

NETC News

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Pensacola Training Command Pins New Chief Petty Officers

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Twenty-two instructors from Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) Pensacola were promoted to the rank of chief petty officer during a base wide ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP) Sept. 16.

At the ceremony, thirty one Sailors, from commands across NASP received the gold fouled anchors, khaki combination covers, and the right to be called “chief.” The ceremony capped off six weeks of training where the chief selects were educated on Navy customs, and traditions, and prepared for their new role as senior enlisted leaders.

In his opening remarks, Capt. Keith Hoskins, NASP commanding officer, reminded the new chiefs that “only the highly capable and incomparable have been selected to wear the fouled anchor.” He challenged them to be “shining examples of pride, and professionalism,” and that in their new role they will be expected to mentor junior officers, and be the fountain of wisdom for junior Sailors. Hoskins encouraged the new chiefs to lead with Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and to be the moral compass.

Naval Education and Training Command Force Master Chief Jon Port used his remarks, as the guest speaker, to speak to the new chiefs about legacy, and

foundations. He charged the new chiefs to lead with humility, and not to mistake military courtesies for respect for the person wearing the uniform. "You are the legacy of generations of chiefs who came before, and you are the foundation of generations of future chiefs to come," Port said.

Following the speakers remarks, and a presentation on the meaning of the chief's insignia; family, friends, and shipmates pinned the gold fouled anchors, with the superimposed silver letters "U.S.N." to their Sailor's khaki shirt collars, and placed a khaki combination cover atop their head. With their new rank affixed, each was piped through the side boys and presented to the assembled audience.

One of the NATTC instructors promoted was Chief Air Traffic Controller Vincent Cooke. "It feels really good to be pinned today, and I think that coming to Pensacola as an instructor helped me get to this point," Cooke said.

Following the ceremony, NATTC Command Master Chief Kirk Klawitter commented about his history at the training command.

"After two full previous tours here at NATTC, and now as the Command Master Chief, I take a lot of pride in seeing this day take place each year," he said. "Thirteen years ago I earned my anchors here in Pensacola, and my wife pinned me in the Naval Aviation Schools Command theater. Each of us that wear the chief's anchor know exactly how the newly pinned chiefs of the class of FY15 are feeling. Each year we get the opportunity to see our ranks grown, and also reflect ourselves.

"None of us would be where we are today without the love and support of our family, and those that have gone before us," Klawitter continued. "Times have changed, and I am a firm believer that CPO 365 does work. We in the

Pensacola area take a lot of pride in ensuring that the newly pinned chiefs are ready to accept, and carry the weight of being called a chief petty officer. I honestly cannot think of a better place to make chief, and am so proud to see what this group will bring to our mess!"

For more than 70 years, NATTC has been delivering training and increasing readiness within the Naval Aviation Enterprise. NATTC graduates approximately 15,000 Navy, Marine and international students annually. The majority of the student body is comprised of enlisted personnel attending "A" schools, where they gain the knowledge and skills required to perform in the fleet as technicians at the apprentice level.

Advanced schools provide higher level technical knowledge for senior petty officer's, and specialty schools offer specific skills not particular to any one rating, such as airman apprentice training, maintenance, personal financial management and shipboard aircraft firefighting. NATTC also conducts technical training for officers in aviation fuels, carrier air traffic control center operations, aircraft launch and recovery equipment, shipboard aircraft fire fighting and amphibious air traffic control center operations.

For more information about Naval Air Technical Training Center, visit their web site at <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cnatt/nattc/Default.aspx>

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