

An Interview with Master-at-Arms Chief Petty Officer Paolo Fleurant



Please describe your experience with the Navy. What motivated you to enlist?

My motivation to join came at a very young age, when I tried to follow in my father's footsteps. I used to walk up and down my family's back yard with a broomstick on my shoulder pretending to be a soldier. So when the opportunity presented itself to join the Navy in 1995, I volunteered without hesitation.

How long have you served?

I've been in for a little over 13 years, and I look forward to many more.

What is your current rank?

I am currently a Master-at-Arms Chief Petty Officer (E7).

Where are you stationed?

I am currently stationed at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

What are your responsibilities?

Previously, I served as the Chief of Police and am currently serving as the Leading Chief Petty Officer for the Security Training department.

Please describe your experience with the Certified in Homeland Security Program. How did you first hear about CHS?

I first heard about CHS while attending the MAA Manning Conference, in March 2008, in Millington, TN.

What motivated you to join?

My motivation to join CHS was based on the program itself, the aspect of my work loca-

tion, and my position at the time: being military and having to provide services to both military and civilians. As Master-at-Arms, emergency preparedness training is a great asset, especially when it applies to the civilian population. With the state of our country, we can no longer think just as military response; we have to be well-rounded; one never knows where and when we will have to respond to the next emergency. As we experienced during **Katrina** and **9/11**, the military role is becoming very important and is involved in all aspect of response to national emergencies.

What effect has CHS had on your professional development?

The effect of CHS in my professional development is the same as getting a college education. There will come a time, when one might have to move beyond a military career, and therefore must be prepared for what comes after the military.

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

Great class. I completed CHS-IV online and enjoyed being able to go through the class in person; sharing the experience of the instructor was a great addition. The content of the class was just perfect; it gave another perspective of how the outside world really views our country, and how even when they don't agree with our views and opinions, they still want to be like the average American.

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

It's amazing that at the completion of the class, the greatest comments didn't come from the law enforcement professionals, but from others (Hospital Corpsman), who believed that

the course should be mandatory for all members of the military directly involved in patient care and law enforcement/force protection.

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?

The certification is already contributing to the Navy with the amount of Sailors getting CHS certified. The military is constantly changing and filling many different roles. These days, having personnel with knowledge is an important attribute to our Homeland Security.



I shall know but one country. The ends I aim at shall be my country's, my God's and Truth's. I was born an American; I live an American; I shall die an American.

—Daniel Webster



All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.

—Thomas Jefferson

