide. The slide had a rope at the end and, if you hit the rope on your descent, you were an instant legend. The only person to hit the rope was the chief on the last day of training. McMaster recommends the training, and also recommends bringing lots of sunscreen and a large camelback to hold lots of water!

### Recruit Training at Great Lakes, IL –Airman Apprentice Brown and Airman Recruit Erickson

AA Cameron Brown reported that he learned a lot about teamwork and marching at Recruit Training. He enjoyed meeting cadets from other states and learned to always look out for your shipmates.

AR Rebekah Erickson reported learning various skills including how to be a leader and a better cadet overall. She enjoyed the pool – swimming, the 15 foot drop, and singing!

## TCSPA Executive Committee

The TCSPA executive committee is comprised of members elected by parents and guardians, along with the Squadron CO, Barney Uhlig. The executive committee is responsible for planning and coordinating activities to support the squadron including squadron lunches, annual ball and raffle, spaghetti dinner fundraisers, and more. We welcome your input, and *need* and appreciate your involvement. Watch for emails for upcoming event details and sign-ups. Watch the POM for quarterly parent meeting dates and times. We look forward to meeting all of you!

#### President

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## Links



We recommend cadets and families bookmark and familiarize themselves with the following frequently used websites. You can also Like the NSCC Twin Cities Squadron page on Facebook.

[Homeport.seacadets.org](http://Homeport.seacadets.org) Coursework, training, forms, regulations, etc.

[www.SeaCadetsTwinCities.org](http://www.SeaCadetsTwinCities.org) Twin Cities Squadron website

[www.1800nametape.com](http://www.1800nametape.com) Name tapes

**Scuttlebutt.** *The origin of the word "scuttlebutt," which is nautical parlance for a rumor, comes from a combination of "scuttle" -- to make a hole in the ship's hull and thereby causing her to sink -- and "butt" -- a cask or hogshead used in the days of wooden ships to hold drinking water. The cask from which the ship's crew took their drinking water -- like a water fountain -- was the "scuttlebutt". Even in today's Navy a drinking fountain is referred to as such. But, since the crew used to congregate around the "scuttlebutt", that is where the rumors about the ship or voyage would begin. Thus, then and now, rumors are talk from the "scuttlebutt" or just "scuttlebutt". (Source: <http://www.navy.mil/navdata/traditions/html/navyterm.html#scuttle>)*