

Petty Officer Second Class McKavitt

Annapolis Division Sea Cadets

2009 Summer Training

This summer I had the great privilege of staff a Recruit training. Recruit training is the first Sea Cadet training and Sea Cadet goes to. Having already completed my recruit training (boot camp) in the summer 2007, I was excited to share with new recruit what I had learned in sea cadets. I went to National Guard Reserve base Camp Pendleton in Virginia. This is was the same boot camp I had graduated from so I was comfortable going into the training because I knew how the day to day operations were executed. When arriving at the training I became familiar with my fellow staff members and few days before the recruit would report. The Cadet staff was filled with excellent sea cadets they all had a respect for each other worked together very well. I think I was most impressed with the leadership I saw from my fellow staff members. The Company commanders which include five petty officers and myself receive a commendation ribbon for excellent leadership and teaching skills.

As a Company Commander I was directly in charge of eighteen recruits. And we were assigned Charlie Company. Everyday I would wake them up and go for physical training with the rest of the battalion. That day the recruits would have one or two classes with inspections and marching practice mixed in between. Marching was extremely hard because you have to get a group of eighteen kids that haven't met before to all marching and move in unison. This evolution can become very frustrating very fast because you say the same thing over and over again. The final reward came one day when marching for hours on end and they started working together and they looked sharp. But not every day could be as good we did have our problems as expected but the recruits rose above their mistakes and continued to press forward.

I was very happy with my recruits come graduation day although we did have our problems we also had our successes. I am proud to say these recruit are going to make great sea cadets as they move forward in their sea cadet career. More importantly they will make great citizens of this country.