

# USS Tripoli Newest Chiefs Don Their Anchors

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USS Tripoli Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO – Amphibious assault carrier USS Tripoli promoted twenty Sailors to chief petty officer during a pinning ceremony at Naval Base Point Loma Annex, Sep. 29.

Family, friends and shipmates of the new chiefs attended the ceremony to show support and celebrate with their Sailors.

After passing an advancement exam and being selected for chief from a board of master chiefs, they went through a six-week initiation training program, designed to transform them into chief petty officers.

“The purpose of chief season is to fine tune ‘Brilliant on the Basics’,” said Command Master Chief Toyna Grace, the command master chief aboard Tripoli. “It’s our job as a mess to make them physically and mentally able to take on the challenges that come with being a chief.”

During the six weeks, they participated in physical training three times per week, completed complex assignments and problem-solving tasks, and took part in team building scenarios all while maintaining their regular work schedule. Due to this hectic schedule, they often found themselves in a quagmire of tasks and extended working hours.

“They are still expected to manage work centers and complete jobs, on top of completing various tasks for chief season,” said Senior Chief Personnel Specialist Dwayne Smith. “The selectees have to learn to become comfortable with being uncomfortable.”

The initiation culminated in the chiefs pinning ceremony where they received their anchor collar devices and chief combination covers.

“It took a lot of effort to get here today,” said Chief Aviation Electronics Technician Joseph Crouch, who was advanced to chief during the ceremony. “But I learned and grew a lot and I’m very proud to be here today.”

The chief petty officer is a highly coveted position in the Navy, which recognizes these individuals as experts in their field, and leaders of Sailors, both junior and senior.

“The chief is the expert,” said Chief Information Systems Technician Zach Smith “Chiefs are the ones you go to when you’re out of answers or options. We find solutions to problems and move on.”

As this latest class of chiefs assume their new roles and go out into the fleet to teach and lead Sailors, they will uphold the traditions of one of the most exclusive fraternities in the world, that of the Navy chief petty officer.

Tripoli is an America-class amphibious assault carrier homeported in San Diego. The ship is currently in its selective restricted maintenance availability.