**CEREMONY PROGRAM**

M/C     “Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman.  On behalf of (INSERT SPONSOR CO), (INSERT SPONSOR COMMAND), I welcome you to the commissioning ceremony for (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME).

M/C     “All Guests please remain uncovered throughout the ceremony. Will the guests please rise and remain standing for the arrival of the official party, the National Anthem and the Invocation by (INSERT CHAPLAIN NAME).”

M/C      “Boatswain, Post the Sideboys.”

M/C      “(INSERT CO NAME OR TITLE), Arriving”

(Guest speaker piped aboard through 4 Sideboys and takes his place in front of seat)

(Bell ringer strikes 4 bells)

M/C      “(INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME), United States Navy
 arriving”

M/C    “Color Guard, Parade the colors.”

(Once the color guard is in place, the National Anthem will be played/sang.)

(Upon completion of the National Anthem, retire the colors)

M/C      “Retire the colors”

        (Color Guard exits the ceremony)

M/C      “(INSERT CHAPLAIN NAME)will now deliver the invocation”

M/C      “Thank you, (INSERT CHAPLAIN NAME)”

M/C     “Ladies and Gentlemen, please be seated.

M/C     “Major Commanders, Captains, Shipmates, Family, and Friends, Good morning.  Welcome, once again, to the commissioning ceremony of (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME).  I am (INSERT MASTER OF CEREMONIES NAME), you’re Master of Ceremonies.  I would like to extend a special welcome to (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME) Wife (INSERT NAME), Parents (INSERT NAMES), and all other family, friends, and shipmates in attendance.

The commissioning ceremony you witness today is a reflection of the rich heritage of our Naval tradition.  Custom has established that this ceremony be impressive – designed to strengthen the respect for dedicated service that is vital to any military organization.

Today we gather to witness a transition from the enlisted ranks to the Officer ranks – the commissioning of (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME) to Chief Warrant Officer 2 (INSERT NAME).

         The warrant officer community is as old as navies themselves. In the distant past, warfare was conducted by the aristocracy whose livelihood depended upon the income from agricultural lands given to them by the king, in exchange for their obligation to provide armed fighting men when called upon.

          Actual fights at sea were rare in the late middle ages, but if ships were needed, they were drafted into military service from traders and merchants. The ship would then be commissioned and a captain placed in command. The land-bound, part-time Soldiers knew nothing of piloting, ship handling, or navigation. The ship's master, his principal officers, and the Sailors or "swabbers" were necessary for the success of the operation. As commoners who were employed for their specific skill, these expert seamen were issued royal warrants which bound them to serve the king in their special capacities.

         On December 13, 1775, Congress agreed to construct thirteen frigates. The seven original warrant designators; Boatswain, Gunner, Carpenter, Mastermates, Chaplains, Surgeon, and Pursers were established to provide technical expertise to this force. On December 23, 1775 John Berriman was issued the first Warrant as a Boatswain on the Brigantine Andrew Doria.

         Today, as commissioned officers, Warrant Officers possess the authority and are qualified by extensive experience and knowledge to direct the most difficult and exacting operations within a given occupational specialty. Although intended primarily as technical specialists, CWOs may serve as division officers, department heads or officers-in-charge (OICs). Although the warrant officer ranks after the junior officer, they are recognized for being a highly skilled and proven professional.

M/C     This is the heart of a Navy mustang.

       But why a Mustang?  Mustangs are wild animals.  Although they can be tamed and saddle broken, mustangs can unexpectedly revert to old habits and need to be handled carefully.  By the same token, since a mustang was formerly a wild and free animal, it may very well be wiser, more capable, and have a better survival instinct than thoroughbreds.  The mustang can take care of itself when things get tough, thriving on rough treatment, while the thoroughbred, having been pampered its whole life, cannot.

       You can easily see the parallel between the horses and naval officers.  The term “Mustang” is used in a complementary sense most of the time.  A Warrant Officer is an officer by appearance, yet in the minds of the “top brass” they are enlisted technicians at heart.

M/C     “At this time, it is my pleasure to introduce the guest speaker.

 (INSERT GUEST SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY)

 “Ladies and Gentlemen, (INSERT GUEST SPEAKER NAME).”

G/S     GUEST SPEAKER’S REMARKS.

M/C     “Thank you, (INSERT GUEST SPEAKERS NAME).”

M/C     “(INSERT COMMISSIONEES NAME) front and center.”

M/C      “At this time, (INSERT PRESIDING OFFICER’S NAME) will recognize (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME) for his tour of duty while assigned to (INSERT COMMISSIONEE’S COMMAND).

M/C      “(INSERT END OF TOUR AWARD WRITE UP)”

 (INSERT PRESIDING OFFICER RANK/NAME)(Presents EOT Award)

M/C     “The Chief’s Mess will now present a gift to (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME)”

        (INSERT CPOA REP RANK/NAME presents CPOA gift to (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME)

M/C     “I will now read the CPO to CWO Transition Creed.”

FTC J     “Chief Petty Officers Active and Retired - Attention, cover, two”

“You have this day experienced that, which comes to many of us who served as a Chief Petty Officer in our Navy. I say “OUR NAVY” because your departure from the fraternity of the Chief in no way terminates our relationship, our regards, our obligations to service and our fellow Chief Petty Officers. The respect that you earned as “The Chief” was based in the same attributes that you will carry into your leadership role as a Naval Officer. Have no regrets. We view your commissioning orders not as an end to an era, but as orders to a new challenging assignment. Remember well that you have been and always will be an accepted member of the most exclusive of all maritime fraternities – that of a “UNITED STATES NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER.”

M/C    “(INSERT CPOs NAME) will now remove (INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME) Jacket, Epaulettes and Cover.”

(Removes devices and takes seats)

M/C     “Chiefs, uncover, two.” (seats)

M/C     “(INSERT COMMISSIONEE RANK/NAME) anchors will be given to (INSERT NAME), (INSERT NAME) front and center.”

        (Chief Jenkins returns to seat)

M/C     “Will the guests please rise; Military personnel, Attention to Oath”

M/C     “(INSERT COMMISSIONING OFFICER NAME)will now deliver the Oath of Office”

       (INSERT COMMISSIONING OFFICER NAME) recites the Oath of Office)

M/C     “(INSERT NAMES), will now don the Warrant Officer Jacket, Epaulettes and Cover on Warrant Officer (INSERT NAME).”

M/C     “Ladies and gentlemen, I present the newest Chief Warrant Officer in the United States Navy: Chief Warrant Officer (INSERT NAME).”

M/C     “Please be seated”

M/C     “Chief Warrant Officer (INSERT NAME) will now return his first salute as part of the silver dollar salute tradition.”

M/C     “(INSERT SALUTERS RANK/NAME) front and center.”

M/C     “It is an honored tradition... a brand new silver dollar to the first enlisted service member who salutes him.  The exact origin of the custom is arguable, but it probably began before the United States Armed Forces were organized.  British regiments stationed in Colonial America brought with them a number of customs that were retained by the newly formed American Armed Forces. One status symbol highly sought by newly commissioned British officers was to have a servant assigned to them.

The servant was normally an enlisted man who was responsible for ensuring the officer’s kit, dress and

field uniforms, and personal equipment were serviceable at all times.  The enlisted man was also responsible for teaching the officer the ship’s history, tradition, and customs. This custom continued to grow with the British military and newly formed American units.

       American Second Lieutenants in 1816 received a monthly base pay of $25, a $3 ration allowance and $1 for an enlisted advisor.  This advisor’s pay was later discontinued, but the responsibility for teaching the newly commissioned officer continued.  The present day tradition of giving a silver dollar for the first salute is thought to have its roots in this relationship.”

     (INSERT RANK/NAME renders first salute)

       (Warrant Officer (INSERT NAME) returns salute and presents silver dollar)

       (Petty Officer Longoria returns to his seat)

M/C     “Warrant, the floor is yours”

CWO2 INSERT NEW WARRANT’S REMARKS

M/C     “Thank you, Warrant”

M/C     “(INSERT CHAPLAIN NAME)will now deliver the Benediction.”

        (Benediction)

M/C     “Newly commissioned officers have traditionally held wetting down parties.  The wetting down party was once quite a rough and tumble affair.  It was the custom for the officer to wear his new uniform of stripes for the first time at the wetting down.  The guests would then proceed to christen the uniform, the occupant, and the commission with whatever liquid refreshments (paid for by the victim) was available.  Over the years, however, Navy life has become calmer, the price of gold braid has sky rocketed, and a literal christening is no longer condoned.

        Therefore, if available, guests are invited to join Warrant Officer (INSERT NAME) and his family at (INSERT ESTABLISHMENT NAME) for food and refreshments.

M/C     “Boatswain, Post the Sideboys.”

(Official party departs stage)

M/C     “(INSERT SPONSOR CO), Departing”

(Commissioning Officer piped ashore through 4 Sideboys)

(Bell ringer strikes 4 bells)

M/C      “Chief Warrant Officer 2 (INSERT NAME), United States Navy
 Departing”

M/C     “Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the ceremony.  Please join us at the (INSERT ROOM NAME OR PLACE) for refreshments and to congratulate Chief Warrant Officer (INSERT NAME).”