

MCPON West change of office speech
12 December 2009

Good afternoon Admiral Roughead, Mrs. Roughead, Mrs. Black — the wife of our first MCPON Delbert Black — distinguished flag officers, former MCPON's, MCPON Campa, Mrs. Campa, shipmates, family and friends. It is an extreme honor beyond description to follow in the footsteps of such a distinguished group of master chief petty officers of the navy.

Their legacies directly contributed to the successes of our Sailors and our Navy. I am humbled to be in the same group as these men; men like MCPON Tom Crow who we just laid to rest on Monday.

Like Tom, many of you knocked down walls and barriers to shape the future of the sailors you lead.

Gentlemen ... thank you for your service.

To our fellow chief petty officers ... we've begun a journey of unprecedented magnitude, thanks to the visionary efforts of MCPON Joe Campa. He made tremendous contributions to our Navy and our chief's mess. Joe ... I thank you for that and for being a great friend.

Shipmate, you have poured the foundation — it's time for us to build the structure and move forward.

As I begin this next mission, I have many reasons to be thankful, three of which are sitting in the front row today. Without them, I certainly would not be on this stage.

Bobbi ... I can't even begin to thank you for what you do daily. You are the reason I can walk out the door in the morning and not worry about a thing.

ND3 Zach West ... thanks Zach, for being here today. I've got to tell you that you're one brave sailor to walk into a "lions den" of the most senior of naval officers and navy chief petty officers. As a third class, I would not have done that, but that's why you're hooyah deepsea!

Nick ... thanks for keeping me grounded and motivated. I have a strong feeling that you will follow on one day as a Sailor in some capacity. You're a good young man!

CNO ... thank you for the trust and faith you have in me to serve our nation and our Navy as MCPON. Your leadership as our CNO has given us a road map to become a better Navy, and I'll give my all to help you realize your vision.

To the senior enlisted of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard ... thank you for supporting Joe during his time as MCPON. I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

To our Sailors ... I am both humbled and honored to represent you as your Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. You all exemplify what it is to be a United States Sailor Honor, courage and commitment.

You are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan; are on IAs in Cuba, Africa and Bahrain; and are forward deployed on ships and other duty stations throughout the world.

You are better educated, more informed, and better equipped than any of our previous generations, and are doing our nation proud every day with your service.

I will honor your commitment by upholding the ideal of service that my predecessors have established.

Your training, development, personal and professional growth, and welfare will be at the heart of my every effort.

May god bless our efforts, and may god bless the United States Navy.

... All ahead full shipmates ... and hooyah!