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Submarine Learning Center announces its 2011 Sailor of the Year

GROTON, Conn. – Submarine Learning Center (SLC) announced Nov 28 the selection of Basic Enlisted Submarine School Instructor Sonar Technician 1st Class (Submarines) Brian R. Osborne as its 2011 Sailor of the Year.

“Petty Officer Osborne’s dedication, leadership and sustained superior performance are nothing less than extraordinary,” said Capt. David A. Roberts, commanding officer, Naval Submarine School. “He embodies exactly what any command needs in a first class petty officer, providing energetic and intrusive deck plate leadership and much needed mentorship to junior Sailors.”

“His attention to every critical detail and ability to foresee problems is unmatched. Petty Officer Osborne always takes on the hardest assignments and always produces the best results,” Roberts said.

Osborne is the Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) Leading Petty Officer at Naval Submarine School in Groton, Conn. He leads a team of 18 instructors, providing personal and professional mentorship to more than 2,400 initial accession Sailors annually.

Osborne sees his selection as recognition for consistent upholding a high standard of performance, which he feels is the result of competitive camaraderie.

“We have 124 first class petty officers just at Naval Submarine School alone and more throughout the Submarine Learning Center domain,” said Osborne. “One of the great things about being in a cadre of high performers is you are always in a friendly competition with one another qualifying to stand for a particular watch or to become a Master Training Specialist (MTS).”

“Each of us becomes better at who we are and what we do because of the work you must do in order to succeed and keep up with everyone else. That effort helps you in the classroom, one-on-one with students, and in every aspect of your assignment. It helps assure that you will constantly and continually improve,” Osborne said.

Osborne joined the Navy in 1998 from his hometown of Mantua, Ohio.. After completing Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS) and Sonar Technician Apprentice School, Osborne reported to USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709), earning his Submarine Qualification badge , known as silver dolphins,() in five months and completing his qualifications through advanced sonar operator. In his first tour aboard Rickover, Osborne advanced to petty officer third class, qualified as sonar supervisor and served as the Deck Division Leading Petty Officer.

In October 2002, Osborne attended Sonar “C” School and advanced to petty officer second class. Upon graduation in January 2004, he returned to the USS Hyman G. Rickover to complete his sea tour. During his time on the Rickover, he completed three North Atlantic deployments.

In February 2006, he reported to Naval Submarine School where he taught Sonar Maintenance "C" School, advanced to petty officer first class and qualified as a Master Training Specialist (MTS).

In January 2008, he transferred to USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720) as the Sonar Leading Petty Officer, completing deployments in the Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and African Command (AFRICOM) operational areas.

Osborne returned to Naval Submarine School's Basic Enlisted Submarine Training Department in June 2009 where he serves as the Basic Enlisted Submarine School Leading Petty Officer.

"Osborne's selection was difficult because of the caliber of qualified candidate's throughout the domain," said SLC's Command Master Chief Ashley Drake "As you can imagine, all of our Sailors had impeccable credentials, were superlative representatives of their schoolhouses, and each of them would have been a great selection as our Sailor of the Year. Our decision, really, was to choose a 'Most Valuable Player' from an All-Star team."

Characterizing the process as fun and nerve wracking, Osborne concedes that his selection, changes you a little bit. "When I'm preparing for duty, I look at myself a little extra in the mirror, because now I know there are others looking at me as well. You aren't just a top performer; you become the standard by which others judge themselves," he explained.

Osborne now moves to the next level of competition, where he will represent SLC for consideration as Naval Education and Training Command's 2011 Sailor of the Year.

Regardless of the outcome, Osborne says he has enjoyed the journey.

"I was honored to be considered. Being selected is both a very great honor and a humbling responsibility, recognition programs are something to work for and towards, and makes you, and your command, better because of all the effort."

Click on the link for information about the Submarine Learning Center, <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/slc/> .

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Story by William Kenny, Submarine Learning Center Public Affairs