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## **Clear Spring Marine selected as Navy Instructor of the Year**

PENSACOLA, Fla. – One of Clear Spring's own was selected as the Naval Education and Training Command Junior Instructor of the Year at a ceremony Dec. 12 at the National Museum of Naval Aviation on board Naval Air Station Pensacola.

A 2008 graduate of Clear Spring High School, Marine Sgt. Benjamin Courter has served six years in the Marine Corps and is currently a Survival Evasion Rescue and Escape (SERE) Instructor at Center for Security Forces Detachment, North Island, San Diego.

When asked about the importance of an instructor's caliber, Courter said the integrity is key.

"Top-notch Marines and Sailor instructors take pride in what they do," said Courter. Lots of schools have students brand new to the military, and they need positive examples to emulate. I really enjoy teaching, I find the field fascinating."

Rear Adm. Mike White, commander, Naval Education and Training Command said that winning Instructor of the Year is quite a feat.

"The Junior Instructor of the Year selection 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 and Marines, 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."

Courter looks forward to taking his experience as an instructor back to the fleet. He advises new instructors to always welcome advice from their peers and look for different ways to present information when the straight-forward approach doesn't work. Long-term goals for Courter include attaining a doctorate degree and raising a family.

The NETC Sailor of the Year and Instructor of the Year programs recognize 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 news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cnet/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnet/).

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Story by Lt.j.g. Michael Hathaway, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs