

From: OIC Resolute, CSNTS Block XX  
To: CSNTS Awards Board

Subject: CSNTS McWETHY AWARD NOMINATION ICO MIDN XXXX XXXXXX

1. MIDN XXXXXX is a superb future Naval Officer whose performance and leadership during this CSNTS cruise were outstanding in every respect. It is a pleasure to nominate him for the McWethy award.
2. On Resolute only one first class midshipman was assigned, and thus the position of Navigator was available to a 3/C. MIDN XXXXXX immediately volunteered for the position, which was fortunate as he would have been my choice on the basis of his extensive experience in sailing and seamanship. He led the effort of chart preparation with proactivity and energy and took ownership of the track from the first day. His organizational skills were superb, and were exemplified by his ability to be a step ahead of what I needed with regard to navigating the ship.
3. MIDN XXXXXX came to Resolute with significant sailing and shiphandling experience gained via participation on the sailing team and in the Saturday morning program. It was clear from the outset of cruise that he had dedicated himself to enhancing his skills and learning as much as possible in preparation for qualification as skipper. He came to me every day of the cruise to obtain PQS checkouts and was tireless in looking up information that I demanded in those sessions. He was an enthusiastic and rapid learner. By the end of cruise he had excellent command of sail trim including spinnaker handling, and was a frequent teacher of his fellow 3/C, who came to him willingly for advice.
4. He was assigned as Watch Captain from the beginning of the offshore portion, opposite the sole 1/C on board. As a Watch Captain his performance was outstanding. He required zero supervision, and could be relied upon to provide his leadership all necessary information. He always kept a 360° picture in sight, including sensitivity to weather, conditions, crew status and navigation. Under his guidance the boat was sailed correctly and safely, and his section received superb training. He earned my recommendation for Senior Skipper Qualification and will be expected to complete the process early in the Fall.
5. As the supervisor of navigation, MIDN XXXXXX gained my confidence early. He demonstrated proficiency in visual and electronic navigation, making full use of the extra features of the Loran system but relying primarily on visual navigation when conditions permitted. He planned a night mooring in Block Island, docking in Newport, transit of Hell Gate, and negotiation of the Chesapeake and Delaware canal and the upper Chesapeake, all of which were completed without incident. Of particular note was his handling of the exit from the Chesapeake and Delaware canal. This can be tricky with multiple ranges that cannot be seen until they line up for use. He was proactive and two steps ahead of the need, giving the helm precise information about what he would see and providing accurate turn bearings. It was a textbook operation and exceeded my expectations. He was a tireless teacher of his peers and maintained a sense of ownership of the nav plot whether he was on watch or not.

6. MIDN Xxxxxxx helped to keep Resolute under sail. Despite the fact that other squadron boats were motoring on several occasions, he was able to determine that during most of the cruise we could continue to make progress down the track under sail. He provided accurate predictions of arrival at waypoints and even forecast our arrival at Santee Basin within 15 minutes, while still in the Delaware Bay. As a result when other STC were running out of fuel on the return to Annapolis, Resolute had plenty and did not need to consider refueling enroute.
  
7. At the outset of this cruise I challenged MIDN Xxxxxxx to strive to be the best in every respect, and to keep that as a goal for the crew. The performance of the crew was exemplary and reflected his outstanding leadership and proactivity in navigation planning. He did all I asked and more. He is the finest third class midshipman that I have seen in the CSNTS program.

I. M. OIC