Navy provides update for Senior Enlisted Continuation Board

By MCC(SW) Maria Yager, Naval Personnel Command Public Affairs

A Navy message released July 21 provides further details on the upcoming Senior Enlisted Continuation Board.

While not all-inclusive, NAVADMIN 211/09 lists some factors that indicate to those Sailors before the continuation board what the board is using as a measurement standard for continuation.

Those factors include documented misconduct and substandard performance including "significant problems" or "progressing" promotion recommendations, declining performance from the same reporting senior, failure to maintain physical fitness assessment standards, military or civilian convictions and non-judicial punishment and documented administrative or personnel action for misconduct, such as DUI/DWI, spouse or child abuse.

Additionally, the message directs commands to continue to verify the status of eligible Sailors until the Sept. 1 cutoff date. Changes in the eligibility pool will continue to occur as a result of selection boards, execution of overseas permanent change of stations orders and other factors.

Announced in January by NAVADMIN 030/009, the fiscal year (FY) 2010 E7-E9 Senior Enlisted Continuation Board convenes Sept. 21 at Navy Personnel Command. Members not selected for continuation will transfer to the fleet reserve or retire no later than June 30, 2010.

This year's continuation board will review the records of approximately 5,500 active duty and full time support E7 through E9 personnel.

The performance-driven review of master chiefs, senior chiefs and chiefs with more than 20 years of service and three years time-in-grade will be similar to the continuation boards already in place for officers.

Exemptions to the FY-10 Senior Enlisted Continuation Board include Sailors with approved fleet reserve/retirement dates effective on or before June 30, 2010, those selected for advancement by the FY-10 senior and master chief boards, personnel selected for command senior chief/master chief by the FY-10 board, Safe Harbor participants and personnel with orders to or serving in the first two years of an overseas Department of Defense (DoD) area tour at the time of the board convening date. DoD area tours in the United States and District of Columbia are not exempt.

Additionally, personnel holding a nuclear, SEAL (special warfare boat operator, special warfare operator), explosive ordnance disposal technician or diver enlisted classification code, plus fleet, force and command master chiefs are exempt from the board.

Each eligible member is responsible for ensuring their record is correct and up-to-date with evaluations, awards and other appropriate information. Candidates may communicate with the continuation board by submitting a board package. Selection board packages provide candidates the opportunity to submit missing documents from the sections of their records that are viewed by the continuation board. Packages must be post marked no later than August 17, 2009. Packages submitted to the E8 and E9 advancement selection boards will not be presented to the continuation board. Further guidance on submitting a board package can be found in NAVADMIN 096/09.

A list of personnel selected for continuation will be released in November. Commanding officers with personnel not selected for continuation will be notified so they may personally and confidentially notify the members.

More information is available in NAVADMIN 211/09, which should be read in conjunction with NAVADMIN 030/09 and 096/09 available at www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/ForceStabilization/.

Members of the CFAY CPO community stand at attention during morning colors as part of several celebrations to recognize the 116th chief petty officer birthday aboard CFAY April 1. This year's Senior Enlisted Continuation Board will review the records of approximately 5,500 active duty and full time support E7 through E9 personnel. Photo by Ben Avey

Curtis Wilbur ensigns underway with JMSDF destroyer *JS Shirayuki*

Story and photo by Ensign Tyler Kranz, *USS Curtis Wilbur* Public Affairs

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ship *JS Shirayuki* (DD 123) got underway with the addition of two ensigns from *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) for a recent bilateral officer exchange.

Ensigns Chris Dailey and Eric Lovelace went to sea with the Japanese ship on a cloudy Monday morning and met up with four other Japanese destroyers to participate in an anti-submarine exercise. The primary mission of the Hatsuyuki class destroyer *Shirayuki*, home ported in Yokosuka, is anti-submarine warfare.

“The operational tempo is very similar to *Curtis Wilbur*, just with more general quarters,” said Lovelace of his time aboard the JMSDF ship.

The *Shirayuki* usually performs three to four general quarter drills every day when underway. As with the U.S. Navy, damage control proficiency is critical in maintaining mission readiness. The *Curtis Wilbur* officers found that daily operations on the *Shirayuki* are similar to U.S. Navy ships on the waterfront but with some differences.

For example, on JMSDF ships, the watch changes every three hours as opposed to five-hour watches on most U.S. Navy ships. However, the bridge watch team is very different than most U.S. Navy ships. The bridge team consists of the navigator, the assistant navigator and one enlisted sailor as the helmsman in the pilot house; whereas, on U.S. Navy ships, the bridge watch team officers consists of the officer of the deck, junior officer of the deck, and the conning officer.

Lovelace reported that the cuisine aboard the Japanese vessel is very simple in contrast to a very robust American menu. A standard meal consists of fresh fish, rice, hot soup, and hot tea. During the mid-day meal, fruit is served as a special treat, like a dessert.

At the end of the exercise, *Shirayuki* made a port visit to Hachijojima, an island off the coast of Tokyo. The *Curtis Wilbur* ensigns were invited by the wardroom to a Japanese *nomikai*, or party, and enjoyed a variety of Japanese dishes and beverages.

“The *nomikai* was a fun way to celebrate the ending of a great exercise," said Daily. "I really believe that going on this exercise with the Japanese helps with our relations with our host country.”

Ensign Chris Dailey from *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) looks over charts with the navigator of the JMSDF destroyer *JS Shirayuki* (DD 123) during a recent bilateral officer exchange between the two ships.