

Nominated Chief's Name: BMCM Wolf, Jeremiah M.

Approximate Period of Service: 18-20 years.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” — John Quincy Adams.

I reported to USCG Small Boat Station Bodega Bay four days after boot camp. The first steps you take through the doors of Sexton Hall are pretty scary, but they are nothing compared to reporting to your first unit; no more games, no more “FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!” It’s all real now. I walked into the building quite uneasy, but my initial fears dissipated because I walked into my new home, meeting my new family. Everyone was welcoming and nice; no stress, no judgment, no more anxiety (at least no more newbie jitters). I learned quickly that the comradery of this station is due greatly to the leadership of one man.

I met BMCM Jeremiah Wolf on my reporting day to the station, which also happened to be a morale event. BMCM Wolf was happily cooking the meal for the entire station so everyone had time to relax, have fun, and break up the routine of day to day operations. It was not just a picnic in the park, it was a celebration of family unity by welcoming newly reported member, and saying tough goodbyes to a few departing ones. I had many challenges to overcome over the next few months, such as getting qualified as a watch stander, boat crewman, and other collateral duties. BMCM Wolf showed his support every step of the way. I attended a meeting with him regarding expectations from not only the command, but to help identify what I expect from myself.

In the past, I was never a fan of the “open door policy” because it was always just words, no action. This is not the case with the Station Bodega Bay. If I had any questions regarding my pay, home, the qualification process, my future in the organization/choice of A-school, BMCM Wolf was always willing to offer his advice and years of experience to help me find answers or direction. BMCM Wolf is very adept at assisting every single person at our unit, listening intently to each of our unique current positions in life and offering advice as necessary.

BMCM conducted a sort of “town hall” style meeting with each paygrade, allowing each group to offer their questions, comments, or complaints, and in return offered potential solutions to any problems. I considered how I was the most junior member at the station, and believed that my opinion was not yet relevant until that meeting. BMCM Wolf did not just passively listen to the voices speaking to him, but took immediate action in the schedule to conduct training, maintenance, and exercise, helping improve morale at the station while also increasing productivity and performance.

BMCM Wolf always makes it a point to recognize a member for their hard work. At quarters, BMCM praises crew members for many things, such as becoming qualified on time, all the way to moments that have a huge impact on the local community, for example saving lives in SAR cases.

When the wild fires spread throughout Northern California, BMCM Wolf stayed with the crew despite having to gear up for an early flight to attend an important meeting in DC, making sure everyone was safe and ready to act if needed.

My first six months at the station has been a short time, but I can proudly say that I am happy that Station Bodega Bay is my first experience in the Coast Guard. I am blessed to have a leader such as BMCM Wolf who has taught me many things, from the basics of seamanship to lessons on how to one day become a great leader. His drive to be the best at everything drives the entire station to perform at the highest level possible. BMCM Wolf takes pride in his work and it translates to the success of every single member of USCG Station Bodega Bay.