USS McCampbell receives new commander

Story and photo by Ensign Colleen Praxmarer, *USS McCampbell* Public Affairs

Cmdr. Charles Johnson relieved Cmdr. William Triplett as the Commanding Officer of *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) Dec. 15 in a change of command ceremony at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Harbormaster Pier.

Johnson became the fifth commanding officer of *McCampbell* since its commissioning seven years ago.

Johnson comes to *McCampbell* after serving onboard *USS John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), *USS Mobile Bay* (CG 53), *USS Robert G. Bradley* (FFG 49), *USS Thomas S. Gates* (CG 51), and *USS Cushing* (DD 985).

Johnson also served on the Commander Task Force 70 (CTF 70) staff as the training and readiness officer, India exercise officer and ballistic missile defense officer.

Triplett was in command of *McCampbell* for 17 months. During that time, the ship participated in several major and joint exercises, in addition to conducting a homeport shift from San Diego to Yokosuka.

Exercises conducted during Triplett's time in command included Valiant Shield 2007, CSOFEX (Counter Special Operations Forces Exercise) 4-07, Annualex (Annual Exercise) 19G, SHAREM (Ship Anti-submarine Warfare Readiness and Evaluation Measurement) 155, Renegade Net-08, CARAT-08 (Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training), CSOFEX 3/4-08 and PASSEX (Passing Exercise).

Additionally, *McCampbell* visited Kagoshima, Niigata and Okinawa, Japan, Donghae, Busan, and Pyongtaek, Korea, Pearl Harbor, Guam, Singapore and the Philippines while Triplett was commander.

The guest speaker, Capt. Mark Montgomery, commander Destroyer Squadron 15, spoke of Triplett's impressive tour.

Montgomery praised the smooth transition into 7th Fleet and Triplett's ability to deftly balance the needs of the fleet commander with the needs of his ship and crew and get the mission done on time every time, saying, "I could not ask for a more rock solid leader."

Triplett credited his achievements in command during his remarks to the crew he served with each and every day.

(Left) *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) Commanding Officer Cmdr. William Triplett is relieved by Cmdr. Charles Johnson during a change-of-command ceremony held at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Harbormaster Pier Dec. 15.

"Team *McCampbell*, you have been the best crew that I have ever served with," Triplett said. "I have seen you achieve great things. You are all great Sailors with that unquenchable desire to continue to achieve and exceed the standard."

Prior to commanding *McCampbell*, Triplett served at sea onboard *USS Vincennes* (CG 49), *USS Lake Erie* (CG 70), *USS Cowpens* (CG 63), and as executive officer onboard *USS Crommelin* (FFG 37). He, also, served ashore on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Assessment Division (N81).

Triplett will report to the newly created U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Revised short-term extension policy to impact some Sailors

By Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

The Navy announced a new policy Jan. 9 for short-term extensions which will impact Sailors in overmanned ratings, physical fitness assessment (PFA) failures and some Perform to Serve (PTS) applicants.

According to NAVADMIN 007/09, commanding officers may not authorize short-term extensions for Sailors in overmanned ratings without NPC's approval except to obtain obligated service required to complete initial entry training, execute permanent change of station (PCS) orders or an Individual Augmentee (IA) assignment, to obtain maternity care benefits for a member's wife or pregnant servicewoman or to meet a fleet reserve date.

Under the new policy, short-term extensions for the purpose of passing the physical fitness assessment are not authorized for Sailors who cannot pass the Navy's PFA and have failed three times within a four-year period.

Short-term extensions are no longer authorized for undesignated Sailors, also known as Gendets, who have not been selected for a rating or converted in the first six months of the 12-month PTS window.

Commands are required to review all short term extension requests to ensure they are executed for valid program and career management reasons.

Sailors are not authorized to execute short-term extensions to remain on active duty to complete a college course prior to separation.

Short term extensions are not authorized for Sailors awaiting examination results or for Sailors awaiting additional quotas for automatic advancement under any automatic advancement program, such as command advancement program.

"The main reasons a Sailor would need a short-term extension is to complete a deployment, match their EAOS (end of active obligated service) to their PRD (projected rotation date) extend to complete training, or for maternity benefits," said Master Chief Navy Counselor (SW/AW) Tom Albert, assigned to Navy Personnel Command (NPC).

Short-term extensions are conditional extensions that extend a members enlistment contract anywhere from one to 23 months.

Affected overmanned ratings will be updated quarterly or as needed and overmanned rating lists will be posted with status of extension requests, procedures, guidance and frequently asked questions at the NPC enlisted career progression webpage.