



# NAVY NEWS



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Forward ... from the Sea

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## Admiral Johnson retires; Clark takes helm as new CNO

By JOC Mike Perron, CNO Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (NNS) — Admiral Jay L. Johnson, the 26th Chief of Naval Operations, retired from the Navy at the U.S. Naval Academy July 21, in the same place his distinguished career began 36 years ago as a midshipman.

Admiral Vern Clark took the helm as CNO during the ceremony.

Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) was keynote speaker for the event, which also included remarks by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig.

Senator McCain praised Johnson for his work to balance mission accomplishment with Sailors' quality of life.

"Admiral Johnson has guided the Navy for the past four years, skillfully balancing mandated reductions in force with dramatically increased operational tasking," McCain said. "He has been a champion of reform. He improved the Inter-deployment Training Cycle — the period between deployments — the largest quality of life initiative in the last decade, by reducing at-sea time and ensuring the Sailors could spend more time in port with their families."

McCain also credited Johnson with taking the lead on Fiscal Year 2000 military pay reforms.

Secretary Cohen took the opportunity to praise Johnson's

leadership as "characterized by consistency, by candor, by optimism and by insight." He described Johnson as a leader whose concern for Sailors was evident whether he was at sea or testifying before Congress.

"Not too long ago, he was testifying on Capitol Hill and a member of Congress asked him 'If you were given one more dollar to spend, what would you spend it on?' and Admiral Johnson said, 'Sir, one dollar, all things being equal, I'd put in the pocket of my Sailors,'" Cohen said.

Danzig praised Johnson's "white hot intensity" as CNO, highlighting his victories for people and programs.

"He was in the front ranks of those fighting for a pay raise that exceeded anything that had been received in the last decade ... Jay was a fighter for his Sailors," said Danzig.

"You can't think about the F/A-18E/F without thinking about Jay Johnson," said Danzig. "He virtually willed this program into success. We are buying aircraft that will



**Adm. Vern Clark is sworn in as the 27th Chief of Naval Operations by Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig during a change of office ceremony conducted at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Clark relieves Adm. Jay L. Johnson, who retired from active duty after completing a four-year term as CNO.**

Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Tim Altevogt

transform the nature of naval aviation and protect it for decades ahead because of Jay Johnson."

For his part, Johnson took the opportunity to revisit the theme he voiced four years ago as he assumed the title of CNO.

"In 1996 I told the president, the Congress and the Navy that as a vision for the future we would steer by the stars out ahead of us and not by the wake behind us," Johnson said. "Our Navy would be guided by four stars of equal magnitude: operational primacy, leadership, teamwork and pride."

Johnson noted that it was the men and women of the

Navy who would keep the ship on course.

"The key to making that vision a reality would not come from this CNO or from Washington," Johnson said. "No, the key would belong to the great men and women of our Navy. And over the past four years, they have led the way."

"They have given us the best ideas. They have harnessed the new technologies. They have embraced change and made it our ally, and they have made us so very proud with their mission accomplishment — particularly out forward where it really counts," Johnson

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# CNO Clark stresses fleet, service

By CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — In his first message to the Navy, new Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark has put out the word that he is focusing on both the fleet and a sense of service. The new Chief of Naval Operations also praised his predecessor, Adm. Jay Johnson, saying that he intends to build on Johnson's legacy of mission accomplishment.

"The way ahead involves focusing on the fleet; organizational speed and agility; commitment to our proven strengths and values; and commitment to our people as the Navy's most important resource," Clark stated in the message.

"The Navy starts with the fleet," Clark stated.

"Although there is more to the Navy than the fleet, the fleet must be the center of our thinking and action," Clark said. "We have many significant challenges to deal with in fleet

readiness, and we will meet these head-on."

"Planning, organizing and modernizing for the future requires quick and agile response to change," Clark said. "New circumstances demand that we think and act in new ways at every level of the Navy — from work center to Navy headquarters."

Clark also stressed service and leadership in his first message to the fleet, which previews where the CNO intends to focus his efforts.

"In all that we do, we should live and breathe service to country, to fellow citizens, and to each other," Clark said.

In stressing the importance of service and leadership, Clark described "that we are bound by a voluntary covenant to our country and to each other, up and down the chain of command."

"As part of that covenant, leaders promise respect, clear

direction, meaningful work and the tools and training to do that work, recognition for a job well done, and opportunity for personal and professional growth," Clark stated. "The measure of any leader is the extent to which he or she fulfills that promise."

Clark expressed a commitment to make "quality of service" — which he defined as a balanced combination of quality of life and quality of service — a top priority in readiness and mission accomplishment.

"We have done much to improve quality of life, and we will continue to do so," Clark said.

Improving quality of work means ensuring Sailors have the "proper tools and facilities, excellent training and the opportunity for personal and professional growth."

In concluding his message to the Navy, Clark described



**Admiral Vern Clark,  
Chief of Naval Operations  
U.S. Navy photo**

what the Navy is all about.

"In a nutshell, this is who we are: credible, combat-ready, forward-deployed naval forces, manned by well-trained Sailors motivated by a sense of mission and a desire to serve, committed to their Navy as their Navy is committed to them, Clark concluded. "We sail anytime, anywhere as powerful representatives of American sovereignty."

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said. "The key to our future is in their hands. That's as it should be."

Clark noted that he was inheriting leadership of the most powerful Navy on earth. "It is a prize our predecessors have handed down to us," Clark said. "But keeping it is not guaranteed. We in the Navy can not take it for granted."

Clark challenged Sailors to maintain their focus on "... the main thing. And the main thing is the fleet ... its mission accomplishment, and what makes that work. I have a fleet bias. I've spent much of my naval service in ships and on

the waterfront and I know in my heart that the Navy starts in the fleet."

Clark explained that "quality of service" is the key to mission accomplishment.

"This is today, and I believe for my entire tour will be, the Navy's biggest and most crucial challenge," Clark said.

"Quality of service is the balanced combination of quality of life and quality of work," Clark said. "I intend to lead a Navy that holds quality of service for Sailors, their quality of life and their quality of work, as a top priority in mission and combat readiness," he said.

Clark reports as the Navy's 27th CNO following duty as Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He is married to the former Connie Nealy. They have two sons, Jeff and Matthew.

Johnson has not announced his plans for the future.

Editor's Note: The complete biography and a high-resolution image of Adm. Clark are available at the Navy's official web site <http://www.navy.mil>, by clicking on the "What's New" button.



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