

# **WELCOME ABOARD!**



## **ESCONDIDO BATTALION**



## **TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON**



# Forward

Welcome aboard the Escondido Battalion/Training Ship Kit Carson, which we refer to in this document as “the unit”. This handout covers the most frequently asked questions (FAQ’s) that parents of prospective cadets may have. After reading, if you still have questions or concerns, please contact the Administrative Officer to set up an appointment with the Commanding Officer (CO). We maintain an open-door policy for all cadets and their families.



## The Sea Cadet Corps

Since 1958, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been committed to providing American youth with an alcohol and drug-free environment to foster their abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults. The training is accomplished through organization and cooperation with the Navy League Council.

## Escondido Battalion

Founded in 2011, Escondido Battalion is one of the newest Sea Cadet units in the region. We belong to the Pacific Southwest Region 11, District 3. **Escondido Battalion** is named after the city in which the unit is based and in honor of Escondido community members, groups and businesses that were instrumental in forming of the unit.

## Training Ship Kit Carson

**Training Ship Kit Carson** is named after Christopher (Kit) Carson, the famous scout who guided Captain John C. Fremont over the Sierra Nevada Mountains during a government exploration expedition and in 1846 fought in the Battle of San Pasqual just outside Escondido.

Our unit draws from the northeast San Diego County communities of Escondido, San Marcos, Ramona, Valley Center, and Fallbrook, in addition to the South Riverside County cities of Temecula and Murrieta. We drill throughout the school year with breaks during the summer and winter to allow for training camps. Our drills take place at the California Army National Guard Armory at 304 E. Park Ave, Escondido, CA 92025.

## Web Pages

Our unit home page address is: <http://www.escondidobattalion.org/index.html>

The National home page address is: <http://homeport.seacadets.org/dashboard.action>

Please bookmark these pages on your computer, as they contain much of the information not covered in the handout and will need to be accessed regularly.

# Table of Contents

Military Commitment.....4

Reluctant Recruits.....4

League Cadet vs. Sea Cadet.....4

Instruction.....4

Time Commitment .....4

Costs .....5

Disabilities.....6

Enrollment .....6

Standards of Conduct .....7

Grooming Standards.....7

Physical Fitness Standards.....7

Uniforms .....7

“Boot Camp” .....8

Chain of Command .....8

The Quarterdeck.....10

Rank Advancement.....10

Training Observation.....10

Adult Volunteers.....11

Military Terms.....11

## Q1. Does joining the Naval Sea Cadets commit my son/daughter to military service?

**Answer:** No. There is absolutely no service obligation associated with the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC). However, cadets who attain the rank of E-3 (Seaman Able) while in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets are eligible to enter most of the U.S. Armed Forces branches (Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines) at an advanced pay rate. For cadets who are uninterested in military service, the USNSCC will provide them with invaluable leadership skills that will serve them well later in life and will be looked upon favorably by prospective colleges and employers.

## Q2. My son/daughter isn't interested in joining. Can I enroll them anyway, to teach them military discipline?

**Answer:** Enrolling children against their will into a program as intensive as the Sea Cadets is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**. Cadets who are not personally committed to the goals and mission of the Sea Cadet program will inevitably become discouraged and are likely to act out. Please understand that paramilitary programs are not for every child.

## Q3. What is the difference between League Cadets and Sea Cadets?

**Answer.** Navy League Cadets (Training Ship Kit Carson) are between the ages of 11 and 13 (10 year olds may be admitted with a waiver). Naval Sea Cadets (Escondido Battalion) are between the ages of 13 and 17 (18 year olds may enroll if still in high school). League Cadets drill with Sea Cadets during unit drill but have separate academic assignments and training evolutions. When League Cadets reach age 13, they may transfer to the Sea Cadet unit.

## Q4. Who instructs cadets?

**Answer:** Cadets are instructed by military personnel (active, reserve and retired), by senior cadets and by dedicated adult civilian volunteer leaders who comprise the NSCC officer corps.

## Q5. What is the time commitment?

**Answer:**

1. **UNIT DRILLS:** Unit drills are scheduled on two Saturdays of every month. Drill days typically run from 0730 to 1530 (7:30 AM to 3:30 PM). Each Saturday counts as 2 drills (AM and PM). Drills consist of training in military bearing, marching and formation, physical fitness and educational field trips. The Plan of the Month (POM) and Plan of the Day (POD) outline the activities for each drill. The POM and POD are on our website at: <http://www.escondidobattalion.org/pomcalendar.html>  
Please check this page right up until the day of drill, as schedules changes are sometimes beyond our control. Cadets are expected to attend every drill, unless they have a valid excuse. **Failure to communicate valid excuses through the appropriate chain of command, or in a timely manner, will result in an unexcused absence if the cadet is not present.**

2. **ACADEMIC LEARNING:**

**Academic coursework is required for promotion in ranks.**

**Sea Cadets** complete online correspondence courses. These are the responsibility of each cadet and are to be completed ON THEIR OWN TIME. Sea Cadets begin by studying the BMR (Basic Military Requirements). There are 15 accompanying assignments that must be completed within 6 months of enrollment. The BMR is found at:

<http://homeport.seacadets.org/display/CadetAdvance/Basic+Military+Requirements>

Sea Cadets may then go on to complete Advanced Correspondence Courses for promotion to higher ranks. Advanced coursework can be found at:

<http://homeport.seacadets.org/display/CadetAdvance/Correspondence+Courses>

**League Cadets** study the NLCC Syllabus rather than the BMR. The NLCC Syllabus consists of 5 Parts and cadets should start by reading PART I: NLCC APPRENTICE CADET. This will help orient them to military bearing, regulations and tradition. At the end of each Part, there is a multiple choice section which the League Cadet will complete and turn in for grading to the appropriate Training Officer. Some academic learning will be covered during drill, but League Cadets are encouraged to study the syllabus on their own. Parents may help. The NLCC Syllabus is found at:

<http://homeport.seacadets.org/display/CadetAdvance/NLCC+Syllabus>

3. **TRAINING EVOLUTIONS:** Cadets are encouraged to complete at least one training per year. Training evolutions are similar to summer camps. Cadets will stay at military installations for 7 to 10 days and be instructed in a variety of disciplines, such as seamanship, leadership, marksmanship, field medical training, etc. Training evolutions are usually offered in the summer, with a few being offered during winter break and sometimes during spring break. **Recruit Training** is required for Sea Cadets to advance in rank. Recruit training is a 2-week program similar to “boot camp” in which new cadets are familiarized with military protocol. Sea Cadets are encouraged to complete Recruit Training during their first year of enrollment. **NSCC Advanced Trainings** are required for subsequent advancements. Advanced Trainings are comprised of military specialty training as described above. League Cadets may attend **NLCC Basic Orientation**, but it is not required for rank advancement. NLCC Basic Orientation is similar to Recruit Training but is conducted over a 1 week time span. Although not required for rank advancement, Basic Orientation is a prerequisite for all **NLCC Advanced Trainings**.
4. **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** A few hours of community service are required for each rank advancement. If your child performs community service for scouting or school these hours may be used to fulfill this requirement.

## Q6. What are the costs?

**Answer:** As with any youth organization, there are costs involved in keeping the unit functioning. Please note that all adult staff are volunteer and do not earn a salary. The associated costs to parents can be broken down as follows:

1. **Enrollment fees** - \$150 enrollment fee that is paid annually upon re-enrollment. This covers insurance premiums, administrative costs, etc.
2. **Uniforms** – \$100 one-time fee paid by new recruits. Parents may be required to purchase some uniform components that are unavailable to the unit. The purchasing of PT gear also is the responsibility of the parent.
3. **Training Evolutions** – We encourage all cadets to attend at least one training evolution per year. These are offered at local military installations as well as at installations throughout the nation. Cost varies according to the training type. The one-week NLCC Basic Orientation fee is currently \$120. The two-week NSCC Recruit Training fee is currently \$240. *Training evolutions are required for Sea Cadets to advance in rank but are not required for League Cadet advancement.* Training fees include berthing and meals. Transportation costs to and from training evolutions are the responsibility of the parent. Should your cadet choose a distant training evolution, airfare is also the responsibility of the parent. *As training evolutions are arranged at the National level, our unit is unable to provide monetary assistance to families for training evolutions, regardless of financial hardship.*
4. **Flagship** – Our unit competes in the NLCC and NSCC Flagship competitions offered each spring. Cadet participation is optional, but we encourage each cadet to attend this annual event. Units from the Pacific Southwest Division meet at a local military installation to compete in events such as color guard, swimming, line heaving, knot tying, etc. The NLCC Flagship is a one-day event with an associated fee of \$25. The NSCC Flagship occurs over a weekend. The associated fee for NSCC is \$50 and covers berthing and meals. Transportation to and from these events is typically accomplished via carpooling by the Command Staff.
5. **Field Trips** – Most unit field trips are at no cost to the parents. *Rarely*, there may be a small cost involved in a unit field trip, but these trips will be OPTIONAL.

## Q7. My son/daughter has medical/physical constraints. Can he/she still join?

**Answer:** Yes. No child shall be denied enrollment on the basis of medical/physical disability. Please contact the Administrative Officer to set up a meeting with the Commanding Officer to discuss your child's specific needs. Please note that, although the unit will do its best to accommodate your child, some training evolutions may be beyond his/her scope. Basic Orientation and Recruit training are medically friendly and can accommodate medical/physical constraints as well as the handling of prescription medications. However, intense evolutions such as SEAL and SCUBA training are unable to offer such accommodations. These restrictions are paramount to the safety of your child. Please be sure to always read the remarks for each training evolution before registering your cadet.

## Q8. What are the requirements for enrollment?

**Answer: Citizenship** - Presently ALL prospective applicants must be United States citizens.  
**Age - NLCC** Applicants must be 11 years old but not yet 14 years old. Unit commanding officers have the authority to approve an age waiver to enroll 10 year olds in the NLCC. **NSCC** Applicants for the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) must be at least 13 years old but must not have reached their 18th birthday. High school seniors within six months of graduation from enrolling are discouraged from enrolling, since their advancement potential is limited.

**Physical Examination** - Applicants must undergo a physical examination similar to a high school sports examination. The Report of Medical History and the Report of Medical Examination, as well as the Medical History Supplemental and Request for Accommodation (if required), which are part of the Cadet Application (NSCADM 001), will be used to record the results of the self-assessment and examination.

**Immunizations** - Although not a requirement, the NSCC highly encourages potential cadets to be inoculated. When completing the Cadet Application Form (NSCADM 001), the Medical History instructions indicate proof of immunization for polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, pertussis and tetanus, plus diphtheria and Menactra vaccine for meningitis. If the parent/guardian elect not to inoculate their child/children a waiver is required for approval by the Executive Director.

**Education** - Applicants must be enrolled in school, either public, private or a sanctioned home-school program and have a satisfactory scholastic standing.

**Moral Character** - Applicants must possess good moral character, be unmarried, not pregnant, drug-free, and have no record of any criminal charges or convictions.

Standards of conduct, grooming standards and physical fitness standards also exist. These will be discussed in more detail in the following sections.

## Q9. What are the standards of conduct?

**Answer:** NHQ has dictated strict standards of conduct for all cadets and adult leaders. The standards of conduct dictate that cadets must maintain a good moral character and remain free of felony/misdemeanor convictions. Good moral character encompasses avoidance of alcohol or drug use, lying, cheating, bullying, fraternization, etc. Cadets must accept discipline as a personal challenge leading to advancement and leadership opportunities. Hazing, harassment or any other demeaning behavior exercised by adult or cadet upon another cadet is grounds for immediate dismissal. Superior rank or position is not an excuse for subjecting juniors to such behavior. Cadets must maintain a scholastic standing which ensures advancement in school. Failure to pass to the next school grade, suspension from school or leaving school is cause for disenrollment. Cadets are expected to attend a minimum of 75% of drills.

## Q10. What are the grooming standards?

**Answer:** All cadets are required to maintain set grooming standards based on neatness, cleanliness, safety, military image and appearance. The standards can be found at [http://homeport.seacadets.org/download/attachments/589867/uniform\\_manual.pdf?version=4&modificationDate=1363994413000](http://homeport.seacadets.org/download/attachments/589867/uniform_manual.pdf?version=4&modificationDate=1363994413000)

## Q11. What are the physical fitness standards?

**Answer:** Physical readiness Testing (PRT) is performed approximately every 3 months. Both Sea Cadets and League Cadets are required to pass minimum physical standards for attending Recruit Training, Basic Orientation and Advanced Training Evolutions. Events include sit-ups, pushups, shuttle run, mile run and sit-and-reach and are similar to the Presidential Physical Fitness Test administered in public high schools. The standards are adjusted according to age and gender. A description of the events and a listing of the standards can be found at:



[http://homeport.seacadets.org/download/attachments/589963/physical\\_readiness\\_manual.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1329547642000](http://homeport.seacadets.org/download/attachments/589963/physical_readiness_manual.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1329547642000)

**Cadets with physical disabilities will be given appropriate accommodations. Please see Question #6 above.**

**Cadets that do not have documented medical disabilities but who are simply “out of shape” will not be given accommodations with regard to the PRT.**

## Q12. What about uniforms?

**Answer:** The working uniform of the Escondido Battalion/Training Ship Kit Carson is the Navy Working Uniform (NWU). Dress white or summer white uniforms and dress blue or winter blue uniforms are worn for parades and more formal events. Specific Advanced Training evolutions require Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU's). For specific details, visit the uniform link at:

<http://www.escondidobattalion.org/uniforms.html> The unit will make every effort to provide your cadet with the necessary uniforms. HOWEVER, please understand that the unit may not have some uniform components available, and parents will be required to purchase them. **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CADET'S MEASUREMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT UNIFORMS MAY BE ISSUED TO THEM WITHOUT DELAY. THE LINK FOR SUBMISSION OF MEASUREMENTS IS:**

<http://www.escondidobattalion.org/uniform-measurements.html> PT gear is also required. Parents are required to purchase PT gear for their cadet. Please purchase this gear immediately, as it is used at almost every drill. PT gear consists of solid-colored navy blue or black shorts, solid-colored yellow t-shirt, white socks and sneakers. PT gear may be purchased at a regular department store, at the Navy NEX, Navy thrift store or through the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Ship's Store at:

<http://www.seacadetshipsstore.com/magento/index.php/pt-gear.html> When cadets out-grow uniforms, they should be returned to the Supply Officer, who will issue the next size up.

\*Please Note: Issued uniforms are the property of the Navy and MUST be returned upon cadet disenrollment.

**When in uniform, cadets are not authorized to wear jewelry, with the exception of wrist watches. Personal belongings are not the responsibility of the unit, and the unit will not be held liable for the loss or theft of personal items.**

## Q13. Does my cadet have to go to “boot camp” right away?

**Answer:**

**Sea Cadets** are required to complete Recruit Training (“boot camp”) in order to advance in rank. However, if your cadet just joined the unit and does not feel prepared for Recruit Training, it may be postponed. Recruit Training is typically offered in both the summer and the winter. Sea Cadets must pass a PRT and (minimally) complete assignments 1, 3, 4 and 6 of the BMR prior to attending Recruit Training. While formal completion of the entire BMR coursework is best, a review and study of the specific chapters and sections related to these assignments is sufficient for meeting the prerequisites. Sea Cadets should attend Recruit Training within the first year.

**League Cadets** are NOT required to attend NLCC basic Orientation (“boot camp”) for rank advancement. However, attendance will be of great benefit to League Cadets in understanding military bearing, drill, regulations, etc. and will help to prepare them for the NSCC. Discretion regarding maturity level will be exercised by both parents and the Commanding Officer prior to sending League Cadets to Basic Orientation. League Cadets must pass a Physical Readiness Test

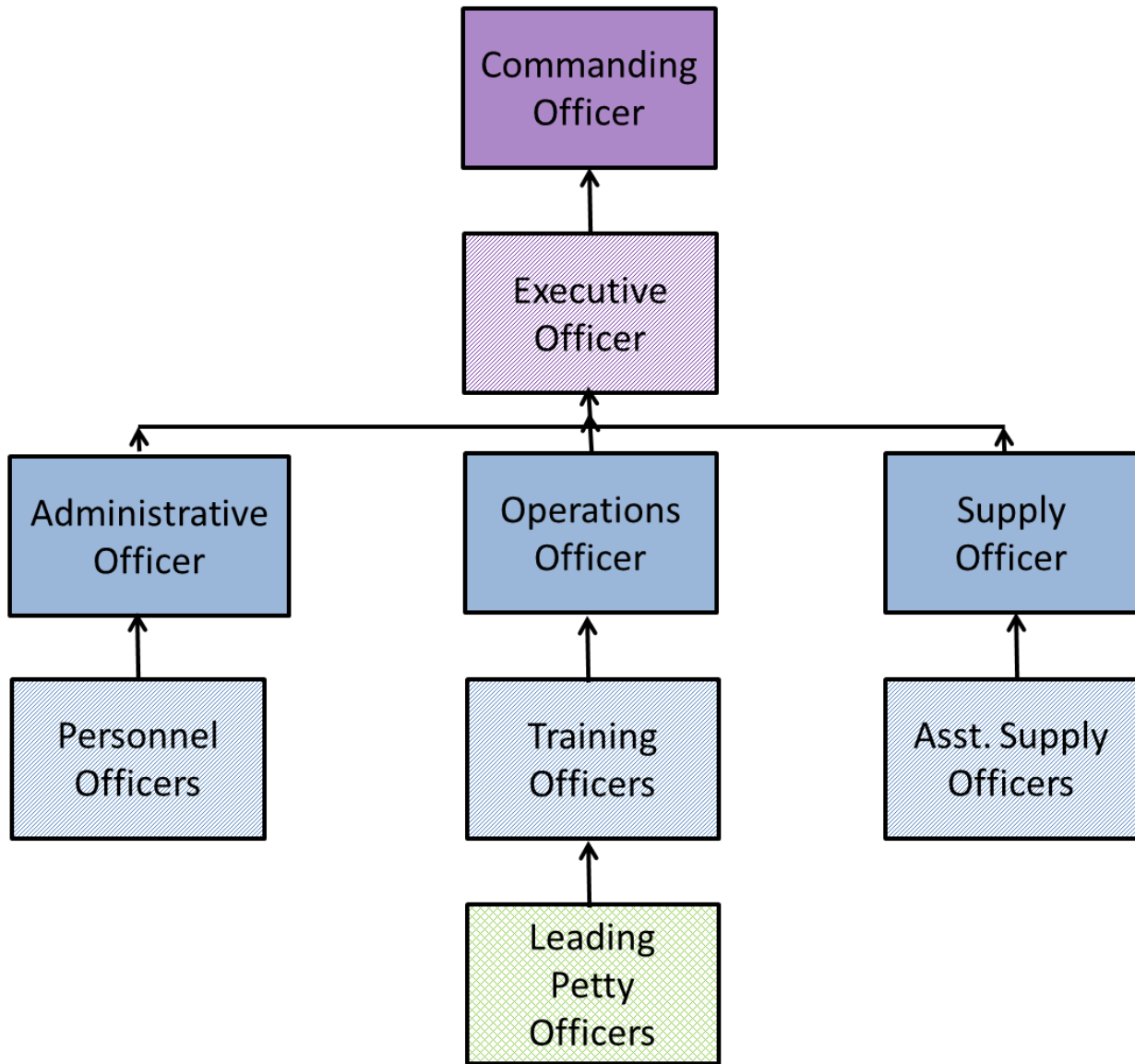


(PRT) prior to attending Basic Orientation but are not required to complete coursework or pass exams.

## Q14. What is the Chain of Command?

**Answer:** The unit must have a clear structure in order to function effectively. The chain of command defines responsibility, identifies accountability, provides direction, ensures efficiency and enables effective communication. All personnel should contact the appropriate department for questions or problem resolution. Failure to follow the chain of command results in command breakdown. Communications should start at the lowest possible level of authority. Parents should encourage cadets to communicate within the chain of command rather than offering to communicate for them. This enables them to grow with respect to responsibility and leadership. The chain of command for Escondido Battalion/Training Ship Kit Carson is organized as follows:

# ESCONDIDO BATTALION CHAIN OF COMMAND



**Commanding Officer** – is ultimately responsible for the safety, well-being and efficiency of the command. His/her authority is complete.

- LTJG Fernando Sanchez [fsanchez@seacadets.org](mailto:fsanchez@seacadets.org)

**Executive Officer** - is responsible for the proper operation and administration of the unit and for such duties as may be delegated to him/her by the commanding officer. Assumes command in the absence of the commanding officer.

- LTC Patrick Healey, US Army (ret) [phealey@seacadets.org](mailto:phealey@seacadets.org)

**Administrative Officer** – is responsible for all administrative matters.

- LTJG Maria Oregon [moregon@seacadets.org](mailto:moregon@seacadets.org)

**Supply Officers** – is responsible for the safe custody/accounting of all material which is the property of the unit.

- **INST Ron Lin** [rlin@seacadets.org](mailto:rlin@seacadets.org)
- **INST Nancy Lin** [nlin@seacadets.org](mailto:nlin@seacadets.org)

**Training Officers** – are responsible for the instruction and training of cadets and leaders.

- **ENS Cristal Lindemood** [clindemood@seacadets.org](mailto:clindemood@seacadets.org)

## Q15. What is the Quarterdeck?

**Answer:** The quarterdeck is the most important place on the ship, and is the central control point for all its major activities. Think of the Armory as Escondido Battalion's "ship." Entering through the west door, the hallway represents the ship's "gangplank." The quarterdeck is at the end of the gangplank and just before the foyer. It is marked by a desk manned by two cadets, the Petty Officer of the Watch and the Messenger of the Watch. Personnel not in the uniform of the day are asked not to cross the quarterdeck unless necessary. Crossing the quarterdeck requires being signed into the quarterdeck log, displaying appropriate ID and being granted permission to 'come aboard' by the quarterdeck watch. Parents and family members who are not enrolled as volunteer staff are allowed onto the quarterdeck only for the purpose of watching final muster. For those wishing to watch final muster, please arrive 15 prior and report to the quarterdeck immediately. For those wishing to speak with the Executive Officer or the Commanding Officer, please report to the quarterdeck and request that the Officer of the Day be summoned. The Officer of the Day will escort you to the Ship's Office.

## Q16. How do cadets advance in rank?

**Answer:** Requirements for NLCC and NSCC cadet rank advancement can be found at: <http://www.escondidobattalion.org/advancement-requirements.html>

## Q17. May I stay and observe during training?

**Answer:** Non-registered staff are asked not to stay and observe during cadet training unless they are enrolled in the program. Once business has been conducted with the adult staff, parents and guardians are asked to vacate the drill hall. This insures that the cadet's full attention is placed on the instruction and not focused on family members. It also ensures cadet safety, as all adult staff undergo a thorough background check prior to enrollment. Only enrolled adult staff members are

allowed to interact with and transport cadets. Parents may arrive early for cadet pick-up and observe final muster. The only other exception to this rule is when the parents or guardian are enrolling a cadet on the day of drill. Families are welcome to stay and observe during the annual Flagship competitions and subsequent awards ceremonies. Flagship is a fun family event!

## Q18. Can I volunteer to help?

**Answer:** Adults are encouraged to volunteer. Although officer billets may not always be available, adult escorts are often needed for cadet transportation to and from field trips and other events. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the Personnel or Administrative Officer.

## Q19. Is there an available list of military terms?

**Answer:** A brief listing of some of the more commonly used military terms follows:

ALPO .....	Assistant Leading Petty Officer
ASLPO .....	Assistant Ship's Leading Petty Officer
BMR .....	Basic Military Requirement Coursework
CO .....	Commanding Officer (Captain)
COTC .....	Commanding Officer of the Training Contingent
Cover.....	Uniform cap or hat
CPO (Chief) .....	Chief Petty Officer
LPO .....	Leading Petty Officer
MOOW.....	Messenger of the Watch
Muster .....	Gather together for roll call
NHQ .....	National Headquarters
NWU .....	Navy Working Uniform
OOD .....	Officer of the Deck
POC .....	Point of Contact
POD .....	Plan of the Day

POM ..... Plan of the Month  
POOW ..... Petty Officer of the Watch  
PRT..... Physical Readiness Testing  
RT ..... Recruit Training  
Service Jacket.....File holding the NLCC/NSCC service record for each cadet  
SLPO.....Ship's Leading Petty Officer  
SOP ..... Standard Operating Procedure  
USNLCC or NLCC..... United States Naval League Cadet Corps  
USNSCC or NSCC ..... United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps  
XO ..... Executive Officer