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Cadets Debate for a Reason

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The United Nations (UN) is defined as an international organization whose stated aims are to facilitate cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress and human rights issues. The issues addressed by the UN are complex. To even simulate them on a smaller scale is a challenge; but still the Coast Guard Academy's Model UN Team took on the test.

Twelve cadets from the Academy's model UN team attended the McGill Model United Nations Conference, along with 2,500 other students from 200 schools world-wide, in Montreal, Canada Jan. 25-28, 2007. The cadets represented the foreign policy positions of the Czech Republic, Turkey and Belgium in various modern and historical simulations in debate and prose in simulated UN bodies and other international organizations.

While all cadets performed well, the following three students were personally recognized for their "outstanding diplomatic skills and excellence in representing their position in committee:"

- Third Class Cadet James Daffer of Loudon County, Va., received an honorable mention for his work as Konstantin von Neurath in the 1939 Reichstabinet.
- Second Cass Michael Gibson of London, England, received a verbal commendation for his service as the Minister of Information on the Simulated Iranian Revolutionary Council.
- Second Class Stew Sibert of Richmond, VA., received a verbal commendation for his work as the Turkish Foreign Minister in the Accession Talks between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey.

The Academy's Model UN Team has already participated in conferences at Yale and the University of Pennsylvania this past fall and is scheduled to appear in the Harvard National Championships Feb. 15-18 in Cambridge Mass. and the World Model UN conference March 26-30 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Model UN is funded by the Class of 1947.



Twelve members of the Model UN Team, along with their coach, represent the Coast Guard Academy at the McGill Model United Nations Conference in Montreal, Canada Jan. 25-28.