

# Connor takes leadership reigns during CSG 7 change of command

By Commander Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs

Commander Submarine Group Seven (CSG 7) Rear Adm. Douglas J. McAneny passed the reigns of leadership to the 41st commander of CSG 7, Rear Adm. Michael J. Connor, in a change of command ceremony held at the Fleet Theater June 20.

Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet Vice Adm. Doug Crowder presided over the ceremony as the guest speaker and congratulated McAneny for his achievements at CSG 7.

“For the past 18 months Adm. McAneny has skillfully and superbly supported two of the major operational fleet commanders [U.S. Seventh Fleet and U.S. Fifth Fleet] whose regions are very active,” said Crowder during his remarks. Crowder also congratulated McAneny for his promotion to rear admiral (upper half). McAneny received his second star just hours before the ceremony began.

At the ceremony, McAneny spoke about the lessons he has learned while serving in Yokosuka, focusing on the importance of the strong international relationships that he forged and supported.

“I set sail for Hawaii, with a new, fresh perspective made possible by meaningful relationships with many regional allies and a renewed drive to move forward and look for new opportunities to further strengthen existing ties,” McAneny said.

McAneny also commented on four truths that were reaffirmed to him during his time as CSG 7.

“In today’s world the security of the U.S. and its allies is linked,” McAneny said.

“The interconnectedness of the interests of the free world demands that the U.S. and its allies keep commercial sea lanes open by maintaining their position as the world’s strongest sea power.” He also remarked upon the quality of the leadership in Yokosuka and forward deployed bases all over the world and how combined with, “... the finest men and women serving their nation proudly,” the U.S. and its allies are able to maintain the highest standards of readiness.

Connor, a native of Weymouth, Mass., is no stranger to the demands of the job that awaits him. He commanded Submarine Squadron 8 from 2003 to 2004, during which time ships under his command participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Connor has also served as Assistant Deputy Director for Regional Operations on the joint staff and, most recently, he oversaw the development and execution of the Navy Operations, Maintenance and Manpower Budgets at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director, Operations Division.

CSG 7 was activated as Commander Task Force 157 (CTF 157) October 15, 1992 to direct all submarine operations and mission tasking in the Central Command area of responsibility (AOR), including the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf.

On July 1, 1995, upon establishment of U.S. Fifth Fleet, CTF 157 was re-designated as Commander Task Force 54.

CSG 7 is comprised of submarines deployed to the Western Pacific and a permanently forward deployed submarine tender. Commands and units under operational control of CSG 7 include Submarine Squadron 15 in Guam, which was reactivated in February 2001 and the Guam based tender, *USS Frank Cable* (AS 40). Additionally, CSG 7 has a representative stationed in Singapore in support of the Republic of Singapore Navy submarine force.



**(Right) Rear Adm. Michael Connor salutes his new boss, Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet Vice Adm. Douglas Crowder, as he assumes command of Commander Submarine Group 7 during their change of command ceremony held at the Fleet Theater June 20.**

Photo by Sean Dath