

To whom it may concern:

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> I apologize that I cannot read this letter myself before the  
> committee. Currently, I am deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring  
Freedom.

> I wish to take a moment of your time to talk about the Sea  
> Cadet program and the benefits it offers the community and the  
> country.

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> Dealey Division has always had the highest caliber of young adults  
> graduating from the Sea Cadet program. The Sea Cadet program,  
> particularly Dealey Division, teaches more than just knot tying,  
> seamanship skills, and drill and ceremony. The division prepares  
> young men and women to stand ready with a sound judgment of character  
> with high standards of morals and ethics. In addition, the Dealey  
> staff prepares men and women for not only military service but  
> civilian life as well by teaching leadership, management, work ethic,  
> responsibilities, and accountability.

With such a solid base graduates from the program are ready to go make a difference  
not only in the world, but also locally within Connecticut. Most cadets have  
> gone on to become local civil servants or capitals of industry which  
> benefits the community. Others from Dealey division have gone on to  
> serve in the military as military officers, fighter pilots, Navy  
> SEALs, and other factions of military.

In order to continue to represent the best Connecticut has to offer the need for a  
suitable space to drill and train is paramount. Not having such a space will  
> be a detrimental to the professional development of many young men and  
> women who are willing to sacrifice nights and weekends of their time  
> to train.

I for one would not be where I am today if it were not for  
> the Sea Cadet program. The leadership lessons and mentorship provided  
> by the devoted staff has been invaluable to me. I respectfully  
> request the assistance of the committee to help keep Dealey Division  
> up and running.

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> Very Respectfully,

> Matt R.

> Ansonia, CT