

Chapter Spotlight: Hampton Roads Chapter

By CAPT Tommy Neville, SC, USN, Hampton Roads Chapter President

The Hampton Roads (HR) Chapter has been busy in 2021. While pausing on most normal occurring events due to COVID restrictions, the Chapter still managed to stay engaged.

On August 19th, the HR Chapter volunteered at Union Mission Ministry (UMM), which is one of the largest private homeless shelters on the East Coast. LT **Laura Clarke** (USS LEYTE GULF, SUPPLY OFFICER) coordinated the HR Chapter effort and was able to help optimize space in one of their outdated warehouses. In one afternoon, the Chapter replaced shelving, disposed of old material, and re-organized new material. We maximized space for storing material used to disburse items for homeless outreach programs. The staff was grateful to have assistance. Our work continues to build the bond between the HR Chapter and UMM. Each year, the Chapter regularly visits UMM, diversifying our support effort—ranging from food and clothing drives to grounds up-keep. The work we do at UMM speaks directly to the Navy Supply Corps Foundation mission and we are proud further the UMM cause.

Monthly socials are not a new thing for the HR Chapter, but LCDR **Lauren Peters** (EODESU TWO, SUPPLY OFFICER) wanted to offer something more at these socials. LCDR Peters understands it can be challenging for junior officers who are just starting off on their 1st & 2nd tours, and she remembers the difficulty of grasping future milestones (i.e., Department Head tours / Post Graduate (PG) School). On August 20th, LCDR Peters coordinated a panel of O-4s who had various PG experience to explain their pathway to that program. The turnout far exceeded initial expectations and showed the appetite of the junior officers for mentoring opportunities. Some of the participants had only been at their 1st command for a few months, so there were many questions for the panel. The demand for mentorship showed that this program, as well as other mentoring events are worth further exploration in the near future.

With COVID still rampant in the country, as a Chapter, we're very conscious of being safe. We have paused from our social events for the foreseeable future, community outreach and various volunteering activities are still being planned in an outdoor setting. Additionally, the success of the mentor session shows there is a demand for smaller groups to be able to receive information and ask questions of their peers. The next mentor session will be virtual—we plan on having the same turnout as before and providing guidance to future Supply Corps leaders.



*Top: LCDR **Jamie Steffensmeier** (USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER) speaking to fellow Junior Officers during the Supply Corps mentoring session; Above left: LCDR **Zach Manriquez** (FLC Norfolk) and LT **Laura Clarke** (USS LEYTE GULF) working together to remove old shelving from Union Mission Ministries warehousing; Above right: LCDR **PJ Gangcuangco** (EOD Group*



Hampton Roads

Name: LT Tiffany Robinson (MSC HQ, CLF Support Officer)

What was your main takeaway from the mentor session?

I learned about the different curriculums at NPS. I had never heard about the various NPS options from someone who actually attended. Now I can make a better determination of the programs that interest me. It is great to know that I can achieve JPME, while at NPS too, which I didn't know.

Is there a certain program that interests you the most?

The 810 program sounds incredible. At BQC, my class would hear whispers of the program, but I had never met someone who was selected and completed the program. It is great to know that I can achieve this goal. I now know the steps to bettering my chances for getting selected for 810!

What mentor topics do you want to see in the future?

It was mentioned at the last session that Record Management (i.e., ODC), would be discussed at a future event. That would be beneficial to me since there are areas in my record that need to be updated. Understanding Reporting Seniors Cumulative Average (RSCA) is something that would be great to learn about too.

Name: LCDR Zach Manriquez (FLC Norfolk, Code 300 Deputy)

Why did you want to serve as a panel member?

I remember how it was going to Road Shows as an O-1/O-2 and not really understanding the big takeaways, since the target audience is for all Supply Officers. On my 1st tour, so much of the daily grind was worrying about divisional responsibilities, and it was hard to imagine future tours/PG school. It was nice to have a small group environment for the mentor session and be able to take time to answer participant's questions.

What did you learn from the participants' questions?

One individual didn't know what the OP Monthly was on their 1st tour and never attended a Supply Road Show. That was surprising to me, since I assumed that every Supply Corps Officer sees that and is on distribution. I learned not assume that these JOs are on the same level of knowledge and not skim over details pertaining to PG school.

What will you share with JOs who missed the session?

You're not too junior to start thinking about PG school. Read the instructions to ensure you meet the minimum requirements to attend. If you don't meet the requirements, there's time to take additional college courses, study for the GMATs, etc. The PG programs are a great deal—do your due diligence to plan that into future career milestones.