



## FRCSW Sailor Named COMFRC FY 2016 Blue Jacket of Quarter

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FY 2016 COMFRC Blue Jacket of the Quarter, fourth quarter, Seaman Deserae Kimber adjusts a hydraulic test stand used on helicopter components and systems in the FRCSW support equipment shop in Building 767. Kimber is also the FRCSW 2015 Bluejacket of the Year. (U.S. Navy Photo)

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND - Commander, Fleet Readiness Centers (COMFRC) recently selected Seaman Deserae Kimber as its fiscal year (FY) 2016 Blue Jacket of the Quarter, fourth quarter.

Kimber, who is assigned to Fleet Readiness Center Southwest (FRCSW), is also the command's FY 2016 Blue Jacket of the Year.

"I was shocked in winning the COMFRC of the quarter award. It made me open my eyes to what I'm doing and how it can benefit me as a Sailor in branching out to help other people --- the good influence I could have on other senior E-3s and other junior Sailors who come to this command," she said.

A native of Hudsonville, Mich., Kimber joined the Navy in 2015 and, accompanied by her uncle, enlisted in Tampa, Fla.

"My uncle Rudy retired from the Navy in 2014 as an aviation ordnanceman. He was a recruiter, and actually took me to his recruiting station in Tampa, which is why I enlisted



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there,” Kimber said.

“I joined the Navy to better my life and to make bigger opportunities for myself. I wanted to go a different route than just going to college; I wanted to do new and refreshing things instead.”

Kimber’s uncle is not the only family member with a history of naval service. Her husband, Scott, is currently a Seaman assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 78 stationed aboard Naval Air Station North Island.

After graduating from Naval Training Center, Kimber, who is 20 years old, reported to FRCSW and was appointed to the Support Equipment (SE) shop in Building 767.

The shop performs periodic maintenance, troubleshooting and repairs to equipment used to support aircraft, including pneumatic and hydraulic systems and liquid oxygen systems. Its primary customers are squadrons assigned to Naval Base Coronado.

“I’d like to stay in my field of aviation support,” Kimber said. “And for now, I plan on staying in the Navy but maybe not the full 20 years.”

Meanwhile, in addition to her work in the SE shop, Kimber stays busy handling command and collateral duties as an auxiliary security force (ASF) member and an assistant command fitness leader, which is a second class petty officer billet. She is also a member of the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) and an MWR volunteer.

“I like the comradery and teamwork in the Navy,” she said. “It’s a lot different than being on the outside and it’s something I’d miss if I left.”

Kimber is awaiting orders to her next duty station and is schedule to rotate out in October 2017.