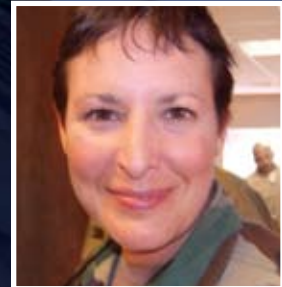


An Interview with Master-at-Arms Master Chief Petty Officer Rebecca Owens



Please describe your experience with the Navy.

I enlisted in the Navy in March 1984, from Geneva, Ohio. I enlisted because I was working three jobs while attempting to go to college and realized that it simply wasn't working out. I wish I could say that I joined because I felt the need to serve my country, but at 18 years of age, that simply wasn't the case. The need, desire, and pride in serving took root upon arriving at my first duty station and continues to grow as the years pass.

I've been in for over 24 years, and I'm currently stationed in Rota, Spain. I am the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Security Department, and responsible to the Security Officer as an advisor on all issues relating to policy, people, and programs. My rank/rate is Master-at-Arms Master Chief Petty Officer (Surface Warfare/Air Warfare) which is abbreviated as MACM(SW/AW).

Let's see—what does my job consist of? Lots of talking with people, both in and out of my Department and Command, and lots and LOTS of paperwork! I speak to Sailors daily regarding their professional development, and when necessary, assist them with any personal issues they may be having. I monitor programs which are designed to assist them with their personal and professional growth, and introduce ideas and programs which will increase their knowledge and proficiency; this is where the Homeland Security Program comes in.

As for who and what I'm about? I'm about the Sailors. My daily goals and greatest desires are to balance the needs of the Navy, Command, and Department with the needs of the Sailor and his or her family. It's always a very delicate balance, but it can be done; when it's accomplished, you have a smooth-running, effective, productive, and mission-capable operation.

Please describe your experience with the Certified in Homeland Security Program.

I first heard about CHS from the Center for

Security Forces. E-mails were circulated throughout the Master-at-Arms senior leadership, and as soon as I read the information, I knew that it was a program for the Sailors in my Department.

I went ahead and enrolled so that I had an understanding of how the process worked and of the course curriculum. After completing Levels I-III and introducing the process to the rest of the Department, I asked about Levels IV & V and found out that we could get instructors to come to Rota to facilitate. The Chiefs in my Department jumped onboard and began encouraging their Sailors to complete the Levels; once we had nearly half of our Department qualified in Levels I-III, we coordinated CHS's visit.

How did the certification class in Spain come about?

Mr. **Keith Boring**, U.S. Navy Credentials Program Office, Mr. **Jose Bautista**, Center for Security Forces, and **Marianne Schmid** from CHS really did all of the hard work. Between the three of them, they documented, tracked, and recorded all of the educational vouchers for all of my Sailors, and then coordinated the travel and instruction. MAC LeeAnn Bernal and MAC Keith Minor were the trackers and coordinators in my Department, and both worked closely with Marianne to ensure that this endeavor was flawless.

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

I had taken the Level IV online and only sat through the Level V portion of instruction. I did, however, hear the feedback from our Sailors, and every one of them lauded the presentations and the instructors. Each of them walked away with the pride of knowing they were the 1st group of Sailors to have this opportunity, and that the knowledge will follow them well into the future.



The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil Constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors: they purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood, and transmitted them to us with care and diligence. It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men.

—Samuel Adams

