

Gearing Up for the Summer (Continued)

As I mentioned before, the cadre sections are divided up. The reason is because there is a ton of other stuff we have scheduled for the summer, and the divisions merely assign us a different schedule. For the sake of brevity, I will tell you my schedule. The differences between my schedule and others are that all of the different training periods are switched around and leave periods are different.

Everyone's summer begins the same, 100th week. 100th week is the middle of our Academy experience, which is a 200 week program. We are trained on how to be cadre by the Coast Guard enlisted boot camp cadre. It is a challenging week, and at the end we should be ready to be cadre and we reaffirm our commitment to the Coast Guard in a ceremony on base.

After that, I have range week, Rules of the Road, and tugboats. During range week I will get qualified in pistol and rifle shooting. Rules of the Road is a weeklong class on driving ships. Much like driving a car, there are rules for driving ships, and we learn them all. During tugboats, I put ROTR into practice. I will get to drive the tugboats on the Thames River. I am very excited for all of that.

I go on leave after all that for a week, but then I'm right back into the thick of training with a prep week, which is designed to give us last minute tips on being a cadre. Then, I am a cadre for the first three weeks of Swab Summer. I'm the most excited for that. After those three exhausting weeks, I report to either Florida or Alabama for a week of flight training called CATP. I will get to fly in all of the Coast Guard aircraft. That will be my first introduction to the aviation side of the Coast Guard.

For the last month of the summer (yes, it goes on), I have two weeks of sailing (coastal sail) and leave. During coastal sail, I will sail in a 44 foot sailboat with several other classmates and an officer. We will sail all around the northeast, and I hear it's an awesome experience.

That is my summer, and I think it's clear why I'm so excited to be back from break, because so much awaits me. I can't wait.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me as always at:

Hunter.D.Stowes@uscga.edu.