

New Command Master Chief Onboard NCBC Gulfport

By **MCC Rosalie Chang**
NCBC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport has a new senior enlisted leader on board. Command Master Chief Michael Lopez will relive Command Master Chief David Garcia as the NCBC Gulfport Command Master Chief during a change of badge ceremony, May 23.

Lopez enlisted in the Navy in September 1992, attended boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill and reported for his first tour at Sea Control Squadron 29 (VS 29) in North Island, Calif. In October 1994, he attended builder "A" school in Gulfport, Miss.

His sea tours include USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, NMCB 1 and NMCB 74. His shore tours include Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Naval Construction Training Center Gulfport and First Naval Construction Division (1NCD).

He previously led Navy Cargo Handling Battalion (NCHB) 1 and NMCB 1 as the command master chief as well as at his most recent tour at Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2.

Lopez holds an Associate of Arts Degree in Construction Technology and Vocational Technical Education and is a Dean's List Graduate of the Senior Enlisted Academy. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and other unit and personal awards.

Garcia will be retiring from active duty after 30 years of service.



Building Ties as the NCBC Dining Facility's New Food Service Officer

By **MC3 Kohen Gillis**
NCBC Public Affairs

With over 20 years of experience, Lt. Elizabeth Hines' qualifications speak for themselves. Hines joined the U.S. Navy in July 1998 as a hospital corpsman. Over the next 13 years, Hines would fill a variety of jobs including being an instructor, serving as an independent duty corpsman and working as an aviation medical technician.

In March of 2012, she commissioned as an officer in the navy supply corps. Her first tour as a supply officer was served aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey (DDG 105) as the disbursing officer. Hines' second sea tour was as served as the food service officer aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 59). Her final assignment, before her retirement in March

2020, is the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) dining facility officer-in-charge and food service officer.

After graduating high school Hines said she was looking for a way to make it out on her own.

"Honestly, I hadn't fully applied to colleges after graduating from high school," said Hines. "I thought I would maybe go to college on a swimming scholarship. I had no real direction and I just wanted a chance to do things on my own."

Hines stated she tried to join the Air Force at first, but she did not want to sign up before they'd give her a job.

"After I took my ASVAB, the Navy said if I would leave in 12 days there was a hospital corpsman job open for me if I wanted it and that was it," said Hines. "I left Richardson, Texas for Great Lakes, Ill. in 12 days after talking to a

Hines Continued On Page 2



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recruiter."

During her time as an enlisted Sailor aboard the Emory S. Land-class submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40), she was influenced by many of supply officers.

"I met a lot of supply officers that were former corpsmen and they helped guide me into pursuing a career as an officer," said Hines. "I chose the supply corps because I felt like it was the best fit for me with my experience as a corpsman. The medical community doesn't have a [limited duty officer] tract or a warrant officer program, so supply seemed to fit because it is very customer service and logistically oriented."

Hines will be in charge of overseeing the move of NCBC's galley staff and equipment into a temporary facility in preparation of the Colmer Dining Facility's multi-million-dollar renovation project. The renovation is estimated to take 18 months and the move to the temporary facility is expected to begin in August.

"My goal for us during the move is that we do everything safely and correctly," said Hines. "It's important that we do everything right the first time."

Her main goal during her time at NCBC Gulfport is to make sure her Sailors are successful. She hopes that her Sailors come away from Gulfport with the tools they need to do well in their naval careers.

"I hope I leave a group of Sailors at the galley who are happy and healthy," said Hines. "I want people around me to know I acknowledge that they have this chance on shore duty to grown and build strong friend and family ties. Those ties are vital to continue naval service. I hope they learn from some of my struggles, and by learning from me maybe they won't repeat them. The Navy is a place where 'sea stories' can truly be beneficial to those around us. I hope each of my Sailors here at the galley see that although the struggle is real, success is still possible. I hope they see a 20-year Sailor who has made a life and a career work, and I hope they have the same."

NCBC pauses for safety stand down day



The Safety Department on-board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., held a safety stand down on base May 16, 2019. This event was in conjunction with the upcoming 101 Critical Days of Summer, focusing on safety issues and hazards associated with various activities people may participate in during the summer months. (U.S. Navy photos by Ryan Labadens/released)



The members of the newly formed Installation Commander's Council sign a charter to signify the beginning of the council's formal existence at the Naval Construction Battalion Center 22 May. The purpose of the council is to provide a forum for collaboration between the military entities in Mississippi to help problem-solve and influence decisions at local and state levels. Capt. Whitmire was voted in and installed as the inaugural chairman of the council. The chairman and vice chairman positions are one-year positions and will rotate through the individual military installation commanders with the purpose to provide opportunities for all military bases, including National Guard bases in the State. (U.S. Navy photo Brian Lamar)



Naval Construction Battalion Center firefighters team up with Harrison County firefighters to teach Saucier Elementary students what to do in case of a house fire. (U.S. Navy Photos by Brian Lamar)

