Chief,

Congratulations on your selection to Chief Petty Officer!

You are entering into a pivotal leadership role during a period of growing threats to our nation. These threats have become emboldened over the years and we now see nations rising to challenge us on the world stage; while at the same time we continue to fight terrorism across the globe. To counter these increasing threats, we will need your continued leadership, toughness and commitment to excellence in warfighting to ensure our Navy remains “ready to fight tonight.” With that in mind, I wanted to impart my favorite unofficial rules of combat that have stuck with me over the years.

- Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice.
- Decide to be aggressive enough, quickly enough.
- Hit first, hit hard, and keep on hitting.
- There is no second-place winner in a gunfight.
- It takes a shooter to lead a shooter.
- Failing to prepare is preparing for failure.
- Never turn your back on a threat.

This commitment to our operational readiness and lethality is not only grounded in our tactical prowess but also in our ability to build Teams. The kind of team that respects and promotes a culture of inclusion and diversity. Where the abilities of the person to your left, right, and your six; far exceed color, race, or gender. OUR enemies will make no such distinctions on the battlefield; nor should WE.

Never forget that your selection to Chief Petty Officer carries the supreme charge of building a team of the finest naval warfighters that excel in warfighting across the full spectrum of combat. Get to know your people and be involved in all they do; so that they may one day stand in your shoes. Never compromise your integrity, nor waiver in our core values.

Once again congratulations, and welcome to the Mess!

Hoo-Yah,