



US Navy Civil Engineer Corps Collegiate Corner



September 2015

Back at school!

School is back in swing! We hope that everyone is doing well and getting settled into their coursework, their apartment/house, catching up with old friends, and getting into, or back into, the routine of college life. If you have recently been picked up for the CEC, or are returning for another year preparing for graduation and your OCS date, it's important to remember that you represent the Navy, and the CEC, and you may be the only example of a future naval officer that many of your friends or colleagues know. With that said, be proud of that honor and that right you have earned. Likewise, guard and protect that honor through your actions and words. Best of luck in school and all of us on the CEC Accessions Team standby to support you with any questions or comments you may have along the way.

We look forward to you joining the ranks!

- CEC Accessions Team

LEADERSHIP TRAITS

The Marine Corps uses fourteen traits in defining what qualities all leaders embody and aspire to. In addition to the core Navy values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, each month we will briefly discuss one of the leadership traits.

Decisiveness: A leader's legacy is defined by his or her decisions. Whether in the heat of battle or a high-pressure boardroom, leaders use the information they have to respond quickly and decisively, because the worst decision is not making one.

Decisiveness is based upon the experience and confidence in yourself and those that support you. As the situation allows, field advice from your superiors, peers, subordinates, and enlisted advisors. Then, you will make your best educated decision to successfully execute the mission while always keeping the safety and welfare of those you lead in mind.

THE WORST DECISION IS INDECISION

CAREER FOCUS

CEC CAREER STAGES

Tactical / Developmental – Ensigns, Lieutenants Junior Grade and Lieutenants (O1-O3)

During this stage of your career, you will develop an understanding of how the Navy and Department of Defense (DoD) are organized and how CEC officers are aligned to support them at the tactical level.



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You will serve as a front line leader and supervisor and begin to hone leadership and management skills through interaction and responsibility with and for military, civilian and contractor employees. Officers also develop foundational engineer-related experience and business acumen that spans operational and ashore assignments. Critical to this stage of a CEC career is to maximize professional development through sequential assignments to each of the billet types to obtain public works, construction/facilities contract management, and expeditionary competencies. Specialization in one type of duty is not desired nor normally permitted. Officers also begin to establish mentor-protégé relationships and develop their professional reputation and network.

Operational – Lieutenant Commanders and Commanders (O4-O5)

In this stage, officers employ their postgraduate education and junior officer experience to refine their engineering, leadership and management acumen and become facilities management and engineering experts. These officers begin to occupy key leadership positions such as FEAD Directors (overall responsible for construction contract execution and management for the installation/area you are assigned to), NMCB Executive and Operations Officers, Public Works Officers and Commanding Officers. They are expected to incorporate creativity as they leverage their expertise to generate efficiencies across the Navy and DoD. Officers enhance their experience base with both Fleet policy and shore experience in key staff billets at CNIC, OPNAV and various major commands. Top performers further solidify their professional reputation and nurture mentor-protégé relationships and professional networks.

Strategic / Policy / Command – Commanders and Captains (O5-O6)

Senior officers develop strategy and policy and lead large organizations. They are relied on by Navy senior leadership to understand relationships across DoD, Department of Navy (DON), and federal agencies to fulfill the Navy's mission and to drive efficiencies. The Navy's senior leadership further expects these officers to leverage their professional connections and reputations to overcome obstacles and find mutually beneficial solutions in an environment of acute resource competition. These officers benefit from career networking and long term mentor-protégé relationships to build successful teams.

Executive – Flag Officers and Senior Captains (O6-Above)

These are the most seasoned and respected officers in the Civil Engineer Corps. These officers work directly with Navy and DoD senior leaders to develop and execute the Department of Defense's strategy. These officers understand the importance of horizontal integration of capabilities at strategic, operational, and tactical levels and are able to negotiate and implement related workforce and systems solutions across services and agencies. They are broad minded, innovative officers who understand when change is necessary to remain relevant.



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CEC OFFICER SPOTLIGHT:

Lieutenant Ryan M. White



LT White graduated from the University of Texas San-Antonio in 2007 with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. LT White first heard about the CEC from a friend that was in the predecessor program to the CECP, the Bachelor's Degree Completion Program (BDCP). LT White's friend was in the BDCP for 3 years and LT White joined during his senior year. LT White was excited about the different experiences and opportunities that being an Engineer in the Military provided outside of standard Public Sector work. His wife's father was in the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer and this helped influence Ryan in joining as well.

Upon completing OCS and Civil Engineer Corps Officers School in Port Hueneme, CA, he was stationed at Officer-In-Charge of Construction (OICC) Katrina based out of New Orleans, LA. OICC Katrina was critical in providing infrastructure and construction relief efforts to the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Ryan participated in the construction of a \$5.2 million dollar General Administration building for the Naval Air Logistics Office, Military Sealift Command, and Naval Criminal Investigative services that was a critical facility in the Base Realignment and Closure program relocating Naval Support Activity New Orleans onboard Naval Air Station Joint-Reserve Base New Orleans. LT White then joined the Fearless Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seventy-Four in Gulfport, MS. During his time in Battalion, he deployed to Rota, Spain and Tan Tan, Morocco in support of the Joint Marine Corps led African Lion 2011 exercise that facilitated U.S.- Moroccan military cooperation and coordination in North Africa. As Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of DET Morocco, LT White and his Seabees executed the construction of a 50-foot long by 20-foot high K-Span warehouse facility for the storage of Moroccan Military Training equipment and was an enduring facility that supported future African Lion missions. After Battalion, Ryan checked onboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune's Public Works Department and oversaw the facilities maintenance and operations for the largest east-coast Marine Corps facility housing II MEF. Ryan initially was in charge of the Camp's electrical distribution/high-voltage maintenance shop, transitioned to the Facilities Support Contracts Division, and finished up his time in the Installation Energy Management Officer where he was involved in Photovoltaic Infrastructure upgrades to the facility in order to support the DoD's energy efficiency and renewable energy goals. He is now checked



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onboard as the Ensign/Lieutenant Junior-Grade detailer for the Civil Engineer Corps where he places and details all O1s and O2s in the Civil Engineer Corps.

LT White's Recommendations:

Do your research on what it means to be a military engineer and realize the opportunities that being in the military will give you. Reach out to other CECP students and current CEC officers. Stay fit! This is key. Take the time to make personal fitness a priority. This will serve you well not only in your own life with your health but will make OCS that much less painful. Keep it up, you're almost there. Enjoy the rest of your time in school and I look forward to seeing you in the field!

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