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Surface combat systems training center selects domain 2013 Civilian of the Year

DAHLGREN, Va. – Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) announced its domain wide 2013 Civilian of the Year, Jan. 28.

Capt. Don Schmieley, CSCS commanding officer, commended David Gandee, a CSCS Unit Great Lakes instructor for his selection, saying it was an honor to give this award to him not only for a job well-done, but also for having an essential role in training the future of our fleet.

"Being an instructor is considered one of the most honored and valued positions in our training domain," Schmieley said. "When a student graduates from one of David's courses, I can say with confidence that he or she has been provided the tools to better our Navy."

A retired Chief Boatswain Mate, Gandee instructs Boatswain's Mate "A" School and Surface Common Core (SCC) in Basic Seamanship and Deck Fundamentals.

Cmdr. Jack Knick, CSCSU Great Lakes' commanding officer, says Gandee's professional knowledge extends from 20 years of naval service and thousands of seamanship evolutions ranging from towing and anchoring to all aspects of amphibious operations.

"He has many responsibilities including Testing Program Manager of Surface Common Core (SCC), Community of Practice Leader for BM "A" School and SCC, representing CSCSU Great Lakes during BM Job Duty Task Analysis (JDTA) working groups, and is an active member in the CSCSU Great Lakes Chief Petty Officer Association holding the position of Master at Arms," said Knick. "Mr. Gandee plays a significant role in our success and is most deserving to represent CSCS as its domain civilian of the year."

Gandee, who was selected as CSCSU Great Lakes' civilian of the quarter in both 2012 and 2013, explains that every day he gets to continue doing what he loved during his naval career; train junior enlisted Sailors to become BMs.

"I will always be a Boatswain's Mate," he said. "In the classroom I cover Underway Replenishment, Small Boat Operations, Amphibious Operations, as well as Mooring and Anchoring, to name a few. I always enjoyed participating in these evolutions and now I can pass on the knowledge and experience I have gained over the years to the next generation of BMs."

The Center for Surface Combat Systems mission is to develop and deliver surface ship combat systems training to achieve surface warfare superiority. CSCS headquarters' staff oversees 14 learning sites, including CSCS Unit Great Lakes, and provides almost 70,000 hours of curriculum for close to 700 courses a year to more than 40,000 Sailors. The training center uses a mix of blended learning comprised of instructor led classes, hands-on labs, simulation and computer-based training.

For information on the Center for Surface Combat System, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cscs/>

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Story by Kimberly Lansdale, Center for Surface Combat Systems