

Neal achieved success in the Navy

African-Americans have made exceptional progress in the U.S. Navy. Just prior to World War II, African-Americans could serve only as cooks or waiters. Today, they command fleets and sit at the highest levels of the Navy.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer M. Neal, the 27-year-old daughter of James and Minnie Neal of Winnsboro, exemplifies the progress made by African-Americans in today's Navy.

From the crew of the USS Mason to the men and women who serve today on Navy ships and at shore facilities worldwide, African-Americans are part of a naval history rich in valor and honor. Diversity has made the Navy stronger, and African-Americans are part of that strength.

"Since joining the Navy, I have had the opportunity to visit several different countries. These visits have broadened my outlook on different cultures of the world. Since I joined eight



**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jennifer M. Neal**

years ago, I am currently a second class petty officer and planning on making the Navy a career because of all the good opportunities that I have had since joining," said Neal, who serves aboard the USS Coronado.

The Coronado, the Third Fleet flag ship home ported in

San Diego, possesses the Navy's most advanced command and control systems.

Neal, a radar and navigation specialist, is a skilled professional who has accomplished much since joining the Navy.

"I joined the Navy because of the benefits of having a stable job. I also wanted the benefits of visiting places that I have never been before, for example, Japan, Korea, Hawaii," Neal said.

Neal, a 1989 graduate of Fairfield Central High School, believes there is a reason for her success in the Navy.

"The secret to my success in the Navy is that I always maintain a positive outlook on things, no matter what the day may bring," she said.

"My heritage is important to me because of all the negative things that are stereotyped about African-Americans. I always strive to be positive things for myself and my fellow shipmates," Neal said.

4/1/98

Town council reconsiders