

NSA Panama City Sailors of the 1st Quarter Announced
By Re-Essa Buckels | NSA Panama City Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, FL – Three Sailors aboard Naval Support Activity Panama City were selected for Senior Sailor, Junior Sailor and Blue Jacket of the first quarter, Feb. 4.

Information Systems 1st Class Thane Henderson, Information Technology and Command Control, NSA Panama City, was awarded the Senior Sailor of the Quarter.

Henderson's day-to-day consist of providing technical customer support to ensure base personnel are mission ready.

Henderson also spends much of his time stepping up to fill collateral duties ranging from Suicide Prevention Coordinator to Urinalysis Coordinator.

"Make sure you're meeting all of the requirements you need to meet and start branching out; that's why picking up the slack gets regurgitated, Henderson remarked. "You're here to do your job, but you're also here to help everyone else move forward."

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Jason Bond, Security Department, NSA Panama City, received the Junior Sailor of the Quarter, for his efforts in the Security Department and as the President of the Coalition of Sailors against Destructive Decisions.

"Hard work, dedication and commitment doesn't go unnoticed so work hard and it will pay off," Bond said.

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Iman Rice, Port Operations, NSA Panama City, was awarded the Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Rice was shocked when she received the call from the Senior Enlisted Advisor Senior Chief Dwayne Gordon and Commanding Officer Cmdr. Kevin Christenson, who recognized her efforts. As the training petty officer, she motivated and ensured personnel completed their training and qualifications ahead of schedule.

"I was thankful ... It's always nice to be recognized for the hard work that you do," Rice added.

The Sailor of the Quarter falls under the umbrella of the Sailor of Year Program. The Chief of Naval Operations established the Sailor of Year Program to recognize Sailors who represent the Navy's best 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. Most recently, in October 2020, the Chief of Naval Operations expanded the program from four SOYs to recognize the top 18 Sailors and meritoriously promote them to the next pay grade as a Chief Petty Officer.

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.

Henderson shared these words of wisdom to younger Sailors.

“As far as trying to achieve this award, it’s not all about you ... the Navy always preaches the well-rounded Sailor ... you need to at least excel at your job, then start going into (other) areas,” Henderson explained.

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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