



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Naval Consolidated Brig Chesapeake to hold Change of Command Ceremony

Chesapeake, VA – CDR Erik Spitzer will be relieved of command of the Naval Consolidated Brig Chesapeake (NAVCONBRIG) by CDR Sean Higgins during a change of command ceremony on April 26 at 10 a.m. at the NAVCONBRIG at Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads, Northwest Annex.

On July 22, 2011, CDR Spitzer reported as the first Commanding Officer of the newly established NAVCONBRIG. CDR Spitzer reported to Naval Consolidated Brig Miramar in February 2008 as the Executive Officer and “fleeted up” to Commanding Officer in September 2009. While in command at Brig Miramar, he achieved accreditation as an American Correctional Association Certified Corrections Executive and most recently completed Joint Professional Military Education (JPME II) at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk.

CDR Spitzer has accumulated over 2,200 hours in seven different Naval aircraft. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (Strike Flight), Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards) and various campaign and unit awards. After being relieved, CDR Spitzer will become the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion Commanding Officer at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

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CDR Higgins assumed the duties as the Executive Officer of NAVCONBRIG in November 2010. His command and staff experience include operational assignments as the Combat Logistics Force Program and Policy Action Officer (N424D), OPNAV from May 2002 to May 2004; Officer-in-Charge of the Navy deserter program at the Navy Absentee Collection and Information Center from May 2004 to August 2007; the first Operations Officer at Naval Support Activity, Souda Bay, Greece from March 1999 to May 2000; and Facilities and Information Systems Department Head and Operations Officer at the Officer Training Command, Newport, RI.

The NAVCONBRIG provides a correctional program which includes counseling and a systematic evaluation of prisoners which is a prerequisite for intelligent decisions on custody, work, training, military and physical training, and opportunity for self improvement, recreation and religious participation. The facility employs 160 Sailors, 66 Marines, 4 Soldiers, 2 Airman and 27 Civilians. The 209,000 square foot facility is designed to house 400 prisoners. Construction on the project began in February 2010 and the facility officially opened in August 2011.

Note to Media: Outlets interested in covering this event should contact the Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads Public Affairs Officer at 836-1484 or 770-5045.

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