Gilbert relieves Carpenter during ATGWP change of command

By Afloat Training Group Western Pacific Public Affairs

Capt. Curtis J. Gilbert relieved Capt. Carl A. Carpenter as commanding officer of Afloat Training Group Western Pacific (ATGWP) during a change of command ceremony held at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) C-2 Auditorium June 17.

ATG Pacific Deputy Commander Capt. Michael J. Taylor noted Carpenter's positive impact on not only the 7th Fleet, but throughout the Navy.

"Every time I tell someone I'm headed to Japan to speak at Capt. Carpenter's change of command…they proceed to regale me with some amazing story in which Capt. Carpenter again left an indelible mark on his fellow Navy professionals," said Taylor.

During his tenure, Carpenter oversaw the training and warfare certifications for the 19 ships forward-deployed to Japan. By holding ships to the highest standards, he ensured the ships of the forward-deployed naval forces were capable and ready for immediate tasking by fleet commanders. For the ships of the Navy's 7th Fleet and the dynamic nature of their mission, maximum readiness is not merely a lofty goal, but a way of life.

"We, ATG Westpac, are here for one reason: to train our relief," said Carpenter. "I proudly state that with the outstanding cadre of Sailors that surround you this morning, we have met the standard."

Along with praising his crew's efforts, Carpenter thanked many other commanders for the support he received during his time as commanding officer.

"Here at ATG Westpac, I have been surrounded by absolutely the most talented and highly competitive group of professionals I've ever served with," he said. "To the other base tenant commanders and waterfront leaders, I am grateful for your leadership, your support and most importantly, your friendship."

During the ceremony, Carpenter was awarded the Legion of Merit. He credited his Sailors and staff from ATGWP for many of the command's accomplishments.

"I can say with a clear conscience that I have never turned over a finer command," Carpenter said. "I feel good knowing the future of Afloat Training Group Western Pacific and Training Support Department Western Pacific will be secure under the dynamic leadership of Capt. Curt Gilbert."

Capt. Carl Carpenter departs the change of command ceremony held in the CFAY C-2 Auditorium where he was relieved as commanding officer of Afloat Training Group Western Pacific by Capt. Curtis Gilbert June 17.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew R. White

Following Carpenter's speech, Gilbert recognized Carpenter's accomplishments at ATGWP and is awaiting interaction with other commands throughout the region.

"I look forward to continuing the great tradition that Capt. Carpenter has established over the last four plus years," said Gilbert.

Digital transfer of tech manuals give deployed Sailors flexibility

By Naval Surface Warfare Center
Port Hueneme Command Communications

Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Port Hueneme, a field activity of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), transferred more than 160,000 pages of technical manuals in one hour while aboard *USS Ardent* (MCM 12).

The transfer, a first in U.S. Navy history, utilized the Technical Data Knowledge Management System (TDKM) and represents the first bulk underway digital transfer of technical manuals. A total of 642 technical manuals, each averaging 250 pages, were transferred according to Naval Systems Data Support Activity (NSDSA).

"This event proves the capability of the TDKM system and allows us to keep the fleet current whenever and wherever they are," said NSDSA Director Troy Sutton.

Equipping the warfighter to meet current and future operational requirements is part of the NAVSEA mission.

TDKM synchronization allows a ship to download their ship-specific technical manuals from the Naval Engineering Technical Library (NETL), which is managed by NSDSA at NSWC Port Hueneme. All technical manuals developed in support of operation and maintenance of naval ships are required to be housed in the NETL. TDKM gives the fleet the ability to identify all technical manuals applicable to them and retrieve them if not already on board.

"TDKM has been deployed in the fleet but has only been executed on pilot ships until now," said Sutton. "Ships can now synch up through the TDKM system and digitally retrieve 85 to 90 percent of their required tech manuals if needed. Until Ardent synchronized underway, this was something we had only done pierside. Until then, underway synchronization was limited to small amounts of data."

This capability is a team effort with the NSWC Port Hueneme, Carderock and Crane Division as well as industry.

PCS moves back on

By MCC(SW) Maria Yager, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy announced June 19 that it will resume issuing permanent change of station (PCS) orders following a three-month delay due to a budget shortfall.

Last April, approximately 14,000 Sailors who were supposed to transfer during the summer had their transfer dates delayed until fiscal year 2010. With the passing of a supplemental request, the Navy received approximately $89 million needed to fund PCS moves through the end of this fiscal year.

"Navy leadership made PCS funding a priority in discussions with Congress, and earlier this week, Navy's supplemental funding request passed both houses of Congress. Accordingly, Navy Personnel Command has been authorized to resume normal order writing, enabling Sailors and their families to move this summer," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson.

Sailors who previously negotiated orders, but then had their transfer date put on hold, need to renegotiate orders via Career Management System Interactive Detailing (CMSID) or their detailers. Detailers recorded what Sailors had previously negotiated and will try to honor those commitments, to the maximum extent possible, but Sailors still need to reapply.

During the PCS delay, the Navy issued a limited number of orders for Sailors completing individual augmentees (IA) and GWOT support assignments (GSA) as well as new accessions, so billets that were available before the PCS delay may no longer be available.

"We want to do what is best for the Sailor. Now that funds are available, they may want to move sooner in order to get their children enrolled in school or they may want to remain at their current duty station until November," said Master Chief Quarter Master (SW/AW) Andy Millar, senior enlisted advisor for enlisted distribution. Millar and his detailers are committed to working with affected Sailors to minimize the disruption for Sailors and their families.