

Sea Cadet Corps a hidden jewel in Stamford

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The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps meet for training in the Stamford Marine Center building at 111 Harbor View Ave. in Stamford, Conn., April 22, 2013. Photo: Keelin Daly

I lead the unit of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps that serves Fairfield County. We are based in Stamford yet few are aware of us. We provide training in the maritime sciences, seamanship, naval traditions, customs and courtesies and the like in a military format for young men and women age 10-17. Our unit is housed in the former Navy Reserve Center on Magee Avenue.

You might have seen the Stamford Advocate cover story on us related to the real estate venture that proposes turning the space at Magee Avenue into a boatyard. We have been in Stamford for 54 years training the leaders of tomorrow with respect to teamwork, responsibility, self-reliance and leadership. Approximately 20 percent of our cadets through the years have gone on to the military but most are among you throughout Fairfield County as firefighters, businessmen and women, EMT's, bankers, police officers, parents and the like. They are solid citizens.

Throughout the Memorial Day weekend the cadets honored the men and women of the military who gave their lives in service to our country. For our unit, these were "working days" as we

marched in parades and participated in memorial events in our area (Stamford, Greenwich and New Canaan).

We recognize the sacrifice of our veterans and worked with our cadets to understand that and the role of the U.S. Navy in keeping sea commerce a viable option for our nation.

On Monday, June 10, we will be graduating five cadets from the program and the Oncoming Watch (junior cadets) will move into leadership positions. I invite you to our Relieving of the Watch Ceremony at 7 p.m.

Though we have been here for a long time we are a hidden jewel and Stamford's own. I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of these young people and for continued support in the days ahead.

LCDR Jennifer Stannard, NSCC

Commanding Officer, Dealey Division

Stamford