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TTF Bangor wins NETC Excellence in Safety Award

NORFOLK, Va. — TRIDENT Training Facility (TTF), Bangor, Wash. was among the winners of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) Fiscal Year 2011 Excellence in Safety Awards, presented March 12 at the Naval Safety Center's 20th annual Safety Professional Development Conference .

The awards recognize outstanding performance in the areas of safety and risk management in a training and education environment. The individual excellence in safety (collateral duty) award winner is Senior Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) Richard Hicks, training safety officer for TTF, Bangor.

Presenting the awards at the NETC breakout session was Rear Adm. Clifford Sharpe, NETC chief operating officer.

"The key to the success of any military safety program are the people who execute it," said Sharpe. "These safety professionals ensure that good safety habits are instilled in our Sailors as they prepare to join the fleet. Senior Chief Hicks and the other winners have set the standard for the NETC domain, and have made a direct, tangible, contribution to combat readiness."

Although the position of training safety officer is a collateral duty, Hicks' efforts ensured that the high-risk training of more than 2,000 students in the Damage

Control Team Trainer and Fire Fighting Team Trainer was completed with zero training-related mishaps.

"This award is a great testament to what we're doing out here at Bangor and it's great to see the submarine field recognized," said Hicks. "We've been committed to continually bettering our processes and looking for new ways to be safe. When you have a great staff working with you, it makes difficult things easy."

Engineering Department Director for TTF Bangor, Lt. Cmdr. Rob Webster noted that safety is of paramount importance in the submarine community and high-risk training requires a special caliber of safety training officer.

"In our trainers at TTF Bangor, students are exposed to actual flame and smoke simulating an engine room fire, as well as pressurized water simulating submerged flooding," said Webster. "Over the last three years, TTF has provided these high-risk trainers to the fleet, ensuring their crews' readiness to combat casualties at sea. Senior Chief Hicks is a model naval leader and epitomizes the values and culture of the safety community."

"It's imperative that we stress the importance of safety to our Sailors early and throughout their time in the NETC domain," said Donald J. Leavens, NETC special assistant for safety. "The contributions that these safety professionals have made, both on the organizational and individual level, have greatly contributed to the present and future success of our most valuable assets, our Sailors. Their attention to detail and willingness to adapt to a changing environment have made significant improvements in all areas of safety."

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

Story by Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

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