



ABOVE BOARD

CHQ'S QUARTERLY NEWS

What IS CHQ? It stands for CGJROTC Headquarters. CHQ falls under FORCECOM and is located in Norfolk, VA. FORCECOM has an impact on every Coast Guard mission and is responsible for managing all training in the CG. CHQ consists of a team of eight Coasties who manage the CGJROTC Program, under the direction of CDR Clay Cromer aka Commodore.

A Note from the Bridge

Welcome to the First Edition of *Above Board*.

In nautical terms, to be "above board" originally meant being on deck—in plain sight and out in the open. Over time, the term came to mean honesty, transparency, and integrity. We chose this name for our newsletter because it's designed to reflect our program's life in the light. We hope *Above Board* keeps you informed, inspired, and always ready for the watch ahead.

-CHQ Instructor Management Team, Editors-in-Chief

On the Radar

Unit Establishment Ceremonies

Marshfield HS, OR 4/14/26 • Kodiak HS, AK 4/17/26

JLAB

Washington D.C. 6/12 - 6/19

Junior Leadership Academy - JLA

Training Center Yorktown, VA 6/15 - 6/19

National Flight Academy

Pensacola, FL 6/28 - 7/3



Curriculum Updates Underway

MS1 - Unit 3 is live!

MS3 - Unit 3, and MS4 - Unit 2 - Coming soon!

The process of acquiring a delivery platform for the future of CGJROTC is officially in progress!!!

Instructors—interested in joining the Curriculum Advisory Board (CAB)?

We will be seeking volunteers to assist with curriculum updates and design for fall of 2027.

Please contact ENS Jimmerson for more info!



Cadet of the Quarter

CHQ is proud of all the hard work cadets are displaying across our units. We are honored to dedicate this section of the newsletter to a Cadet of the Quarter for each issue.

In addition to the newsletter feature, the honored cadet will receive a personalized COTQ mug from the CHQ team.

Please follow the QR code to complete your submission form to nominate your cadet. (Each school may only submit one candidate per quarter.)



Commodore's Corner



Did you know that our Coast Guard JROTC Program is in "the law"? No cap! (I have teenagers).

Laws about CGJROTC have been evolving quickly for the last few years, and Congress recently passed a new law for CGJROTC in 2026 - we are required to expand to 20 units by the end of the year. To legally meet this requirement, we will sign the agreements with school districts in 2026 and start the new units in the fall of 2027.

This is exciting news, and I'm working with Coast Guard leaders and financial planners to identify the funds for this expansion. Even the other services are growing their JROTC programs from about 3500 to 4200 in the next 5-6 years!

One big thing we have going for us is that everyone likes JROTC, and it's not hard to see why! Photos and stories of you all serving the community, visiting Coast Guard units, winning Raiders and Drill competitions, and receiving well-deserved awards all stir and inspire. The collective strength of your personal commitments adds up to something absolutely extraordinary. I look forward to sharing this newsletter with even more readers so they can get a sense of our culture of excellence, purpose, and community. I can already hear them saying, "Man, I wish I was in CGJROTC!" No cap.

operations east vs. operations west

Sussex Technical High School Cadets just hanging around on a C-130.

What a day helping out with Elizabeth City Air Station Ops!



Senior leadership cadets from Mission Bay High School completed the unit's first "fam" Jayhawk helo missions.

For over a year, their instructors have been working with leadership from CGRO, Sector and CGHQ staff to make this happen for the unit's top-performing leadership.



Instructor Spotlight



Congratulations to LCDR John Bannon for his selection as Mission Bay High School's 2025-26 Teacher of the Year!

Challenge Coin Contest

Help design our very own official CGJROTC Challenge Coin!

This contest is open to both instructors and students.

Winner will receive the **FIRST** ever CHQ challenge coin, an extra for a shipmate, and indefinite bragging rights!

Contest is only for one side of the challenge coin. We respectfully request no artificial intelligence submissions.

Send submissions to
ENS Laysha Montminy
by May 1st.

Logistically Speaking..

ShopCGX.com, a new procurement portal built exclusively for CGJROTC, is anticipated to be operational in Q3.

This platform will improve order processing, tracking, and transparency for uniforms, supplies, and equipment to all units!!!

This launch is a result of over a year of planning, collaboration, and development across multiple teams to deliver tailored solutions to CGJROTC needs.



FUN FACT

Sinbad the dog was adopted by the crew of the cutter Campbell in 1938, and was considered a literal member of the crew - including official paperwork, uniforms and his own bunk. He retired to Barnegat Light before passing away on Dec. 30, 1951. Click [here](#) to learn more about Sinbad, and his exciting CG adventures, including 2 courts-martials!

