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MCPON outlines expectations of a first class petty officer

By MCCA(SW/AW) Bill Houlihan

WASHINGTON — Following up on remarks he made to the Surface Navy Association National Symposium, Jan. 15, MCPON(SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr., has specifically outlined the expectations of a Navy first class petty officer.

Jan. 29, in communication with the Navy's Chiefs Mess through his regular newsletter titled, "To the Deckplates," Campa listed those expectations as: first line leadership, rating expertise, professionalism, communication, loyalty, and heritage. To view the newsletter, visit .

Over the past several months, Campa had been stressing the important role played by first class petty officers in his discussions with sailors around the Navy. At the same time, senior enlisted leaders from the fleet were

providing their input.

In his remarks to the SNA, Campa emphasized that the Navy doesn't have "a single sailor to spare," and said

that taking greater advantage of the leadership talents of the senior petty officers is critical to sailor development in the fleet. He re-emphasized that last week.

"As our Navy moves forward, we must be able to leverage the leadership and talent that lies within our first class community. The increased demands on our maritime forces and non-traditional missions make it imperative that we strengthen the leadership that we provide our sailors on the deckplate," said Campa.

Campa said that formalizing the expectations is only the first step. Now it's up to the Navy's first class mess to use that guidance as a means to evaluate their own effectiveness as leaders.

Critical to this deckplate initiative will be the involvement of the Chief's

Mess.

"None of these concepts are new, and I would say the great majority of our first classes are on board already.

Defining clear expectations provides a structure our Chiefs can train to and our sailors can strive for," Campa said.

Campa deliberately inserted the phrase "deckplate triad" into the expectations of the first class petty officer and said he expected it to become a reality in the fleet.

Under "communication," he stated: "First class petty officers clearly communicate standards to the sailors they lead, while consistently keeping the chain of command informed. The deckplate triad of division officer, chief petty officer and first class petty officer is only effective with other (petty officer first class) inputs and deckplate perspectives."

Campa told the SNA audience that the relationship between the chief and the division officer has always been strong, and should remain that way.

"But," he said, "consider how much more effective that leadership team could be if it evolves into a triad to

include first class petty officers."

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