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Brooklyn native selected as Navy Sailor of the Year

PENSACOLA, Fla. – One of Brooklyn's own was selected as the Naval Education and Training Command's Sailor of the Year (SOY) at a ceremony Dec. 12 at the National Museum of Naval Aviation on board Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

A 2004 graduate of Sheepshead Bay High School, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Sharon Barker has served just over nine years in the United States Navy. She's been on the fast-track to success since day one, being nominated for Bluejacket of the Quarter (outstanding Sailor) on her very first deployment. Since then, she has become one of the top Recruit Division Commanders at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., helping transition new recruits into Sailors at the Navy's Boot Camp.

"I became an instructor because I wanted to have a significant impact on the Navy. Being a Recruit Division Commander is such a rewarding experience," said Barker. "Every two months I have the opportunity to influence 88 young minds in preparation for the fleet, and for life. It is important to have top-notch Sailors as instructors. It is our job to ensure that the young men and women who volunteer to serve have the best possible examples to emulate. If they see greatness, they will aspire to be even better."

Rear Adm. Mike White, commander, Naval Education and Training Command said that winning Sailor of the Year is quite an accomplishment.

"The Sailor of the year is an excellent example of the fact that we have magnificent ships, aircraft, and weapons, but without skilled Sailors and Marines

they are ineffective," said White. "Our Sailors, staff and instructors display hard work and dedication to perfecting their craft; they are preparing the next generation of warfighters. They are truly the best of the best."

Barker will go on to compete as NETC's representative in the Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPTE) domain's top Sailor competition. Her future goals include becoming a Chief Petty Officer and finishing a Bachelor's degree in health care administration.

The NETC SOY program recognizes Sailors throughout the NETC domain who exhibit sustained superior performance, leadership, mentorship, knowledge, and teaching of military history and heritage, self-improvement, command and community involvement, and exemplary military bearing among other attributes.

For more information on the Naval Education and Training Command, visit

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