

# Honoring the best in the Pacific Fleet

## Pacific Fleet Sea, Shore Sailors of the Year named

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Even among the best, there are those who shine above others. At an April 5 luncheon, Adm. Thomas Fargo, Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT), named Master at Arms 1st Class (SW) Christopher Breckinridge as Pacific Fleet's Shore Sailor of the Year and Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS/DV) Lorenze Tate as Sea Sailor of the Year.

"These two Sailors and those nominated with them set an example for all our Sailors in the rest of our Navy," said Fargo.

"It's a tremendous honor because I know I represent the Pacific Fleet, especially the submariners out there," said Tate, who came to the competition by being named USS Pasadena's (SSN 752) Sailor of the Year. "With over 200,000 Sailors in the fleet, it's

overwhelming."

"It's an honor, not just for me, but for everyone who has stood security in the last six months since Sept. 11," said Breckinridge, who comes from Submarine Base Bangor Security Department.

The two Sailors of the Year were chosen from a field of six finalists who were selected from the Pacific Fleet Sailors of the Year. The finalists were divided into three shore and three sea Sailors.

All six were flown to Pearl Harbor and spent the week touring the island and enjoying various leisure activities. Each Sailor of the Year was excited and grateful to be named.

"It feels good to be recognized," said Personnelman 1st Class Jacqueline Blaauw, Naval Reserve Center Pearl Harbor's Sailor of the Year for the second time in a row. "I al-

ways make sure I do the job right the first time."

Each PACFLT Sailor of the Year finalist represents tens of thousands of Sailors throughout the Pacific area. All were very humble in the face of such a prestigious competition.

"My chiefs saw that I could motivate the junior troops to accomplish the mission," said Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SCW) Abraham Ortiz, a 16-year Navy veteran. Ortiz was a Sea Sailor of the Year finalist from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four (NMCB 4).

"I think I'm a pretty well-rounded Sailor," said Construction Electrician 1st Class (SCW/SW/DV) Joseph Wallis, Sailor of the Year for Underwater Construction Team Two and Shore Sailor of the Year finalist.

"I think I was selected for my maturity and my ability to maintain a positive attitude

through good times and bad," said Tate. "The best part of my job is taking someone who doesn't know his potential and giving them the self-respect that they didn't know they had."

"I give a lot of credit to my parents," said Breckinridge. "They taught me to be the best I can be no matter what happens."

Breckinridge will be in Washington D.C. during the week of May 19-25 for the Navy-wide Shore Sailor of the Year competition. If he is selected, he will join Tate in D.C. for the ceremonies honoring the Sailors of the Year during the week of July 7-13.

Tate will be advanced to chief and receive a 5-day vacation anywhere in the continental United States. In addition, once he has completed his tour of duty at his current command, he will have his choice of his next duty section.