Navy bids Roughead farewell, Greenert takes helm

By MC2 (SW) Kyle P. Malloy, Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – With 38 years of service, Adm. Gary Roughead steps down from the position of Chief of Naval Operations during the change of command ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy, Sept. 23.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus was the keynote speaker for the ceremony and highlighted Adm. Roughead's accomplishments during his naval career while thanking him for his leadership.

"I don't think anyone can ever fully express how much we're going to miss Gary Roughead's counsel and absolutely unwavering commitment to the Navy [and] the United States," said Mabus. "Admiral Roughead has had the genius and the skill to turn so many of the challenges he's faced into opportunities."

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead is relieved by Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert as the Chief of Naval Operations during a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy Sept. 23.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Shannon E. Renfroe

Mabus reviewed Roughead's career milestones including being one of only two admirals in the United States Navy to command both the Pacific and Atlantic fleets.

"As Chief of Naval Operations, his leadership has helped to reshape the Navy into the 21st Century operationally and strategically," said Mabus. "Gary Roughead's leadership skills follow great officers and a willingness to innovate while respecting the deep traditions of the sea service."

Mabus spoke about Roughead's commitment to his Sailors and always making them his first priority. Mabus said, "He never lost sight of the primary responsibility of leadership - taking care of the people entrusted to you and to the office you hold."

As Roughead took the podium for the last time as Chief of Naval Operations, he thanked his counterparts, both foreign and domestic, friends, and his family for the continued support and guidance during his tenure. He spoke about his unique experiences in the armed service, especially in the relationships built.

"There has been a lot of change but throughout there has been the decisive, constant and the aspect of the Navy that will be my enduring memory - our Sailors," said Roughead.

In an emotional conclusion, Roughead did the best he could to summarize his naval career.

"To echo what another Navy man said nearly five decades ago at this academy, when asked what I did to make my life worthwhile I will respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, I served in the United States Navy."

Mabus spoke about the transparent transition the Navy will go through when Adm. Roughead is relieved by Adm. Greenert as the top Navy officer.

"Adm. Roughead's contributions may be hard if not impossible to surpass but I am confident that if anyone can match them it is Jon Greenert," said Mabus.

Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, the newly appointed 30th Chief of Naval Operations, took the podium after Roughead, thanking him for his service and bringing the Navy to where it is today.

Greenert said Roughead has done a magnificent job and the plan would be to keep it that way.

"My priorities, our course, are one we've got to remain ready to meet the current challenges today, we've got to build a relevant and capable future fleet, and we have got to continue to care for our Sailors, our civilians and their families, and recruit and nurture a motivated, relevant and diverse force," said Greenert.

Greenert then went on to talk about the three tenets he will focus on during his time in office which include warfighting first, operate forward and be ready.

"We will approach our challenges and we will implement our changes that will have to be done in the future with three tenets in mind," said Greenert. "They will be effective [and] efficient. Our Solutions will be joint and the Marine Corps will remain our primary partner."

GW METOC assists navigation through dual tropical storms

By MC2 William Pittman,
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PACIFIC OCEAN – The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) is currently navigating through two tropical storms in the Western Pacific Ocean during her 2011 patrol.

Sailors with the ship's Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC) division, consisting of military weathermen known as aerographer's mates, track the progress of the storms and overcome various challenges to ensure the ship safely navigates without encountering Tropical Storm Roke, moving northeastward, and Typhoon Sonca, moving northwestward.

"Every six hours the tropical storm warnings are updated and we update the captain four times a day to ensure that he can make the proper decisions to navigate the ship in safe seas and normal winds," said Lt. Cmdr. Frank Price, meteorological officer aboard *George Washington*. "It's difficult because the storms can take various tracks. There is a lot of variability in the forecast; the storms can change direction in the blink of an eye."

The ship's METOC crew works around the clock using highly specialized equipment to monitor storm patterns.

"We use radar and satellite imagery to identify the eye of the storm, the intensity of the storm and the storm's movement so we can determine how fast it's going, where it's going and the dynamics around the storm," said Price. "That way we can understand the storm's path and plan accordingly."

When the path of the storm is determined in accordance with the current weather advisory, *George Washington*'s aerographer's mates also inform senior officers from Intel, Navigation, Operations and Training, allowing them to prepare accordingly.

"[The ship's navigation department] ensures the safe navigation of the ship and that we get to our destination safely," said Cmdr. Wes McCall, *George Washington*'s navigator. "We have instruments aboard that warn us of approaching storms, but without METOC and the services they provide, it would be hard for us to get to a position to where we can safely conduct our current mission. They are integral to our mission out here and we couldn't do it safely without them."

By Sept. 22, both storms are expected to move north with calm seas returning to the western Pacific.

"Starting with the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan earlier this year, we've dealt with many complex tropical systems within the past year," said Price. "My aerographer's mates have proven they are the tip of the spear, performing at high levels to accomplish the mission."

George Washington pulled out of her forward-operating port of Yokosuka, Japan on Sept. 19 to continue her 2011 patrol.

As the Navy's only full-time forward deployed carrier, *George Washington*'s mission is to help ensure security and stability in the western Pacific ocean.