Navy seeks applicants for Enlisted Selection Boards

By MC3 Andrea Perez, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs Office

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Navy Personnel Command announced Sept. 2 that it is seeking senior enlisted leaders to serve on Fiscal Year 2013 active-duty and reserve E-9, E-8 and E-7 selection boards.

"Participation by senior leaders in selection boards is paramount to the Navy's future," said Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port. "You should consider it a fundamental duty that when you're promoted to a certain pay grade, it's your responsibility to go back and select those who will relieve you."

A master chief's career is not considered complete until they have participated as a member of an enlisted selection board, according to Port.

There are approximately 2,600 master chief petty officers in the Navy and every individual not otherwise restricted from participating in a selection board is strongly encouraged to volunteer.

"Master chiefs are the senior enlisted advisors to the chief's mess and guide Sailors to make the right career choices, so they continue to develop and promote," said Port. "You can't truly know how to advise your Sailors until you have sat the selection board process yourself and understand what goes into it, how records are reviewed and how the integrity of the board comes together."

Active and reserve component master chiefs are encouraged to apply for any of the above boards.

Frocked master chiefs may also participate in the selection board process.

There is no restriction on active-duty serving on reserve boards or reserve/full-time support serving on active boards.

Senior chief petty officers may also serve on the active or reserve E-7 boards as either members or recorders.

They may only serve as recorders on the E-9 or E-8 boards. Chief petty officers may serve as recorders on E-9, E-8 and E-7 selection boards.

Preserving the integrity of the selection board process before, during and after a board is vital to the reliability of the board, said Port. It is also important that prospective candidates submit their application on their own behalf.

Forwarding via administrative personnel will compromise board membership and could invalidate their application. Only those in an applicant's chain of command or their fleet, or force, master chief need to know of their participation on a selection board.

Chief petty officers sing "Anchors Away" at the end of their pinning ceremony in the Benny Decker Theater onboard CFAY September 2009. Pinning ceremonies are the final process in frocking chief selectees.

Photo by Mark Elrod

Participation on a future board should not be discussed with fellow members while serving on an earlier board.

Potential board members are charged with preserving board information the moment they are officially notified by NPC that they have been chosen to sit on a promotion selection board. Rules of engagement can be found on NPC's website at www.npc.navy.mil/boards/selectionboardsupport.<BR< a>>

"I've served on selection boards before and it is challenging work, but never did I leave a board without feeling like I accomplished something great. I made a mark on my Navy's future, and I made a mark on myself with that experience," said Port.

Prior to submitting their applications, interested Sailors should also review BUPERSINST 1401.5A, which is supplemental guidance for the U.S. Navy selection boards.

Complete application procedures, eligibility requirements and links to other resources can be found in NAVADMIN 249/11, available on the NPC website at www.npc.navy.mil or contact the NPC customer service center at CSCmailbox@navy.mil or 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

New handbag, nuclear insignia regulation changes announced

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Navy announced future regulation changes for female Sailors carrying handbags in a Navy administrative message (NAVADMIN) message released Aug. 30.

Additionally, the nuclear weapons security insignia for enlisted personnel assigned to special weapons facilities will change.

The changes, approved by the Chief of Naval Operations and announced in NAVADMIN 260/11, go into effect for handbags Oct. 30 and for nuclear weapons security breast insignia next year.

The NAVADMIN also included an update on the service dress khaki uniform. Prototype designs are authorized for wear until Oct. 1, 2011, and an approved uniform is projected to be available for purchase by September 2012.

Female Sailors may carry handbags purchased from civilian sources as long as the handbags meet the following specifications:

• They must be plain black, brown or white grain leather or synthetic leather. Exotic materials such as eel, alligator or ostrich skin are not authorized.

• Bags must be rectangular, 7.5-14 inches long, 5.5-11 inches high and 2-4 inches deep.

• Bag flaps are required to be magnetic or zippered, with brass-plated, silver, or gold colored closures.

• Straps must be of the same material as its purse, with brass-plated, silver, or gold colored buckles.

• Decorative stitching, embossed designs, visible ornamentation and manufacturers' logos are not allowed.

The new nuclear weapons security breast insignia is expected to be available in August 2012 from Navy Exchange uniform centers.

This insignia is a 1.25-inch by 1-inch silver shield - metal for service uniforms and embroidered for authorized working uniforms - with a trident surrounded by an atom symbol.

The shield signifies the security mission. The atom and trident symbol signifies the strategic mission.

Additionally, at the bottom of the shield, there is a scroll with five openings on which stars can be mounted to indicate years of creditable service in the nuclear weapons security mission.

Without stars, the scroll indicates one year of service in the mission. One to three gold stars indicate two to four years of service, and a silver star indicates five years of service.

Further details, including information on qualifications, can be found in the recently published MILPERSMAN Article 1220-061.

To read the NAVADMIN, visit www.npc.navy.mil.

For more information on uniforms and uniform policy, visit www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/uniforms.