

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
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Testimony of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Program
IN SUPPORT OF THE SEA CADET AMENDMENT
Before the House Armed Services Committee

Greetings, members of the House Armed Services Committee.

My name is James Monahan. I am the Executive Director of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, or USNSCC. I am testifying in support of the Sea Cadet Amendment, which requests full program funding for cadet training. I have been the Executive Director at the USNSCC since 2011, after having retired from the U.S. Navy in 2010 at the rank of Captain following a 30-year career. As a former naval officer, I was well-aware of the Sea Cadets, but it was not until joining the organization that I fully understood the impact of it upon our nation's youth and armed services.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps currently trains approximately 9,000 cadets, between the ages of 11 and 17, with 3,000 volunteers annually. Since program inception in 1962, over 150,000 Americans have been Sea Cadets. Our program is different from other military-focused youth programs in that we operate with a small full-time staff of nine and are comprised primarily of volunteers. Our cadets meet out-of-school on weekends and school vacations, unlike Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, or JROTC, units have historically paid most of their expenses out-of-pocket. Due to program growth and training cost increases, we struggle to adequately subsidize the cadet's out-of-pocket expenses, which may lead to the exclusion of youngsters who cannot afford to participate.

Federal funding provides the majority of the USNSCC's financial support. Since fiscal year 2006, the Navy has programmed a constant \$1,700,000 funding level into the Recruiting and Advertising budget line and has used our program's metrics as part of their budget justification. Despite program growth and training cost increases, the Navy's funding level has not grown. The impact of this is that each year our program seeks additional funding from Congress to ensure that annual training opportunities be conducted at a reasonable cost to cadet families, given their already substantial financial costs to participate in the program. For fiscal year 2015, we are seeking \$1,148,000 of additional funding through Congress, beyond the \$1,700,000 included by the U.S. Navy in the President's Budget.

The benefits of our program far outweigh the support received. It is estimated that every year around 600 of our graduating cadets continue on to either enlist in our nation's armed services or join officer commissioning programs, such as ROTC, Officer Candidate School or the service academies. In 2013, 125 former Sea Cadets joined the incoming class at the U.S. Naval Academy, a figure that has been consistent over the past decade.

Each cadet who enters the armed services is a disciplined, well-trained individual who typically adjusts better to the rigors of military service than those with no military experience. Each cadet who enlists is a pre-trained asset who saves our military in life-cycle training costs. Sea Cadets enter adulthood as productive, responsible members of society. Our cadets maintain a commitment to being drug-, alcohol- and gang-free and nearly 100% of our cadets continue on to become high school graduates.

I strongly believe that the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps helps to shape capable and competent Sailors and Officers for our maritime services, as well as outstanding citizens. I hope you will consider supporting the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps through the inclusion of the Sea Cadet Amendment in this year's House NDAA. Our cadets, who are our nation's future leaders, depend on it.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Monahan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CAPT James E. Monahan, USN, (Ret.)