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Center for Information Dominance Announces 2014 Sailor of the Year

Story by Thom Seith, Center for Information Dominance Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. -- The Center for Information Dominance (CID) in Pensacola announced Dec. 11 its selection of Sailor of the Year (SOY) for 2014.

Selected was Electronics Technician 1st Class (IDW) Jonathan Cuellar, assigned to CID Unit, San Diego (CIDUSD). He is currently at the NETC headquarters in Pensacola participating in the competition for enterprise-wide SOY.

"This is an enormous honor and I am humbled by my selection," said Cuellar. "There are a lot of good Sailors doing great things every day to develop the Navy's future leaders. There is no secret to success; it is just leading by example, passing on knowledge, and having faith, trust and respect for your fellow Sailors."

Assigned to CIDUSD for the past two years, Cuellar's selection is evidence of his excellence while assigned as Department Leading Petty Officer (LPO), Information Systems Maintenance (ISM) Course supervisor, ISM and Naval

Tactical Command Support System (NTCSS) instructor. He also a qualified Master Training Specialist (MTS) and serves as Assistant Commander Navy Region Southwest (CNRSW) Navy COOL coordinator, CNRSW Military Funeral Honors Team leader, and Command Financial Specialist.

While Cuellar has many responsibilities as an instructor and course supervisor, he said mentoring Sailors presents the best challenges and the most rewards. Besides teaching technical courses, being able to present equal opportunity, diversity, sexual awareness prevention and response, and Navy pride & professionalism training to Sailors gives him the significant satisfaction.

"I would not have had this honor if someone had not taken the time to mentor me and then have the faith, trust and respect that I would get the job done," he added. "When the opportunity to fill the department leading chief petty officer position came about, I was recommended and the command supported that decision."

Senior Chief Information Systems Technician Nick Balich, Cuellar's supervisor and mentor, said Cuellar was selected as the SOY because of his professional commitment to the command, Sailors and to the community.

"Petty Officer Cuellar is dedicated, humble, and consistently exhibits the ability to motivate and inspire those around him," said Balich. "His commitment to the development of his subordinates, peers, and students is second to none."

Capt. Maureen Fox, CID commanding officer noted that Cuellar demonstrated numerous traits that made his selection easy for the selection committee.

“Petty Officer Cuellar has demonstrated exceptional deck plate leadership, keen managerial skills, and steadfast devotion to Sailor development which has set him apart from his peers,” said Fox. “He personifies the attributes of integrity, leadership, dedication, and maturity and I’m very proud of his selection as CID SOY.”

Cuellar is scheduled to transfer soon to the USS America (LHA-6), the first of the America-class amphibious assault ships for the U.S. Navy, and says he is looking forward to putting his talents to work in a shipboard environment.

The Center for Information Dominance (CID), based at Corry Station in Pensacola, Fla., is the Navy’s learning center that leads, manages and delivers Navy and joint forces training in information operations, information warfare, information technology, cryptology and intelligence.

With nearly 1,300 military, civilian and contracted staff members, CID oversees the development and administration of 226 courses at four commands, two detachments, and 14 learning sites throughout the United States and Japan. CID provides training for approximately 24,000 members of the U.S. Armed Services and allied forces each year.

For more information about CID, visit the website:

<http://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/ceninfodom/>

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