

Skipping the Fall, Living the Winter, Planning the Summer (Continued)

Another interesting event that occurred last semester was when Mike and Mike in the Morning, the ESPN Radio show, was broadcast from the Cadet Wardroom on November 8. It was very interesting to see what happens behind the scenes of the show. Also, I got to ask a question on national television.

Nearly all of my classes these days are extremely technical. Gone are the history and English classes, replaced by Heat Transfer and Advanced Engineering Mathematics. The good news is that I have fewer classes this semester, so I have free periods during the day to get work done.

In addition to classes, I serve as the Support Department Master-at-Arms for Echo Company. This means I assist the Support Department Head in ensuring the missions of the seven divisions within our department are accomplished, as well as assisting the Guidon Bearer with continuing to train the fourth class cadets so that they might step into the role of third class next year and have some semblance of what they should be doing.

I'm also participating in the LEAD mentorship program. My mentor, Sail Training Director Hart Kelley, and I meet about once a week to discuss, well, anything we want to. Topics range from leadership philosophies to the goings-on around the Academy.

It's an interesting time right now at the Academy, because the fourth, third, and second class cadets are all applying for their summer assignments. The Academy summer training program is, without a doubt, the most fun time at the Academy.

As a second class cadet, I will be going out this summer to gain some fleet experience. Actually, that's what the typical plan is, but I've applied for several special summer programs.

The first program I applied for is an academic internship at the Marine Safety Center in Washington, D.C. at USCG Headquarters. At MSC, cadets will use the tools they've gained through their study of Naval Architecture/Marine Engineering to complete a project that assists the MSC in completing its mission of ensuring commercial vessels meet design and operational safety standards.

Another program I applied for is the commercial deep-draft ship-rider program. Instead of going to sea aboard a Coast Guard Cutter, I would sail aboard a commercial vessel to foster respect and understanding between the Coast Guard and the shipping industry we regulate. It is also a requirement to qualify as a marine inspector, which is one of my career goals.

If I am not selected for either of those programs, I have also applied to a sector assignment. Sectors are the Coast Guard's shore-based operation centers. They coordinate search and rescue, enforce port security guidelines, and inspect commercial vessels. Sectors are where the marine inspectors are based.