



# News Release

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NSA PC Senior Sailor, Junior Sailor & Blue Jacket of the Year Announced

**Panama City, Fla.** – Three Sailors aboard Naval Support Activity Panama City are selected for Senior Sailor, Junior Sailor and Blue Jacket of the Year, Dec. 15.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Tamon Winkler, Security Department, NSA PC, was awarded the Senior Sailor of the Year.

Winkler says the award is a reflection of teamwork.

“It’s not always about myself but it’s about all of us working together and making sure that we can get the job done,” Winkler remarked. “Being Sailor of the Year is great. I think it’s amazing but it’s really everybody working as a team to really put things together.”

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Brett Lohrbach, Security Department, NSA PC, received the Junior Sailor of the Year, which was contributed to hard work coupled with long days and nights.

“I was extremely excited to know the Secretary of the Navy was coming down and actually awarding us that, (which) doesn’t happen too often,” Lohrbach added.

Shakele Johnson, Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class, Chaplain, NSA PC, was awarded the Blue Jacket of the Year.

Johnson said the recognition came from his 2020 motto: put your head down and work.

“Everyone knows me for coming to work, doing what I (have) to do and then repeat the next day ... the best part about it was the SecNav coming and actually giving the awards to us so that was the cherry on top,” Johnson said.

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In November, Lohrbach and Johnson were recognized for their achievements by Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braitwaite during his visit to the installation.

The Chief of Naval Operations established the Sailor of Year Program to recognize one Sailor who represents the best of the Navy by demonstrating both professional and personal dedication. In 1972, the SOY Program only recognized Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The program was expanded in 1973 to recognize one outstanding Sailor representing those serving in shore establishments Navy-wide. In 1982, the program began to include the Navy Enlisted Reservist of the Year.

The SOY Program recognizes Sailors who best represent the large number of dedicated professionals serving in a particular type of duty as assigned. The SOY candidate is typified by a history of sustained superior performance, command impact, mission contribution, proven leadership, dedication to self-improvement, outstanding professionalism and superior personal appearance.

“I think Sailor of the Year is a great program. I think it’s very important for the Navy. It’s good for the senior Sailor but I always have to remember it’s all about my junior Sailors,” Winkler added. “It’s all about putting them in for Sailors of the quarter, making sure that they can achieve and grow to get to where I am so that’s what being Sailor of the Year is about for me.”

To read the new SOY program instruction visit:  
<https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/Directives/01000%20Military%20Personnel%20Support/01-700%20Morale,%20Community%20and%20Religious%20Services/1700.10P.pdf>

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