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Expeditionary Strike Group 2 Announces Sailor of the Year, Junior Sailor of the Year

By Lieutenant John Fage – Expeditionary Strike Group 2 Public Affairs Officer

NORFOLK, Va. – Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 2 announced its Sailor of the Year and Junior Sailor of the Year at a small ceremony at the command's headquarters Dec. 9.

ESG 2 Flag Writer, Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Alan Foote, has been selected as the unit's Senior Sailor of the Year for 2008.

“It is the one of the biggest types of recognition any enlisted person could receive,” said Foote. “The competition was very tight, and in my opinion, everyone who was competing could have been selected. I just know that personally, it is a nice feeling to know that your peers and seniors recognize the impact that I make to contribute to this operational unit.”

As flag writer, YN1 Foote is responsible for assisting with the management of the commander's daily schedule, travel and operational requirements.

YN1 Foote is the son of Connie Struggle of Green Bay, Wis. and is a 1990 graduate of Suring High School. He will graduate with a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Saint Leo's University early next year.

Foote has 17 years of service in the U.S. Navy.

Information Systems Technician Specialist 2nd Class Chris Bennett was selected as the command's Junior Sailor of the Year for 2008.

"This award not only lets me know that I'm doing my job the way it should be done, but that it's having a big impact on my unit," said Bennett. "Being recognized as the Junior Sailor of the Year shows me just how much my peers and my unit appreciate what I do."

As the leading petty officer for ESG 2's communications directorate, Bennett directs operations of the command's unclassified and classified networks and 180 workstations and is responsible for the operation of its communication center.

IT2 Bennett is a 2001 graduate of Pierce County High School in Blackshear, Ga. and is the son of Barry and Carmen Cannon.

Bennett has 3 years of service in the U.S. Navy.

"We're very lucky to have the services of these two standout Sailors," said Rear Adm. Terry McKnight. "We have an incredibly talented staff here at ESG 2 and YN1 Foote and IT2 Bennett are two of our best."