

Sea Cadet Recruit Training
Naval Recruit Training Center
Great Lakes, IL
14-22 June 2008

Report by SR Kuhn

To participate in the Boot Camp held at the Naval Recruit Training Command, outside of Chicago, IL, I left school a few days early so that I could meet the dates of this boot camp. My Mom, Dad and I arrived in Chicago on Saturday, June 14, where we rented a car and drove to RTC GL. As we got close to RTC, we could see the cars lined up to enter the base. We were greeted by a Naval Security Officer who waved us through the gates after looking at our identification. Arriving at the destination point we could see a lot of other cadets lined up to register. Everyone was quiet as they asked a few questions and then the cadets had to line up before being called away to another location. We could see several cadets who were going to have their heads shaved as did not meet the hair guidelines recommended by the Boot Camp.



Mom and Dad stayed through my check-in then they left for the airport to return home. I was lined up with a bunch of other cadets waiting to be taken to our barracks. After a few minutes went by, Senior Chief Simmons took us to our "Ship". It was



a long walk to the ship from MCPON Hall, but we eventually got there. We were instructed to go inside the ship and report to medical. Once we got to medical, we were told to

drop our sea bags, and line up for chow. They took us down 1 deck and into the chow hall. We weren't allowed to have anything sugary, or talk. After we had chow, we went back to medical, and they did their thing. They then sent us to Admin, where we handed them our service records, and got



issued our utility covers, and shoelaces for our raincoats. We were then sent to our division's barracks. Once we got to our respective barracks, we emptied our sea bags on the floor so they could check that we had everything that was required, and no contraband. Our division officer was Lt. Jg. Potter, Second division officer was Lt. Jg. Fuller, our third division officer was Ens. Childs, our fourth division officer was Inst. Skamarakas. We had 77 cadets in our division, and it stayed at 77, no one went home. Several cadets from other divisions were sent home.



We did 2 full days of PT, the first day of PT was the PRT. We all passed it. The second time we did PT, it was the Navy's bases program, where there are several stations, and you do each station in groups, and change every 5 minutes.

We spent a lot of time in the classroom learning about "stuff". Every day we would get up at 0630, but the last 3 days they changed reveille to 0530. We would get ourselves prepared for the day, and went to chow. We spent most of the day marching from point A to point B. We did get to do

some fun stuff like shooting laser rifles and swimming. I received the Marksmanship Ribbon again.



I thought that I was more prepared than most of the cadets there, since they basically had to teach us how to march.

Several important events happened while we were there. We got to see one division complete Battle Stations, which is a top secret facility where the division stays up for 14 hours fighting through emergency situations. There was also a change of command of RTC while we were there, and we got to see the Capping ceremony.

The night before graduation myself and a one other cadet stayed up until 0200 ironing the division's dress whites because no one else knew how to iron. We were tired the next day, but it was worth it. Graduation day, we packed our gear, put on our dress



whites and marched to the ceremonial drill hall.

What I liked best was that we had actual Navy personnel doing the training, the Sea Cadet staff were only there for an

administrative purpose. I got to see a lot of things that most people will never get to see. What I didn't like was that we had an instructor who would wake us up in the mornings before reveille and tell us not to move.



learn a lot in the process. I would recommend this boot camp to someone who doesn't want a really hard one. This boot camp could have been a lot more challenging than it was.

Overall, I think that this boot camp was worth it. We got to do many unique things, see many amazing things, and

