

# ENS Louise Mandour Brackin selected as the 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar

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The Australian Fulbright Commission offered then 1/c Louise Mandour Brackin a Fulbright Fellowship for the academic year 2009-10. ENS Brackin accepted and plans to pursue a Master's degree in International Law and International Relations at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

ENS Brackin's Fulbright project proposal requires her to work with the Australian Defence Forces to determine the most effective multilateral security strategy for Oceania. She will examine current maritime defense force capabilities, assess the sustainability of operations in specific island countries, and survey the resources available for expansion through international cooperation.

ENS Brackin will draw on her academic experiences at CGA to pursue her degree. Last year, she co-authored a paper on the civil-military tensions of humanitarian intervention and presented it at the Cantigny Joint Services Conference, where it was published by the US Military Academy's Undergraduate Journal of Social Sciences. This year, for her senior design project, she worked with (now ensigns) 1/c Emily Kehrt and 1/c Anthony Myers to develop a strategic framework for Coast Guard engagement in the Gulf of Guinea.

Throughout the year, the cadets conducted extensive research with international partners, transgovernmental agencies, and US Government entities to confront the maritime challenges of West Africa, from the illegal trafficking of humans and narcotics, to widespread government instability. The project culminated in April with a field test conducted in Sierra



*ENS Louise Mandour Brackin*

Leone, followed by a situation briefing on West Africa to the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Allen. ENS Brackin is intrigued by the maritime challenges of the South Pacific, and eager to see how they will compare with her Coast Guard experiences in the United States and in West Africa.

A government major, ENS Brackin first became interested in the Fulbright through the Honors Colloquium. She planned to pursue an Arabic immersion program in Bahrain. But in the summer of 2008, during an academic program in Hong Kong, she met a Fulbright scholar named Dr. Rachel Yould and was newly inspired to continue her Asian travels.

Throughout her CGA career, ENS Brackin served as both division officer and department head this year. The chance to work closely in a professional manner with her classmates has taught her a great deal about the values of honesty, integrity, and respect. Last year she appreciated the chance to be the "Voice of

Drill" for the cadets' parades, as well as announcer for various other events. Throughout her Academy career, ENS Brackin has been blessed with brilliant professors, dedicated underclass, and amazing classmates. Having benefited immeasurably from the hard work of those above her, she has welcomed the chance, in turn, to tutor, mentor, and train wherever she can be of assistance.

At the Academy, ENS Brackin was president of the Swing Dance Club, where she was well respected by the dance club members and all other cadets. Her proactive and highly ethical behavior has made her a role model, and her leadership skills were developed not only within the CGA Swing club but with time spent in varsity crew, junior varsity tennis, and yoga. As a performer, dancing in front of high-ranking audiences has shown her ability to handle pressure gracefully, and to be a goodwill ambassador. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and classic literature.

ENS Brackin is sincerely grateful for the chance to serve her country not only at CGA, but through representing the Coast Guard in many different places: as an exchange cadet at the Air Force Academy during 2/c year; studying political economy at Hong Kong University during 1/c summer; and now, with this fantastic opportunity overseas. She strives to bring energy and enthusiasm to all her work and strongly believes that life without passion is no life at

all. She is tremendously excited to be in the Coast Guard, and hopes to be assigned next year to the CGC BERTHOLF. She would like to alternate afloat tours with time in International Affairs, working towards an attaché or liaison position.

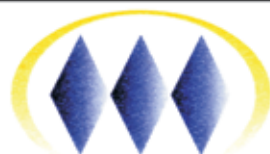
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