

Navy Region Southeast welcomes CMC Ellis

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Transitioning from Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific in Hawaii, Command Master Chief (CMC) Herbert Mack Ellis reported to Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) to relieve CMDCM Joseph Curtin, May 9.

Ellis' plan for how he will lead the military staff at CNRSE centers on Navy policy.

"For those of us at CNRSE, it is a must that we lead by example," Ellis said. "From our most junior Sailor to our most senior Sailor, we must be on the same page. Education is our page as far as communication, as far as teaching the Navy's policies. I believe if we follow the basic guidelines of educating ourselves and leading by example, we will do well."

Ellis' leadership at the installations command also includes frequent air travel to work with many of his team members at their respective commands throughout the region.

"I will be their leader and their mentor," Ellis said of the installation command master chiefs through the Southeast Region. "At the same time, I expect to learn as much from them as they can expect to learn from me. We will communicate. I will be communicating Navy policy and any other information our Sailors need to our installations' CMCs and they will pass that information

down to the lowest level."

A Radioman Senior Chief prior to 2001, Ellis was made staff command senior chief of Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet that year by now-Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West. The appointment opened Ellis' eyes.

"I was totally unaware of what was going on in the submarine force before that," Ellis said. "I never could have imagined the amount of energy and education that I would receive from the chiefs of the boats and other command master chiefs."

It was a tour that led Ellis in a new direction.

"At one point, I thought I wanted to retire. I've always worked hard, but I didn't make plans to become a command master chief," he said. "It's everyone's dream to be a Navy Chief, and that had been mine, too. Still, I wanted to make a difference, and to make a difference, you have to keep climbing and convince others to do the same."

According to Ellis, he has found positive guidance from multiple individuals throughout his career.

"I feed off people and believe in influence going both ways, in leading by example. I value effort and integrity, and I value motivation in every Sailor. No one is perfect, everyone should do their best, and we should be able to accept that," Ellis said. "All of that has led me into the position I'm in today."