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Bethesda to Demonstrate Core Values to Sea Cadets

by **JO1(SW/AW) AnTuan Guerry**

Journal staff writer

National Naval Medical Center will take its turn in helping to develop and positively influence the lives of children when it hosts 20 members of the Navy Sea Cadet Corps from Arlington, Va., Sunday to July 31, as part of the Corps' annual training regime.

The Navy Sea Cadet Corps is designed to foster leadership abilities while broadening the horizons of children 13 to 18 through hands-on training with the Navy, guiding them to becoming mature young adults and productive citizens.

LCDR Jeannette Brice, the corps' volunteer leader and contingent commander, said the cadet program is set up to introduce children to what it would be like to join the Navy.

"They [cadets] are doing things other children their age are not doing," Brice said. "This training [through Navy Sea Cadet Corps] helps them develop self-reliance and discipline...it helps them reach their goals quicker and gets them ready for school if they choose not to pursue Navy careers."

Bethesda's Command Master Chief, Laura Martinez agreed, saying many of the Sea Cadets do make the choice to come into the service.

"This is an opportunity for them to work in a military environment, to take our core values, our military bearing and all of the things that will make them not only successful citizens, but successful if they choose to come into the military," Martinez said. "It gives them a different perspective of the military and a different perspective of the workforce."

HM1(FMF) Jeffery Plummer, Bethesda's Cadet Corps coordinator, said the cadets live and work like active duty Sailors by living in base barracks and conducting daily physical fitness program. Their job will have them splitting

Select branch of service:

time between various medical and dental clinics.

However, Plummer, leading petty officer of Bethesda's Radiology clinic, said their time at Bethesda won't be all work as much of their "off-duty" time will be spent sight-seeing around D.C.

Much like active duty Navy, Cadets go through two-week boot camp prior to training.

"The [cadets'] two-week hands-on training is similar to reserve [advanced] training...After boot camp, Cadets train in their areas of interest," Brice said. "Once there, the Cadets jump right in, training and performing as if they were on active duty."

Prior to last year, when operational commitments cancelled their visit, the Cadets were annual visitors to the hospital for training, Martinez said. The Sea Cadet Corps' training program encompasses many disciplines within the Navy, including the SEAL program, port operations, hospital corps, music and amphibious tactics, Brice said.

"There are a lot of people who put a tremendous amount of work into developing these young people to be good citizens," Martinez said. "The children involved in these types of programs...often do well because of the training, integrity and core values [the Navy and] positive role models instill in them."

"It will be good to have [cadets] see something other than warfare and death," Plummer said. "They'll get to see how we're taking care of our [Marines and Sailors] and how we help in the healing process...it's something they can take back to their communities."

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