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Norfolk Instructor Selected As Submarine Learning Center's 2014 Sailor of the Year

GROTON, Conn. – The Submarine Learning Center (SLC) in Groton, Conn. announced Nov. 6 the selection of an instructor from the Submarine Learning Facility (SLF) in Norfolk, Va. as their Sailor of the Year for 2014.

Machinist Mate 1st Class (Submarines) Stephen Lowman serves as leading petty officer of SLF Norfolk, and is qualified to teach nine courses of instruction and is the course supervisor for six courses.

“We have a great deal of talent here on our SLF staff so it’s hard for me to fully appreciate the depth of talent when looking at and across the entire Submarine Learning Center domain,” said Lowman. “But because I do have some sense of both the quality and diversity of those abilities and have seen first-hand what happens when you harness all energy not just for good but for great, I’m truly honored by my selection as Sailor of the Year (SOY).

According to his Commanding Officer at SLF, Cmdr. S. K. Stewart, Jr., Lowman’s selection was due to his dedicated work ethic, seamless time management, and extremely efficient managerial ability. Of special note, he identified a fleet deficiency and established the Submarine Oxygen Clean

Worker Course in Norfolk which led to the SLF being the only training center on the East Coast to offer this course.

“Through numerous training assessment cycles and command inspections, Lowman flawlessly ran all assigned programs meeting critical fleet requirements throughout the Submarine Force,” said Stewart. “He is vital to the success of Submarine Learning Facility.”

A native of Baton Rouge, La., Lowman joined the Navy in 2007, reporting as an instructor to SLF in Norfolk, in 2012 from USS Newport News (SSN 750).

According to Lowman, his rapid qualification as a Navy Master Training Specialist (MTS) provided a foundation to more fully allow him to offer excellent training, meticulous system guidance and in-depth lifesaving information. He was selected as an SLF Instructor of the Quarter, as well as SLF Sailor of the Year, for 2014. He also serves as SLF’s Command Hazardous Material Coordinator, receiving zero deficiencies through four major command inspections.

“I realize there are many instructors who are making a positive impact in their students’ lives both in and out of the classroom, so I deeply appreciate the recognition,” added Lowman. “I am honored to be selected but I see the award as recognition of all our hard work here at SLF. I happen to be the one Sailor chosen, in a sense representing all of us.”

“The SLC Sailor of the Year selection process for the domain operating at sites around the world with learners ranging from newly enlisted accessions through senior officers in submarine command courses reflects both the

challenge and reward of instructor duty," said SLC Command Master Chief Tomas Garcia, praising this year's nominees.

"Every Sailor had impeccable credentials, enthusiastic endorsements and engaged advocates. They all were marvelous representatives of their respective schoolhouses and I've no doubt each would have been a tremendous selection as our Sailor of the Year," he added.

The other SLC SOY candidates, who were their training site Sailors of the Year included, Sonar Technician 1st Class (Submarines) Anthony Sullivan, Naval Submarine School, Groton, Conn.; Electronics Technician 1st Class (Submarines) Zachary Norris, Trident Training Facility, Kings Bay, Ga.; Missile Technician 1st Class Alexander Pelletier, Trident Training Facility, Bangor, Wash.; Machinist Mate 1st Class (Submarines) Donald Maloney, SLC Detachment San Diego; and Sonar Technician 1st Class (Submarines) Christopher Avakian, SLC Detachment Pearl Harbor.

Lowman will represent SLC for consideration as the Naval Education and Training Command 2014 Sailor of the Year. The NETC SOY will compete for the 2014 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Shore Sailor of the Year.