U.S. Pacific Fleet chaplain visits George Washington

Story and photo by MC3 William Pittman, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

U.S. Pacific Fleet Command Fleet Chaplain Capt. Brent Scott visited the forward-deployed aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Aug. 2.

Scott held a candid and open discussion with *George Washington* Sailors during his visit to discuss the arduous challenges of forward-deployed life.

"What we wanted is an open and honest dialogue," said Scott. "The forward-deployed Navy has different expectations than the rest of the fleet and we want to know what can the Pacific Fleet do better for the forward-deployed Sailor. We are focusing more on the people than the issue because the Sailor is the solution."

Sailors, who volunteered to participate in the discussion, talked about various issues and concerns, including staying in the Navy, alcohol abuse, sexual abuse and suicide.

"I was pleased with the visit because our Sailors were mature, cogent and thoughtful, and they gave great responses," said Cmdr. Dan Mode, *George Washington* command chaplain. "This visit was all about talking to the Sailors and getting feedback about the issues on their minds and I think we got a great result."

Scott's visit to *George Washington* marked one of the first stops of a tour taking him across the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility, where he will conduct similar discussions with Sailors across the Pacific area of operations.

"The Navy invests in posters, commercials and training regarding some of these issues but they aren't completely effective across the board," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Paul Settle, from Houston, one of the Sailors that participated in the discussion. "It's not as effective as it could be because they're all from superior to subordinate and the Sailors feel talked down to. The Navy is trying to do something about these issues on a personal level by sending a representative to talk to us as human beings, not like subordinates, and by doing that the participation and education is considerably more effective."

Capt. Brent Scott, fleet chaplain, U.S. Pacific Fleet Command, greets ATAN Latoya Chandler, from Stark, Fla., during a visit aboard the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) Aug. 2. Scott conducted an open discussion with George Washington Sailors regarding the arduous challenges of forward-deployed life.

By visiting fleet concentration areas within the forward-deployed naval forces, Scott can get a cumulative read on Sailors' concerns throughout the area and return them to the Pacific Fleet leadership.

George Washington welcomes its new chief petty officers

Story by MCSN Kelby Sanders, USS Blue Ridge Public Affairs

Forty-four *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) first class petty officers (FCPO) were selected to join the chief petty officer (CPO) ranks when the Navy announced the results of the Fiscal Year 2013 Active Duty CPO Selection Board July 31.

"Advancement into the Chief Petty Officer Mess is a true career milestone achievement that is uniquely part of our Naval Heritage and is the most significant promotion, without equal, among the enlisted ranks of all of our sister services," said Capt. David A. Lausman, *George Washington*'s commanding officer. "It signifies that the years of dedicated service, hard work, and adherence to our Navy core values have been duly recognized as the cornerstone for the bright future of our Navy."

"These hard working, forward-deployed selectees, along with their families, should be extremely proud of this milestone. *George Washington* will shortly be a much better warship when these selectees join the CPO Mess," added Lausman. "If I could only give one piece of advice to every Sailor on what to do in order to ensure a successful career, it would be, 'if you have a question or uncertainty, go ask the Chief.'"

The rate of CPO was established on April 1, 1893, and they serve a dual role as both technical experts and as leaders.

"Being a [CPO] means being responsible to your Sailors, to your command, and to the officers you work for," said *George Washington* Command Master Chief Shaun Brahmsteadt. "Becoming a [CPO] changes how junior Sailors and officers look at you; you are expected to have certain skill sets and background knowledge on all Navy policies, procedures and programs."

George Washington's CPO mess has been preparing its FCPO for their selection and their grooming to become future CPOs through the CPO 365 program.

This Navy-wide program, initiated by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West in 2010, is a three-phase, year-round training cycle that tests the prospective CPO or selectee mentally, physically, personally and professionally.

"CPO 365 has been an invaluable tool in training and mentoring our [FCPO]," said Brahmsteadt. "Phase I is what we call 'basic training', where we build a foundation for the yearlong cycle. Phase II steps up the process and prepares board-eligible Sailors for their transition. Phase III is where we pull aside the selectees and teach them how to be an active and productive member of the chiefs mess."

USS George Washington personnel who have been selected for advancement to chief petty officerPO include Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Tim Bickerton; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Don Bishop; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Equipment 1st Class Gernard Boyle; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Gilburt Cabales; Electrician's Mate 1st Class Jerry Cordona; Culinary Specialist 1st Class Jeff Carroll; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Equipment 1st Class Derrick Clay; Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Vincent Cooper; Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Courtney Craig; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class Osvaldo Delacruzmariano; Electrician's Mate 1st Class Desirea Doyle; Logistics Specialist 1st Class Celestino Dulnuan; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class James Frost; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Markroland Garcia; Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Charles Henwood; Logistics Specialist 1st Class Dametries Holmes; Logistics Specialist 1st Class Kevin Howard; Logistics Specialist 1st Class Salvador Hugo; Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class Enrickie Jackson; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Shelmwood Johnson; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Calvin Jones; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class Shawn Leigh; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Fuel 1st Class Nelson Lubin; Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Eduardo Mayo; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class Muhammed Morad; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Joshua Nicks; Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Jordon Orr; Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Vincent Papallo; Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Joseph Paul; Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Richard Robertson; Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Eric Setterfield; Electrician's Mate 1st Class Brent Spicer; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class Gregory Stacey; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class William Sum; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Charles Tindle; Culinary Specialist 1st Class Jeric Toledo; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Fuel 1st Class Ranilo Untivero; Aviation Boatswain's Mate Equipment 1st Class Sean Valis; Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Joe Villa; Culinary Specialist 1st Class Resty Villacorta; Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Thomas Walker; Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Albert Williams; Machinist's Mate 1st Class Anthony Wilson; and Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Brandon Woodard.