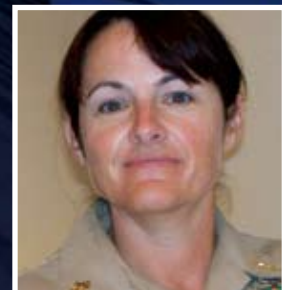


An Interview with Master-at-Arms Chief Petty Officer LeeAnn Bernal



Please describe your experience with the Navy:

I joined the Navy when I was 21. I guess you could say it was for most of the same reasons everyone else has—money for college, to get away from home, etc. ... But I was also looking for some place that I belonged ... something bigger than myself. I have had many experiences, both good and bad, in the 14 1/2 years that I have served, and I wouldn't trade any of them. I'm a Chief Petty Officer (E7) and a Master at Arms, and I'm currently stationed in Rota, Spain, as the Chief Master at Arms for the entire base.

How did you first hear about CHS?

I'm always trying to keep up on the latest opportunities for Sailor growth, and I came across the **COOL program** on the Navy's NKO Web site.

What motivated you to join?

I have a Bachelor's degree in Emergency Management, so this was an opportunity to expand on that. Also, I wanted to see what knowledge would be gained from the course and then promote it to my Sailors.

What effect has CHS had on your professional development?

It has enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the emergency management system. Emergency Management and the Master-at-Arms rank go hand-in-hand. Our job is no longer primarily a law en-

forcement function. Preparing for and responding to a terrorist incident is the primary function of the Navy's security forces.

What was the class like? Feel free to comment on the instruction, the content of the class, or any other aspect of the course.

The live course was great. The instructors were outstanding. They kept the students' attention and made the class fun. While some of the pictures were quite graphic, I feel it was appropriate for the course and the audience. It is important for those in this field to see first hand what the terrorists are capable of.

What feedback did you receive from the others in the class?

Overall, my Sailors said that they thoroughly enjoyed the course. They found it very informative and more interesting, as compared to the normal training they get from the military.

How do you anticipate the Certification will contribute to the Navy? How will the information presented benefit the sailors? How will the credential affect their careers?

This certification is definitely beneficial for the Sailors. The Master-at-Arms rating has not had much in the way of credentialing opportunities that will benefit them after the military. The information provided in the course is the foundation of what these Sailors are doing. It prepares them for the type of responses these Sailors are likely to encounter.



Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.

—Gen. Colin Powell

