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NETC SOY repeats as MPT&E SOY; advances to CNO competition

GREAT LAKES, Ill. – Cryptologic Technician 1st Class (IW/SW/AW) James R. Lee Jr., announced as the Naval Education and Training Command Sailor of the Year (SOY) in December, was also selected as the 2013 Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPT&E) SOY at a ceremony at Naval Station Great Lakes Feb. 28.

Lee was one of four MPT&E SOY finalists, including Yeoman 1st Class Tiffany N. Summers from Navy Personnel Command (NPC); Yeoman 1st Class Dewayne L. Toon, from the Chief of Naval Personnel office; and Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Gemmy W. Tyson II, from Navy Recruiting Command.

The finalists participated in an interview and selection process conducted by MPT&E Force Master Chiefs, which included mentoring sessions with recruits at Recruit Training Command and students from Training Support Center Great Lakes. The selectees also toured various Chicago sites and attractions, and received on-court recognition by the Chicago Bulls professional basketball team on their home court at the United Center.

The announcement of the MPT&E SOY winner was made by the Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP), Vice Adm. Bill Moran, who oversees all commands in the MPT&E domain.

"This is a great group of candidates," said Moran. "It's not about being number one, and I think they all agree with that. They don't care. . . It was not about their personal achievements. It's all about their Sailors. It's about their service and something greater than themselves. And that's what makes you (to the four candidates) the best choices."

Lee, the leading petty officer at the Center for Information Dominance Learning Site in San Diego, said he was very humbled by his selection.

"It feels amazing and I was definitely surprised being named the MPT&E Sailor of the Year," he said. "I'm from a small command and I never thought I could make it to the MPT&E SOY, but it is totally possible and it just opens the door for anyone from any command to do this."

The next step in the SOY process for Lee will be the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Shore Sailor of the Year competition in Washington, D.C. If selected at the CNO level, he will automatically promote to Chief Petty Officer.

CNP Fleet Master Chief April Beldo called the MPT&E SOY week outstanding and said bringing the finalists back to Great Lakes was an opportunity to remind them where their Navy careers began.

This has been by far one of the hardest Sailor of the Year interviews I have had to participate in," said Beldo. "All four of the candidates would be well-

suiting to represent Vice Adm. Moran and MPT&E. Lee 's sailorization, his boardmanship and his overall knowledge of Navy programs and how they affect the Sailors that he leads gave him the lead over his peers during the interview. I'm very proud of him and all the nominees I had the humbling opportunity to spend time with this past week during the MPT&E SOY event in Great Lakes."

For more information on the Naval Education and Training Command, visit the NETC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

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Story by NSTC and NETC Public Affairs