



MEDIA ADVISORY

Public Affairs Office
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue,
Suite 250
Norfolk, Va. 23551-2487
(757) 836-3600
Fax: (757) 836-3601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory 15-13
March 12, 2013

USFF Sailor of the Year: Helping Others Good for Soul By MC1 (SW/AW) Phil Beaufort

NORFOLK, Va. – On a hot, summer central Texas day, 10-year-old Philip Hamilton sits on his grandmother’s porch just outside of Waco, drinking ice-cold lemonade after helping her paint the exterior of her country house. She then tells him something that will resonate with him his entire life.

“You make sure you take care of others because someday it’s going to be you who’s going to need some help.”

Hamilton took the lesson to heart.

After graduating from Midland High School in 1998, he realized he needed a break from school and began researching a career in the military. He quickly narrowed his focus between the Marine Corps and the Navy. After due diligence, he concluded the Navy offered more in the way of marketable skills and enlisted at the age of 18.

Twenty-three years later, he’s still living his life by his grandmother’s advice, and it’s one of the reasons Yeoman 1st Class Philip Hamilton was selected as the U.S. Fleet Forces Direct Reporting Activity (DRA) Shore Sailor of the Year last week.

Throughout his career, he not only looked out for his shipmates but actively sought out community relations opportunities wherever he was stationed.

“I really think that community service helps ground me in so many ways. First, I get to help people, which I think has a positive impact on our souls. And for Sailors who are new to an area, it lets them get to know what a community has to offer quickly. It’s a lot of fun to get out of the office and do something you don’t normally get to do and you end up meeting a lot of people whose paths you wouldn’t normally cross,” says Hamilton.

Hamilton says getting to know the Sailors working for you is even more important.

“You have to take a keen interest in your Sailors, especially your junior Sailors. You have to put their needs before your own. If you’re mentoring someone, don’t stop at what’s going on in the workplace. Take it seriously and look at what is truly in the best interest of the individual.”

While Hamilton was stationed at the Bureau of Navy Personnel in Millington, Tenn., he was offered a job as a government service employee. Once he finished his enlisted contract, he decided to take the position.

“I met him while he was a civilian, and I was the lead detailer for the aviation community,” said now Rear Adm. Mark Guadagnini, director of USFF Maritime Headquarters. “We got to know each other at work and at some of the command-sponsored sporting events. So one day, he came to me and said that if I was selected to be a flag officer, he wanted to reenlist to be my flag writer. As luck would have it, the results came out a week later, and I was selected for admiral. And here’s the thing about Petty Officer Hamilton, he didn’t ask for any help; he just went about getting back into service,” said Guadagnini. “I was honored that someone thought so highly of me that they would reenlist to be on my team. And the best part about YN1 is that he sees everything as a team effort, and he pitches in wherever it’s needed to make the team better.”

Hamilton has served as Guadagnini’s flag writer for the past seven years.

As USFF DRA Sailor of the Year, Hamilton will go on to compete in the USFF Shore SOY competition at the end of March. He says he is eager to meet the best of the Atlantic Fleet.

“I’m looking forward to the next round. Win or lose, I get to hang out with some of the best Sailors the Fleet has to offer. I know I’ll be picking their brains, so at the end of the week, I’ll have another set of tools to work with in order to help my Sailors.”