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- DoD Official: Extend Vets' Military OneSource Access [\[LINK\]](#)
- Moving toward a Healthier and Fitter Force: Navy's New PFA Standards [\[LINK\]](#)
- NSA Bethesda Families Benefit from DOD's New MilitaryChildCare.com Website [\[LINK\]](#)

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Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens sent an email to his Leadership Mess March 16 announcing his decision to retire in September.

"In consultation with the Chief of Naval Operations, Theresa and I have requested and have been granted approval to retire on September 2, 2016," said Stevens.

MCPON was born and raised in Montana. He graduated from Arlee High School in May 1983 and immediately entered the U.S. Navy attending basic training in San Diego in June 1983.

Stevens attended Aviation Structural Mechanic Apprentice School in Millington, Tennessee, and his first duty assignment was with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 2 in Rota, Spain.

Stevens was advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer in October 2002. He went on to complete a number of operational and Command Master Chief tours to include U.S. 2nd Fleet and served as the 16th Fleet Master Chief for Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Stevens' academic achievements include a Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College; Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government "Leadership in Crisis"; Senior Enlisted Professional Military Education; Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education; and the National Defense University Keystone course. He is an honor graduate and the recipient of the prestigious Peter Tomich Award for exceptional military excellence from the Senior Enlisted Academy.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), Navy Achievement Medal (six awards), the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with operational "O", Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia, and Enlisted Naval Aircrew Wings.

Stevens became the 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy September 28, 2012. Details for the change of office will be announced at a later date.

The solicitation for the 14th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy will be sent to eligible active-duty candidates via email from the MCPON. Eligible candidates for consideration will be all Fleet Master Chiefs. Additionally, all Command Master Chiefs with at least 18 months of service (as of September 2, 2016) at the three and four star level will be eligible.

2.) Top Innovators Say It's Getting Easier To Change the Navy / 15 MARCH 16

NAVY TIMES, Meghann Myers

"The way we've always done it" — a familiar refrain those seeking to improve things must contend with.

Changing the tradition-bound Navy isn't easy, but some of the service's top innovators say they're making headway. This spring, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus recognized sailors and Navy civilians for ideas in robotics, additive manufacturing, data analysis and more.

"My old senior chief, if I would've told him this 12 years ago, he would've laughed at me," Chief Sonar Technician (Surface) (SW) Benjamin Lebron, the enlisted innovator awardee, told Navy Times.

Lebron was recognized for using web coding to rapidly analyze sonar for patterns indicative of a submarine, a process largely done by hand. He recommends the Navy empower sailors by offering optional coding courses online.

An innovation scholar recipient is now looking to get involved with the Far East version of Project Athena, a Navy-created initiative that brings sailors together for short periods to work on their ideas.

"Project Athena is amazing and I think that is the platform that we need to be pushing, because it doesn't take two years out of someone's career to come up with a good idea," Lt. Brendan Geoghegan told Navy Times. "It takes 15 minutes for a sailor to say, 'Hey, this is a great idea, let me go bring it.' "

Geoghegan admits his project, which used augmented reality to help drive ships, is pretty pie-in-the-sky, but that the Navy's recognition is motivating.

"Sometimes you get down because you work so many hours and you think, 'Ah I'm just part of the routine,' " he said. "Winning something like this tells me that the Navy puts its money where its mouth is."

For Cmdr. Jeffrey Heames, who was recognized for supporting innovation as the commanding officer of the destroyer Preble, the biggest challenge is getting out of his own way.

"Honestly, I felt like I was the impediment," he said. "And mostly, that's because it was harder to keep an open mind in some areas."

In his case, his sailors persevered, and some of the ideas he initially rejected are now being evaluated for wider use.

"My hindsight is, I need to keep an open mind, as do people who are senior, not just in what's coming in, but having the vision to identify things earlier on is key," he said.

And even if the ideas don't change the Navy, just encouraging innovation is key.

"One of the things that the process gives you is, obviously there's the potential to find a great idea that's lasting, but the side benefits are that you have a crew that engages in their environment, with critical thinking and a questioning attitude about why we're doing certain things the way we're doing them and how we're employing our ship," Heames said.

One way to speed up that innovation, Lebron offered, would be to encourage sailors to learn to code.

"It's just where we're going. We're getting away from the old compiled languages, where there's only these certain wizards who know how to do everything," he said. "Offer something like [Navy Knowledge Online] language training. Instead of doing human languages, do coding languages."

He wants younger sailors to know that between Project Athena and SECNAV's Hatch website, an online submission tool, their ideas are wanted and needed.

"I'm just an example of the success and opportunities that are out there," he said. "There are people that are willing to help you develop it."

3.) Navy Advancement Center Adds Exam Bibliographies to Navy COOL Website / 14 MARCH 16 [LINK](#)

Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Sailors preparing for advancement examinations can now access their bibliographies (BIBs) without the need for a Common Access Card (CAC), as the Navy Advancement Center added the active duty and Reserve BIBs to the Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) website March 14.

While it will still be possible to link to the BIBs through the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) website, which requires a CAC, adding a BIB portal on Navy COOL allows access through any internet-capable computer or mobile device.

"A common theme running through the Sailor feedback we receive is that much of the preparation for advancement exams is done at home, away from work," said Master Chief Electronics Technician, Nuclear Power (SS) James Berhalter, command master chief for the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC). "Having the public-facing BIBs will make figuring out what references to use for exam preparation significantly easier."

The BIBs pages on Navy COOL will provide both active duty and Reserve Sailors a link to the exam bibliography listings specific to their rating and rank, offering virtual 'one-stop shopping' for Sailors to know what publications to use to get ready for exams. The BIBs reference pages list the material subject matter experts use to develop the tests during the Advancement Exam Readiness Reviews.

"It's important that Sailors review their BIBs before every exam," said Berhalter. "Each cycle's exams are different, and the BIBs listed through Navy COOL and on NKO are tailored specifically for that exam cycle. If a Sailor is relying on BIBs from past exams, then he or she may miss some important references. Publications and instructions are also constantly being updated, so it's important to have the information that corresponds to that specific cycle's exam."

The Navy COOL links will contain the same content accessed through NKO, including BIBs for substitute exams, as well as rating-specific topics and subtopics which provide an exam content outline unique to each enlisted rating. Updates to BIBs will also be reflected simultaneously on Navy COOL.

Navy COOL Program Manager Keith Boring said that adding BIBs to the website helps the popular destination become even more functional.

"The goal of Navy COOL is to help today's Sailors become a stronger, more professional workforce and assisting them in advancement exam preparation is the epitome of that goal," said Boring. "This is one more valuable tool we offer our 21st Century Sailors."

To access the Advancement Exam Bibliographies section of Navy COOL, begin at the Department of the Navy COOL home page: www.cool.navy.mil/usn. Click on the 'Navy COOL' tab at the top right of the page, and under the 'Find and Select Related Credentials' tab, click on the 'Advancement Exam Bibliographies' dropdown on the left side page navigation. Then choose your rating and select 'Go'. The advancement exam bibliographies, topics and subtopics, FAQs and contact resources are found lower on the rating's COOL page.

The Navy COOL office is located at the Center for Information Dominance (CID) on Naval Air Station Pensacola's Corry Station. For more information on Navy COOL, visit www.cool.navy.mil/usn/.

NETPDTC, located at Saufley Field Pensacola, provides products and services that enable and enhance education, training, career development and personnel advancement throughout the Navy. Primary elements of the

command include the Voluntary Education Department, the Navy Advancement Center and the Resources Management Department.

Get the latest information on Navy enlisted advancement by visiting the Navy Advancement Center on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Navy-Advancement-Center-213190711299

Additional information about the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center can be found at www.netc.navy.mil/netpdtc/Default.htm

For more news from Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, visit www.navy.mil/local/NETPDTC/.

4.) Here's Why the U.S. Military Is a Family Business / 10 MARCH 16 [\[LINK\]](#)

TIME, Mark Thompson

A Pentagon report shows 4 of 5 recent recruits have had a close relative in uniform

Enlisting in the U.S. military used to be a rite of passage for many young American men. But since the draft ended in 1973, being born into a military family has become a much more important marker of a future in the U.S. armed forces.

The draft once acted as a national eggbeater, whipping young men of different creeds, races, economic circumstances and other divergent backgrounds into a unified fighting force. But Pentagon data show that 80% of recent troops come from a family where at least one parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, sibling or cousin has also worn their nation's uniform. More than 25% have a parent who has served.

The subject surfaced at a Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee hearing Tuesday, when Senator Angus King, (I-Maine), questioned the reliance of the U.S. military on relatives of those who have served. The U.S. armed forces had 3.5 million troops at the peak of the Vietnam War—more than double the 1.4 million it had during the post-9/11 wars. That means the pool of potential recruits in the future who had a close relative who served will also shrink. “This going to put more pressure on the non-family member recruiting,” King said Thursday. “We’ve got to reach outside the bloodlines.”

Such military service “has been part of our history for a long time,” King added. “It’s wonderful that we have people that have this tradition in their families and they continue to honor it—that’s a good thing. The only question I had was does the mathematics suggest that at some point in the future we’re going to have make greater efforts to broaden the pool.”

A Pentagon report detailing 2012-2013 recruits shows that 86% of new Air Force airmen had a close relative (parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle or cousin) who had served. The Navy rate was 82%; Army, 79%; and Marines, 77%.

“Eighty-two percent of Navy recruits have had a family member serve in the U.S. military, which is a concern to us,” says Lieut. Commander Nate Christensen, spokesman for the Chief of Naval Personnel. “We believe that this limits both the talent pool from which the Navy draws, as well as the diversity of background in our force, and ultimately could lead to a civil-military divide.”

The report also noted how many of those recruits went into the same service as their kin. Relatives are what the military calls key “influencers” because of their ability to steer young people into, or away from, the military.

While 59% of Army recruits whose close relatives had served in uniform said they had a relative who had served in the Army, that was true for only 37% of Marine recruits. The Air Force (46%) and Navy (51%) fell in between.

This has been a recurring topic of discussion in recent years. David Barno, a retired three-star Army general who had two sons in the service, said the isolation of modern military life has tended to increase sons and daughters following in their parents' footsteps. "It's a family business," Barno told TIME in 2011. "It's an ever-decreasing circle of folks on these isolated military posts who raise their own kids and send them into the force." The Pentagon was unable to provide additional information showing how recruits' family background has changed over time.

Army personnel chief Lieut. General James McConville highlighted the issue at Tuesday's hearing, when he discussed the pain he felt at having to force young men and women out of uniform as the Army shrinks after the major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. As "the father of three soldiers," he said in his opening statement, "it breaks my heart that we have to involuntarily separate soldiers who have served so honorably during this time of conflict."

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