

Navy Installations Command Sailor of the Year Announced

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WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) announced the CNIC 2014 Sailor of the Year (SOY) during a ceremony held at CNIC headquarters at the historic Washington Navy Yard on Jan. 29.

Air-Traffic Controlman 1st Class (AW/SW) Darren S. Johnson, from Naval Station (NAVSTA), Norfolk, Virginia, under Navy Region Mid Atlantic, was selected from among 70 installation SOYs to earn the prestigious award.

Johnson was among three finalists who went before the SOY board conducted by a panel of senior enlisted leaders. Each Sailor's service record was scrutinized carefully evaluating the Sailor on educational accomplishments, physical fitness standards, academic test scores and participation in civic and community activities.



Vice Admiral Dixon R. Smith, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) presents Air-Traffic Controlman 1st Class (AW/SW) Darren S. Johnson, from Naval Station (NAVSTA), Norfolk, Va., under Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, with a plaque for selected as the 2014 CNIC Sailor of the Year. An award ceremony was held at CNIC headquarters at the historic Washington Navy Yard on Jan. 29. (U.S. Navy photo by Sandra Niedzwiecki/Released)

The other two candidates who competed for the award were Electronics Technician 1st Class Tracy Rico (SW), NAVSTA Everett, Washington, and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Christie Kunkel (SW), Naval Support Activities Naples, Italy.

"Having the chance to talk to these three humble individuals, who put their Sailors first, who put their jobs first, made me reflect back a little bit on my first days in the Navy," said Vice Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander, Navy Installations Command. "It's our petty officers who get the job done. These three individuals, every one of us can be proud of them."

Force Master Chief Nancy Hollingsworth, assigned to CNIC, added, "It wasn't hard to convince them that no matter what the outcome of the board, they are all already winners," she said. Recognizing the nominee's leadership who attended the ceremony with them, "I had both their installation and region master chiefs here today and I think it's been important for the Sailors to look out into the audience and not just see their Navy family, but faces they recognize and those who support them back home."

A native of Portsmouth, Virginia, Johnson has served in the Navy for more than 14 years. He began his career by attending Air Traffic Control "A" school in Pensacola, Florida; followed by assignments at Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia; Carrier Air Traffic Control Center "C" school in Pensacola, Florida; the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69); and Naval Air Technical Training Center Pensacola, Florida.

As the leading petty officer for his division at NAVSTA Norfolk, Johnson leads 56 Sailors. As a qualified facility watch supervisor (FWS), he and his team produced seven FWS and earned qualifications in 256 positions. Among the 93 petty officers in command, Johnson is ranked number one.

"I wouldn't be here without the people who have been there for me," said Johnson, "especially my junior Sailors. There aren't many words I can use to describe this feeling right now...it feels good that hard work pays off."

Johnson has served as the leading petty officer and Radar chief at the Naval Station in Norfolk, and has completed his associate's degree from Coastline Community College in supervision and management as well as his Professional Military Education requirements.

Johnson will now compete for the Navy Shore Activities SOY competition next month where he'll compete against 30 other shore activity Sailor nominees.

Under the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Installations Command is responsible for providing support services for the Fleet, Fighter and Family with more than 52,000 military and civilian personnel under 11 Regions and 70 installations world-wide.