

UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

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NAVY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
GREEN BAY, WI
03/JUNE/09

PARENT UPDATE – MAY DRILLS

VADM James H. Flatley Jr. Division cadets during the month of May took part in a number of events.

16/May - cadets toured the Marinette Marine Company shipyard in Marinette, WI. This two hour tour included back ground information on the company, the ships they build, ships they have built and the opportunity to view ships under construction for the Navy and the private sector. MMC built the first LCS ship the USS FREEDOM, LCS -1. Division cadets attended that ship's christening in September 2006 and the also attended the commissioning on November 8, 2008 in Milwaukee. MMC will start building a second LCS ship and the division will attend that ship's christening ceremonies as well in the future. (LCS – Littoral Combat Ship) the newest in fast, shallow water ships for the Navy – this ship has a speed of over 50 mph.

MMC owns Ace Marine Co. located in Green Bay. The division hopes to tour that facility in the future. Ace is presently building fifty, 45 foot all aluminum pursuit/rescue craft. These special boats for the U.S. Coast Guard are “self righting” if they capsize they will right themselves.

After the tour of MMC the cadets then went to the Best Western Hotel in Marinette. Division cadets were invited to attend a banquet and also provide the color guard services for the *Regional Coast Guard Retired Chief Petty Officers Association* banquet. This was a long day it started around 10 a.m. (1000 hrs.) with the drive to Marinette and ended at 2000 hrs. (8:00pm).

Division cadet SR Paden Toussaint's grandfather and grandmother were at the banquet. Cadet's Toussaint's grandfather is a 32 year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard as a retired Warrant Officer and hero. Cadet Toussaint was introduced at the banquet so everyone would know that a grandson was present in uniform.

25/May - cadets were invited to attend the Memorial Day ceremony at Nicolet Memorial Gardens in Green Bay. The division cadets attending: raised the U.S. flag at the start of the ceremony, provided bugle-taps, and presented a wreath for POW/MIA military personnel.

Cadets also had the opportunity to observe something most people don't get an opportunity to see – they observed a Marine Second Lieutenant commissioned. This young Marine was a corporal and was commissioned as lieutenant. The young man's mother and father pinned the gold lieutenant bars on the shoulder straps of his uniform. The young lieutenant will leave shortly for Officer School and Marine Corps flight school at the Navy flight school in Pensacola, he will be a Marine pilot. He was a graduate of St. Norbert College in Green Bay.

30/May - cadets again were invited to participate in the dedication of VADM James H. Flatley Jr. (World War II veteran) Park on the banks of the Fox River in Green Bay, WI. Our division is named after this Vice Admiral and World War II hero.

Cadets attending were invited to a private luncheon sponsored by the dedication committee and hosted by retired Rear Admiral James H. Flatley III. During the luncheon each cadet had the opportunity to meet various Green Bay dignitaries' and meet and visit with the Admiral during the luncheon. Cadets provided traditional side boy duties piping aboard, the mayor of Green Bay, Brown County Administrator, various Flatley family members, military staff and the Rear Admiral. Also during the park dedication they performed other duties as called upon. (VADM – 3 stars and REAR Admiral 2 stars).

At the end of the dedication ceremony and the unveiling of the VADM Flatley statue the division cadets had their picture taken in front of the statue with the Admiral and the Admiral handed each cadet a "challenge coin" in a velvet case. The coin was made special for this event and was only presented to selected guests by the Admiral. Cadets should be familiar with "challenge coins" as those cadets who attended the USS GREEN BAY gala in October 2008 also received coins. These coins are collectable.

In all the events during the month of May the cadets received numerous accolades from, various event organizers and attendees at the events. The cadets looked sharp, military behavior was outstanding and they presented themselves in a manner as to make the division and the Navy proud. **BRAVO ZULU** Flatley Jr. Cadets!

What other program provides young people with such great opportunities. If you have an interest in the military the informal and formal events that took place this month provided experiences and opportunities not found elsewhere and not easily forgotten.

A special thank you goes out to the command staff and all the parents who assisted with these events in various ways without your assistance these types of events would not happen.