

Crescent City native trains to be a U.S. Navy sailor

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GREAT LAKES, Ill. - Sailors are some of the most highly-trained people on the planet, according to Navy officials, and this training requires highly-dedicated instructors.

At Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), instructors at advanced technical schools teach sailors to be highly skilled, operational, and combat ready warfighters, while providing the tools and opportunities for continuous learning and development.

Seaman Victoria Love Montecillo, a native of Crescent City, California, is a student at NETC, learning the necessary skills needed to be a boatswain's mate.

As a boatswain's mate, Montecillo is responsible for fueling operations, line handling, replenishment of supplies, communications, and the upkeep and preservation of Navy ships.

“I joined the Navy for more opportunities, experiences, and for a chance to have a better life for myself in the future,” said Montecillo.

According to Montecillo, the values required to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Crescent City.

“Working with many mechanical and workshop experiences back home has helped me learn and understand many of the Navy’s operations and missions,” said Montecillo.

Students attend advanced technical schools after “boot camp.”

They are taught the basic technical knowledge and skills required to be successful in their new careers.

NETC educates and trains those who serve, providing the tools and opportunities which enable life-long learning, professional and personal growth and development, ensuring fleet readiness and mission accomplishment.

Made up of six commands, NETC provides a continuum of professional education and training in support of Surface Navy requirements that prepare enlisted sailors and officers to serve at sea, providing apprentice and specialized skills training to 7,500 sailors a year.

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world’s international phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

According to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, four priorities will focus efforts on sailors, readiness, capabilities, and capacity.

“For 245 years, in both calm and rough waters, our Navy has stood the watch to protect the homeland, preserve freedom of the seas, and defend our way of life,” said Gilday. “The decisions and investments we make this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of this century. We can accept nothing less than success.”

Serving in the Navy means Montecillo is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America’s focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

“The Navy is important for defending our country’s security and our citizens’ freedoms and rights,” said Montecillo.

As Montecillo and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

“Being part of the Navy is both an honor and privilege for me,” added Montecillo. “Many people I know in my hometown serve. This makes for a great opportunity for me to serve my country as well.”

