

I attended the two week Recruit Training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Passing through the doors I was immediately told to remove everything from my sea bag and place it on the table to have everything searched for contraband or unnecessary materials or belongings. After, I was taken to the female barracks and was assigned to Alpha Company, which was the female company. The other two companies were Bravo and Charlie. I put everything away in my locker and fixed my bunk and towels and folded my PT clothing on the bottom of the locker and hung my uniforms on the hangers in a specific order. On the third day, I was chosen to be the Alpha Company guide on and was very honored by that position. Unfortunately I got the guide on stolen once but it was a great team effort trying to retrieve it. I had to put a sock on the guide on which was a sign that it did not belong to Alpha company anymore, but I got it back by saying 6 general orders to my Petty Officers. We attended classes daily, which I enjoyed because Chief Caulderbank would make class interesting and interacting. I had very good test grades especially on the midterm and the final. We had PT every morning. This was my favorite part of the day because I saw it as an opportunity to help my shipmates improve on their PRT scores. In the second week, we began having “Fun” PT in the evenings which consisted of entertaining games like running contests, crawling, sprinting, and team workouts. This fun PT really brought our company closer as a team. One of my favorite moments was running four miles with SR Sparks, and cadets from Bravo and Charlie Company and Petty Officer Schooley. But the absolutely best part was the Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie company PT workout, where we were all a team and helped each other get through the rigorous running and pushups. I did one armed push ups during this PT and apparently impressed Chief Caulderbank and Petty Officer Schooley, who rewarded me with the Chief’s anchor pin and an Honor, Courage, Commitment coin. At graduation I was announced Honor Cadet for my Company and Petty Officer Reeves awarded me with the only wings on his uniform. I was much honored to have received these personal and meaningful awards and I was very grateful for the opportunity to have attended Recruit Training to become part of USNSCC.

In June, I was accepted to attend the USNA six day summer seminar. The first day, we signed in and were given some papers and told that we were expected to memorize a whole page of information with ranks, rates, USNA mission statement and other data. That same day we met with our squad of about six other people and we also met our squad leader. Mine was a third class at the academy and truthfully one of the fittest people I have ever seen in my life. In PT one morning, this kid from Tennessee bet that he could beat our squad leader's time for the mile and if he did, then our squad leader would have to do one hundred pushups. Well Tennessee beat his time by one second, so our squad leader got down and did those pushups without breaking a sweat. He was such a great inspiration throughout the whole week, especially during the eight hour sea trials we did on the Wednesday before we left. I met people from everywhere in the country and Puerto Rico. We attempted to go watch the Silent Marines march but that attempt failed because the weather was horrible, so instead we rode in the bus for about 5 hours, which actually allowed us to communicate with others and learn more about them. On Sunday we took the Certified Fitness Assessment which is required as part of the application to the academy. On Monday, we started taking our classes. We had two classes each day. By far, my favorite class was Physics. The professors were very entertaining and had a lot of cool and interesting labs and objects to mess around with, like a floating crystal rock hovering above dry ice. We practiced drill and had a drill competition between all the companies. Then after, we had a huge barbecue and played ultimate Frisbee. Later on, our squad had really wanted to go to the cemetery right next to where we were having the barbecue. Once inside the cemetery the mood had completely changed and we were awed by the gravestones and seeing past officers' names on the plaques. We all felt each other's respect for the academy and for all those who have served for our freedom and rights. I think going to the cemetery was the best thing that could have happened to us, because right there at that moment we felt a connection that got us through the week, especially in PT and Sea Trials. Overall the Seminar was a great experience and helped shape my want to go to the academy.

I went to Curtis Bay to experience the daily life of the Coast Guard. This was a six day training from Sunday to Friday. The real work began Monday. We were told that an Admiral was coming that Friday to inspect the station. As soon as this information was passed to all the members, we began tidying up to make the place from inside out spotless. That was the overall main focus of the week, but we also did other activities between duties. For example, I got to drive a 25 to the Baltimore Harbor and I learned about deviation and variation on navigating the boat. There was one rescue mission the whole week, but there were too many people to rescue that we were not allowed to tag along. We went underway a lot and did SAR mission trainings with the Coast Guard. Also, the only day we had PT was on Tuesday at ten in the morning, and it only lasted about an hour. We usually got off duty around four in the afternoon, so me and SA Matthews would usually go to the gym and play basketball or throw the football around. Overall I had a great time at the Coast Guard training and I liked meeting everyone at the station who taught me more than I could ever learn about boats. On the last day, the chief gave us Curtis Bay covers and I said a speech in front of the whole station thanking them for their time and telling them we were honored and proud to that they would spend their time showing us their daily responsibilities.