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Navy Training Leader Talks with Mustangs

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Addressing an audience of Limited Duty Officers (LDO) and Chief Warrant Officers (CWO) from commands throughout the Gulf Coast area July 16, Rear Adm. Mike White, commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) said Mustangs are unique leaders.

The remarks were made at the quarterly meeting and luncheon of the Emerald Coast Mustang Association (ECMA) held at the Mustin Beach Officers' Club on board Naval Air Station Pensacola. White is the community flag officer sponsor for the LDO/CWO community in the Navy. He monitors the strength and management of the officers and acts as an advocate for the assignment and community structure within the Navy.

"You have a unique blend of experience, technical expertise and perspective that make you outstanding role models for junior Sailors, and exemplary advisors for senior officers," White said. "The difference between some maritime forces and ours is our cadre of Mustangs and enlisted leaders to whom we delegate responsibility and authority. They are problem solvers who can take a basic direction and turn it into positive results."

To help illustrate the point, White told a story he heard about Adm. Chester Nimitz.

"It is said that during the peak of World War II, Adm. Nimitz routinely left the office at dinnertime, had a meal with his wife, and walked his dog," said White. "Clearly he had a lot to think about, and I suspect he used that time for reflection, but work was still being done, because he had delegated tremendous responsibility to his subordinates. I too, count on my leaders at every level to interpret situations and act to meet the guidance provided."

Attending the event were LDOs and CWOs from commands throughout NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, as well as Eglin Air Force Base.

"There are many character traits that make Mustangs valuable to the Navy and Marine Corps, but the one that stands out most to me is their versatility," said Capt. Alan Dean, commanding officer, Naval Air Technical Training Center, and a member of the Mustang group. "LDO's and CWO's are technical managers and technical experts, that because of their enlisted service, have a breadth of hard earned experience which is difficult to duplicate. You can put an LDO or CWO into virtually any leadership position, even if it's outside their area of expertise, and they will not only thrive, they will leave that job better than they found it."

For more information about NETC visit <http://www.netc.navy.mil/> .

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Story by Joy Samsel, Naval Education and Training Public Affairs