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Senior enlisted man visits CPO selectees



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott chats with Chief Petty Officer selectees pierside at Naval Station Ingleside. In the background is USS Chief (MCM 14).

Photo by Mike Antoine

**By Mike Antoine
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INGLESIDE, TEXAS – There are great Navy days -- and then there are really great Navy days. Aug. 12 was one of those really great ones -- marking as it did the arrival of not only the coolest temperatures seen in South Texas in the past six months -- but of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy(SS/AW) Terry Scott as well.

A native of Buffalo, Mo., the Navy's 10th MCPON covered a lot of ground in a relatively brief amount of time here aboard Naval Station Ingleside, where he spent a good part of his time interfacing with chief petty officer selectees.

During his visit, the MCPON consistently drove home to the CPO selectees why they were selected for advancement to chief petty officer. "When you wake up Sept. 17, remember -- this is not a 'reward' for what you have done so far in your careers. You were selected for your skills -- and the potential for what you will be able to do for the Navy and its Sailors in the future. You were picked because we think you can do it."

Scott's time aboard NAV-STA, though short, was chock full of activity. After a restful sleep last Wednesday night at the station's award-winning bachelor's quarters, his day began a little before 6:30 a.m., with a (rousing?) rendition by chief petty officer selectees of "Anchors Aweigh" -- in key -- sort of. Those who heard the "sunrise serenade" said this year's group of selectees would be well advised to keep their "day jobs."

That was just the start of a busy day for MCPON, whose whirlwind tour at the Navy's Mine Warfare Center of Excellence began at breakfast with area command master chiefs, then continued with Q&A sessions with chief petty officer selectees and the chiefs' mess, ship tours, and a visit to the students and staff of Mine Warfare Training Center.

Throughout the day, the MCPON fielded questions from junior and senior enlisted personnel: queries included topics such as 15-year retirements, the Blue-to-Green program, the Senior Enlisted Academy, BRAC 2005, advancement exams, crew rotations, the detailing process, and Task Force Uniform.

During their breakfast, Scott told the assembled CMCs that he found it amazing how much it actually costs to "do business" in the Navy. He emphasized that it was imperative that the Navy find newer, better ways to do business. "New methods come and go," Scott said, "but we'll always have Sailors taking ships to sea. I challenge you (CMCs) to stand up and take on a more significant leadership role than ever before."

Scott ended his South Texas visit students and staff at Mine Warfare Training Center. It seems Scott saved his best "stuff" for last. "you've got a saying around here," he told the "A" school students. "It's "where the Fleet goes, we've been." Well, I'm here to tell you that you're joining a proud part of the Navy.

"I can't think of a more noble calling than taking an oath to defend the constitution of the United States."

Scott encouraged the students. "Pick up as much as you can from the staff and instructors here. You will rely on it when you go out to the Fleet."

Overall, Scott seemed quite impressed with all he saw Aug. 12.

The feeling was mutual.

"His visit meant a lot to me," says EMC(SW)(sel) Noel Corneja, who will be attached to USS Patriot (MCM 7). "I had not realized until the MCPON said it, but making chief is not a reward but a challenge."

"It was an honor to meet the MCPON personally," said HMCS(SW) Joe Coddington, senior enlisted advisor with Fleet Support Activity. "What he's told us gives all of us a new perspective on the future of training in the Navy."

"This is the 'funnest' part of my job -- visiting our Sailors in the fleet," the MCPON quipped. "But the best part of my job is going back to Washington doing something about their problems and concerns."



MCPON(SS/AW) Terry Scott addresses “A” school students at Mine Warfare Training Center aboard Naval Station Ingleside.