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CPPD commanding officer officiates at graduation

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – Capt. John Newcomer, commanding officer, Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD) presided over his first graduation ceremony April 13, since assuming command in March.

During the ceremony held onboard Naval Station Norfolk, 20 Sailors graduated from 'CPPD's career counselor course and received their Navy Enlisted Classification 9588, designating them as career information program advisors, including two Sailors who converted to the Navy Counselor rating.

"I got some great advice from a guy just like you more than 25 years ago when I was applying for the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program," said Newcomer. "He was able to help me navigate the system and assist me with my LDO package because he knew how the rules and programs worked. That is your job now."

Newcomer emphasized the important role career counselors have in the Navy.

"After you leave here today, Sailors are going to stop you '24-seven' and ask your advice. In the passageways and galley, in the gym and on liberty, you will be helping Sailors advance their careers and succeed in today's Navy.

Many people wonder if they're making a difference. You are making a difference," said Newcomer.

It is also the first time in recent history that two Sailors completed the course without missing a single question on any of the tests, achieving a perfect 100 percent, both sharing honor graduate recognition.

"I've been in the Navy for 10 years and I've never seen such a variety of great information in such a short span of time," said Sonar Technician (Subsurface) 1st Class (SS) Matthew Houston, one of the honor graduates. "I'm ready to get back to my command, Navy Submarine Torpedo Facility, and use this information to help my Sailors."

The four-week course taught in Norfolk and San Diego is designed to provide instruction in techniques and scope of career development program management. Topics covered include active duty and post-retirement incentives, opportunities and benefits, techniques on how to counsel Sailors, and career related programs. The program has three instructors on each coast and convenes an average of nine classes per location each year, based on requirements.

For more information about CPPD, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cppd/>.

For more news from the Center for Personal and Professional Development, visit: www.navy.mil/local/voledpao/.

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