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Sullivan earns Earle's First Small Craft Pin

Naval Weapon Station Earle's new Small Craft Insignia program was little more than an idea when MA2 Jeremy Sullivan first reported to the installation's harbor security team three years ago, but he already knew that once the program was in place, he wanted to be the first Sailor here to achieve it.

"When I found out there was an opportunity to earn it here, I was very adamant to be at the top of that list," the Austin, Texas native said.

Through a combined effort by NWS Earle's Port Operations and Security Departments, the installation Small Craft Insignia instruction was officially signed in April of 2016. Exactly one year later, the pin was awarded to Sullivan during the installation's monthly awards ceremony.

According to his watch commander, MA1 Jaster, Sullivan earned the right to be the first to go through the qualification program.

"He was the most qualified and the most ready to earn the pin," said Jaster, who himself earned the SCI while deployed to Bahrain. "He was the obvious first choice for us to push forward with this program."

For Jaster, earning the pin is about more than pride, it represents a Sailors competency to conduct tactical boat operations to the standard.

"I'll look at Sullivan a lot differently than someone who doesn't have the pin, just like I'll look at someone coming into the command who already has it differently," he said.

He said the eagerness in the command to get this program underway is a reflection on how leaders are taking care of their Sailors.

"It says something about the command, and who we are, that we're pushing for this, that we're seeking these opportunities to recognize the work our folks here do," he added.



U.S. Navy Photo

MA1 Benjamin Jaster, NWS Earle Waterfront Security Watch Commander, pins the Small Craft Insignia to the uniform of MA2 Jeremy Sullivan, during the installation's monthly awards ceremony April 7. Sullivan is the first NWS Earle Sailor to earn the pin under the installation's newly formed program.

And while Sullivan will encourage his fellow coxswains to seek the qualification, he does so with some caution.

"It's not something that should be rushed," he said. "If you see someone wearing that pin, you expect them to know a lot about boats. You really need to know everything there is to know before earning the pin."

In order to earn the SCI, Sailors must be level 2 Coxswain qualified for six months, demonstrate a strong knowledge of the pin and its history, and demonstrate their abilities to conduct tactical boat operations through hands on, class room and one on one training.



The Small Craft Insignia (more commonly known as the Small Craft Pin) is a decoration of the United States Navy which was first created in the 1970s following the close of the Vietnam War. The intent in creating the Small Craft Pin was to give recognition to the specially trained naval personnel who comprised the inshore boat units and river assault commands.

The Small Craft Pin (commonly called the 'Coxswain Pin' or 'Boat Pin' by U.S. Navy Sailors) is issued in two grades for both officers and enlisted. The gold (officer) or silver (enlisted) metal pin consists of a small craft circumscribed by an anchor flukes on the sides and bottom and a three star pennant on top.

Civilian Spotlight: Beatrice Broadnax

This month's spotlight is Beatrice Broadnax, NWS Earle's new Child Development Center Director. A native of Indiana, Broadnax previously served as Earle's Acting CDC Director in 2008 and has helped serve military children around the globe, from Germany to Bahrain and throughout the United States since 1987.

What made you want to come here to Earle?

"I had been here before, I was [Temporary Duty] here in 2008 and I really enjoyed it. I came here from Bahrain, and I had been there for about eight years, so I felt it was time to come back to the United States. I knew it was a great program, and great leadership here too."

What are some of your goals coming on board?

"To ensure we continue to provide a quality program—the children are kept safe and well cared for and that the team remains motivated."

Where did you get your start working with military children?

"I started in Germany in 1987 in Wurzburg. My husband was active duty and I began working for the U.S. Army at that time. I came up through the ranks. I first started as an intermittent on-call employee, meaning they only called you when they needed you. I started from the bottom, but I took advantage of all the educational opportunities within the program—going back to school to get my early childhood education degree—and I worked my way up the ranks. I always joke that I've done every job that there is to do, from on-call, to the cook, to the trainer and even worked monitoring the Childhood Development Home program."

What would you say is the most important thing you've learned in your experience?

"I think all of your combined experiences help you with your next challenge or your next experience. I think coming here what I've learned is just to ensure you have a motivated team, that you incorporate families, that you maintain open communication with parents at all times. I've started a monthly newsletter, I've emailed parents every week just to keep those lines of communication, because we have to partner together to make sure that the children are successful."

What is unique about Earle's CDC in your opinion?

"What I really like is that we have a veteran staff, staff that have been here a long time, so they're invested and they're experienced."

What are some of your hobbies?



U.S. Navy Photo

Beatrice Broadnax is the new Director of NWS Earle's Child Development Center, but this isn't her first tour here at Earle.

"I love to shop. I like to go to flea markets. I usually find myself very active in the church. I'm still looking for the right church here, but I like to get involved, particularly with the women's ministry."

What was your experience in Bahrain like?

"It was probably the most challenging work experience that I've ever had, but at the same time the most rewarding. They had closed the area for families for about five years. So when I went over there I was responsible for re-opening all of the child and youth programs. When I walked into the centers, there was a big chain link on the front door and everything inside was like a time warp. There were pictures of the children from five years ago, the calendars, the toys on the shelf. So my job was to renovate it, oversee all of those changes and to get the programs running again. From school aged, teen programs, youth programs and CDC. So it was challenging because families were just returning, so you didn't have that Family workforce pool and we had to rely on some third country nationals. It was tight-knit though. We had a good time."

How do you translate that experience to NWS Earle?

There were some challenges here as well. They were without a director for a good amount of time here, so I think my experience in Bahrain will carry over as we continue to build this program."

If you're interested in featuring a Sailor or civilian in the spotlight, please contact the Public Affairs Officer at colt.wpnstaearlepa@navy.mil

Earle MWR Team Earns 5 Stars!

By Jennifer Diamond/ MWR

The NWS Earle MWR program was recently awarded the highest possible level of recognition through the CNIC MWR Accreditation Program – a Five-Star rating. The accreditation program, which was established to set a standard of operation by recognizing top performing installations across the Navy, recognizes MWR operations that clearly demonstrate superior management and embody the spirit of the program. After a lengthy and thorough review of an MWR program is complete, an installation may be accredited, accredited with a Five-Star rating or not accredited at all. Once designated, accreditation status is good for two years.

As a recipient of the Five –Star designation, NWS Earle has proven to exemplify the highest standards of MWR programming, professionalism, financial performance and superior customer service. The MWR program standards form the foundation of daily operations and are reinforced by MWR leadership at NWS Earle. Program managers continually develop new initiatives to enhance current programs. Additionally, employee development is a priority. NWS Earle MWR ensures all staff members are fully trained, empowered and are actively engaged in process improvement.

"Our entire team worked extremely hard to prepare for this visit," said MWR Director Mary Borree. "We've known all along that we have a great program and deliver top quality programs and events, but it sure is nice to be recognized for going the extra

mile. I'm so proud of all the MWR staff because, not only did they knock it out of the park by getting a 5-Star rating, but they deliver day in and day out and that's what really counts."

Earning a Five-Star designation is a highly-involved process including numerous steps. Critical elements of accreditation include programs, personnel development, financial performance, customer satisfaction and facility management. Accredited MWR Facilities, equipment and grounds –including green spaces, ball fields, and parking lots, must be kept to a high standard. Buildings must be well maintained and in good repair. Five-Star facilities and equipment have a modern appearance and are well maintained.

Early in the process, customer surveys are used to gather feedback which is used to

help rate an installation and to determine if customers are happy with the MWR program as a whole as well as to help identify an obvious barriers for non-participation. After customer feedback surveys are compiled and program offerings are reviewed, an accreditation team makes a site visit to personally validate installations offering the highest quality MWR Programs.

To achieve its highly-coveted Five-Star designation, the NWS Earle MWR program was held to a high standard across all offerings including, but not limited to, Fitness, Intramural Sports, Aquatics, Liberty, Community Recreation, Navy Getaways, Auto Skills, Food & Beverage as well as special events.



NWSE Honors Holocaust Survivors



Approximately 20 Naval Weapons Station Earle Sailors honored 14 Holocaust Survivors during a ceremony at Brookdale Community College April 21. The event, which was hosted by the college's Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education. During the ceremony, Sailors escorted the survivors onto the stage for a ceremonial candle lighting.

Awards and Accolades!



Senior Sailor of the Quarter (Q2)
MM1 Trevor Larson



Junior Sailor of the Quarter (Q2)
MA2 Luis Corniel



Blue Jacket of the Quarter (Q2)
MASN Sean Sullivan



Civilian of the Quarter (Q1)
Robert Hobba



Above: CAPT Steingold signs a proclamation kicking off April as Sexual Assault Prevention month. Below: CAPT Steingold presents award certificates to NWS Earle Sailors on behalf of the Mahala F. Atchison School Jump Rope for Heart program

Welcome Aboard

CAPT Pierre Fuller
LT Katherine Gorski
QM1 Martin Coffee
MA3 Bryce Snow
MASN Cordero Ivory
MASA Madison Hillman

Farewell

CAPT Jay Steingold
MA1 Kenneth Kozey
MASR Jesse Harger

Retirement

William F. Donahue: Fire Prevention Specialist—33 years of government service

