



## ***Chief of Staff Captain Tim Giardina***

Dear SEVENTH Fleet Families,

August was a very busy month with significant transition. Vice Admiral Jon Greenert assumed command on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We welcome him and his wife Darleen and their daughter Sara to the SEVENTH Fleet family. We also bid farewell to Vice Admiral and Mrs. Willard who have arrived safely in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to our Chief Petty Officer selectees. We congratulate them and their families as they transition to Chief Petty Officer. Finally, I'd like to welcome the numerous new Staff members and their families that have joined us during the busy summer PCS season.

We are just finishing one of our most important exercises of the year, ULCHI FOCUS LENS. The Staff has performed well during this demanding exercise which has tested the Staff and provided the necessary training to hone our skills for responding to conflict, if required. Following UFL, September will continue to be a busy month. We look forward to hosting the Chief of Naval Operations after our return to Yokosuka, and we will conduct an important Staff training exercise in preparation for Exercise Talisman Saber next spring. We will also be moving the staff back to USS BLUE RIDGE at the end of the month. The support of family and friends as we navigate this aggressive schedule is important and very much appreciated.

The SEVENTH Fleet Band has also been keeping an aggressive schedule. On 26 September, "The American Sounds of Yokosuka" will be celebrating its 10th anniversary with a special concert presented by the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and the United States SEVENTH Fleet Band. The performance will begin at 1500 at the Yokosuka Cultural Arts Center. "The American Sounds of Yokosuka" concert will afford Sailors, their families and civilians the opportunity to hear and enjoy both the Tokyo Symphony and the SEVENTH Fleet Band in what promises to be, an extremely historic musical event. Tickets are still available through the Yokosuka Cultural Arts Center.

A very significant effort during the month of September will be our move from USS CORONADO back to USS BLUE RIDGE. The crew of BLUE RIDGE and many SEVENTH Fleet Staff members have put in an enormous amount of work to make BLUE RIDGE's maintenance availability a success. Their efforts have greatly enhanced BLUE RIDGE's capabilities and will improve the quality of life of our Sailors. We thank the crew of USS CORONADO for the important role they played in providing the SEVENTH Fleet Staff the necessary command and control capabilities to meet SEVENTH Fleet operational requirements.

Warmest Regards,  
Tim Giardina



## ***Command Master Chief Ashley Smith***

Dear Families and Friends:

The month of August was a busy one for SEVENTHFLT. We participated in one of our largest exercises, off the coast of Korea, ULCHI FOCUS LENS (UFL). It's always interesting to get a chance to work with all of our service counterparts, whether it is the United States or Korea. Although our liberty wasn't abundant, our sailors had a chance to visit Chinhae, while we were in port embarking some of our guests.

Things are really going to pick up at the beginning of September. The USS Blue Ridge will be out of dry dock. She will move over to the same pier to facilitate the Staff move back aboard. It will be nice to be back on our Flagship. The USS Coronado will return home to San Diego. We really appreciate all her crew has done to accommodate the SEVENTHFLT staff.

September 16<sup>th</sup>hg-pe Chief Petty Officer Transition will take place. This is always an exciting time for the Chiefs and the prospective Chiefs as we welcome them into the Mess. If you see some new sailors in khakis, congratulate them on a job well done.

There will be a Navy One Source presentation coming to Yokosuka base. Please call FFSC, for dates and times. It is a terrific source of information and is going to be a way of the future for our Navy families.

As children head back to school, make sure you take the time to spend time with them in their new environments. It's a new adjustment for them, and your support helps encourage them.

Take care,  
CNOCM (SW) Ashley Smith  
Command Master Chief  
COMSEVENTHFLT