USS McCampbell hosts SWO detailer brief

Story and photo by MCSN (SW) Declan Barnes, NPASE, Japan

PACIFIC OCEAN – The head of the Surface Warfare Officers (SWO) Assignments at the Navy Personnel Command (PERS-41) visited the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) to hold a Surface Warfare Officer Career Brief Sept. 25.

Capt. John Nowell, Jr., director of PERS-41, addressed many different facets of the SWO career as he spoke with the ship's SWOs. Topics included the SWO promotion path, sea and shore assignments, opportunities for command, and even retirement benefits among others.

After the brief, each officer had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with his or her respective detailer – whether it be Capt. Nowell himself, or one of the four other detailers present who help him with assignments for division officers and department heads.

"It's always great when the SWO detailers are able to visit the ships," said Cmdr. Sharif Calfee, *McCampbell*'s executive officer. "When they are here, our junior officers get to interact with their detailer directly. They have an opportunity to get their questions answered and do some important career planning that compliments what the commanding officer and I discuss with them during career and mentoring discussions."

Nowell highlighted the major stepping stones of one's career as a SWO for *McCampbell*'s junior officers.

His brief reached beyond the immediate goal of many of the community's newest members – the Surface Warfare pin.

He delved into the rotation between sea and shore tours, encouraging the young officers to build up a specialty within the wide spectrum of opportunities. He also touched on the possibility and importance of command at sea, as well as command and management positions at shore bases and stations around the world.

"The brief allowed me, as a new junior officer, to grow in my understanding of the SWO career path and also to learn more about my opportunities as I go forward," said *USS McCampbell* Electronic Warfare Officer Ensign JoAnna Kyle. "It was refreshing to see how many options exist within the SWO community, and Capt. Nowell renewed my sense of pride in what we do."

Capt. John Nowell, Jr., director of PERS-41, addresses different facets of the SWO career for *USS McCampbell*'s Surface Warfare Officers, Sept. 25, as part of a brief on the SWO promotion path, sea and shore assignments, opportunities for command retirement benefits among others subjects.

The brief was appreciated by not only the ship's junior officers, but department heads as well.

"While serving as a department head on board, the career milestones in the SWO community have become even more relevant for me," said Lt. Tin Tran, *McCampbell*'s weapons officer. "The brief was a great opportunity to keep pulse with where the SWO community is headed and what it is looking for."

Surface Warfare Officers are trained extensively to lead and manage the U.S. Navy's warships, their crews and systems. SWOs are intimately involved in every aspect of shipboard life, from fighting the ship via anti-submarine warfare to overseeing the functioning of the engineering plant.

The mission set varies according to the different surface platforms, but the expectation for SWOs remains the same honed leadership skills and an unparalleled breadth and depth of surface related knowledge.

"I enjoy being part of the SWO community. Like all communities, we have our strengths and weaknesses, but top leadership is continually looking at those flaws and trying to improve them," said Lt.jg. Matthew Harmon, *McCampbell*'s operations officer. "I'm proud to be a SWO and look forward to serving in the community for years to come."

Navy prepares to celebrate its 'birthday'

From CNO Public Affairs

As we celebrate our Navy's 237th birthday, our history and heritage forms our identity, telling us who we are and what we stand for.

Our core values of honor, courage and commitment have been passed down from our founders, who charged the Navy with the solemn duty to serve as the "shield" of our republic.

The first real test our Navy faced was during the war of 1812. This war began at sea when United States ships were ordered to heave to upon the high seas and U.S. citizens were forcefully taken, or impressed, into the crews of another nation's ships.

The great battles that followed proved the fighting mettle of our Sailors and the cutting edge of our ship designs.

These battles established both free trade and free navigation as critical national interests of our country, interests that endure to this day.

The warrior characteristics of cunning and boldness exhibited in 1812 inspire our Sailors of today's Navy as they continue to serve around the world. The War of 1812 served as a critical turning point for our Navy.

On this 237th birthday of our Navy, we have the honor to serve in the greatest maritime fighting force the world has ever seen, but we do so with humility, continuing to build upon the framework those fighting Sailors forged before us.

History teaches us that with great power comes great responsibility. From the great captains and crews who fought single ship actions in 1812 to the

Commerce Raiders of the Civil War; from the convoys of World War I to the major fleet actions at Coral Sea and Midway; from the blockade of Cuba in October of 1962 to the riverine operations on the Tigris and the Euphrates, our Navy has boldly and proudly put our shoulder to the wheel.

We have championed peace and we continue to shield the republic.

Here is to 237 years of proud naval heritage, and many more.