



UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

Liberty (AGTR-5) Division

10 February, 2006

Dear Cadet Family Members,

One of my goals as the new Commanding Officer of the Liberty (AGTR5) Division is to explore avenues of support for the Division to make “our” Cadet’s experience and growth potential within the USNSCC program the best experience possible. Another of my goals is to increase Cadet Retention. My Executive Officer (XO) and I can not make this happen alone. Our time spent with our Cadets is completely voluntary and outside the weekend training that we run, we (each) also spend an excess of twenty hours a month between drills preparing reports for Headquarters; updating personnel training and supply files; attempting to coordinate training functions/trips; transportation; operational support for the unit, both financial support and bodies to help conduct training and help with weekend drills; not to mention planning and preparing for the next drill and maintaining the Division’s Web site.

No one ever said it would be easy; however, as the Commanding Officer, I must accomplish the mission regardless of the challenges, it’s all about managing available assets to make the program the best it can be for our Cadets. I intend on leading this unit in directions we have not gone before.

In talking to many of you I have become acutely aware that many of you grew up in the Long Island area and as such, you know many people and have a lot of contacts that can be very helpful in making our (your) program far more productive and effective than it is currently. As an example of the accomplishments we have been successful in since I have started talking to our parents: one set of parents contacted a number of bus companies and located an affordable bus, which we rented and transported our Cadets to the INTREPID aircraft carrier in Manhattan where we spent the day working with the museum volunteer staff experiencing a little bit of a day in the life of a sailor onboard a Navy ship and exploring the behind-the-scenes areas of the ship the public may never see. One Cadet referred to these out-of-the-public areas as the “forbidden parts of the Intrepid.” One parent is working on contacting a rifle range to facilitate a day at the range when the weather is a bit nicer; One of our parents who is an attorney is helping us file for our 501(c) (3) not-for-profit status with the IRS so we can accept corporate and private donations and grants, while another parent knows the Fire Chief in Babylon who is going to work with me to give the Cadets a day at the fire fighting academy. These are just a few of the things we can accomplish together. Unfortunately, as I live in Virginia and only commute to Long Island for the drill weekends, I can not spend time moving about Long Island making the fact-to-face contacts that are necessary to make these kinds of things happen and there is only so much I can expect LT(jg) Joy Aimetti to do, as few

fully realize just how much she has already done for this Division. That is why I am reaching out to you who call this your back yard so-to-speak.

That having been said, I am asking for some dedicated parents to step forward and lend a needed hand. One of my many plans is to form a Parents working group or committee.

The Parents Committee will be made up of the READY & WILLING family members of our League and Sea Cadets. It will be a Non-Political, Not-For-Profit group formed to assist in providing our Cadets with the highest quality program and lending a needed helping hand to me and my XO in tapping the local resources that many of you may have but may not fully realize.

If you have a son or daughter that's a cadet, then WELCOME, you're already a Team Liberty (AGTR5) Parent Committee member, the level of your involvement is up to you.

We are forming this committee to provide support to Liberty (AGTR5) in the form of Cadet transportation, adventurous training and educational projects, administrative support & fund raising support to name a few. I intend to provide some general guidance but the direction and depth of the Committee's function will be up to the Committee members and its Chairperson.

We need ALL HANDS ON DECK to accomplish these needs. Once we have identified a cadre of willing parents to step forward and take the reins in its formation, the members of the board will elect their Committee Chairperson, a Secretary and a Staff Liaison to facilitate coordination with me and my staff. Meetings will be determined by the Committee members. Until these key positions are filled, I will be the coordinating person that interested parents should contact preferably by email at woodwardf@comcast.net.

There are many ways that you can help: you don't have to be a full-time committee member; you don't have to be a full-time uniformed instructor or other full-time volunteer. Once this committee is formed, anyone can contact a committee member and offer some ideas or assistance on a one-time basis or periodically, as you feel you can. I hope that all of our parents will support this effort to whatever degree you can.

If you are a new parent, please consider joining. We need your support.

If you'd like more information on the parents group, have suggestions or have any questions, please send me an email with your questions or input. woodwardf@comcast.net

Thank you for your support,

LT(jg) Forrest Woodward
Commanding Officer
Liberty (AGTR5) Division