

CPO Leadership 6-7.01-K

KNOW the Chief Petty Officer's (CPO's) position relationship with superiors, subordinates and others; and the overall traits of leadership, as presented in the E-PME Study Guide.

The Chief Petty Officer (CPO)

The Chief Petty Officer occupies a unique role in the Coast Guard leadership spectrum.

As an individual who leads the enlisted members and reports directly to the command structure, the Chief walks a fine line between leader, mentor, and technical expert.

- **Leader.** The Chief Petty Officer is the eyes and ears of the command. Commanding officers expect few issues to be raised to their level, so they expect the Chief Petty Officer to meet the needs and expectations of the men and women under their command and responsibility.

Commands require Chief Petty Officers to support command policy, but also expect the Chief to point out flaws or issues with policy that may have a detrimental effect on mission, policy, or morale.

- **Mentor.** In addition to being a mentor to junior and mid-grade enlisted members, commands expect the CPOs to mentor the junior officer corps. Most officers will verify that somewhere in their past, a CPO mentored and assisted them in their leadership development.
- **Technical Expert.** Junior members of the enlisted community look to the Chief Petty Officer as a reliable resource in all situations. The phrase "Hey, Chief got a minute?" is one heard hundreds of times a day throughout the Coast Guard.

The effective Chief Petty Officer always imparts factual, timely, and compassionate information and wisdom.
