

MKC DWAYNE HELLMERS

The Chief that has most affected me and my career, through all aspects. From guiding me, to mentoring, to giving me the chance to become the person that I am today. This Chief was MKC Dwyane Hellmers, I first met MKC Hellmers when I was recently busted down to FNMK in 2003, I was struggling to find my place at CG Station Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, NC. I was to the point where I didn't care if I was a part of the Coast Guard or not being that I had just been busted down and I was all of 10 months from the end of my 1st enlistment with no desire to stay in. Well along comes MKC Hellmers, he had just taken over as the EPO at Fort Macon, I was down on CG47211 repairing the blown out O-Ring on the sight glass of the portside sea strainer. He comes down to the engine room and asks me what I am doing, I proceed to tell him and he looks up at me and says "why don't you just teach me because I have no clue about this platform". Which to me, as a young MK was surprising because in my eyes the Chief always knew what he was doing. I looked at him and said roger that Chief, he just laughed and said not today, today you are the boss teaching me. Again I said roger that Chief, he just looked at me and said "you don't get it". You are teaching me, right now we are equal, my response again was roger that Chief. This time MKC Hellmers sat back, took his anchors off, put them in my hand and said "these are going to be your anchors one day, now teach me this boat". From that point forward, I had a new outlook on what a Chief was, I found out that a Chief was more than just a rank, it was a lifestyle, being a Chief was listening to your people, empowering there people through actions to guide them through their careers. I whole heartedly believe MKC Hellmers is the whole reason I am still in the Coast Guard. He not only developed me as an MK but as a person and a Coastie. He was the sole person responsible in empowering me, at that point in my career, to continue on. Over his tenure at Fort Macon he always made time for his people, talking to them about saving money, asking us our plans in life and so on and so on.

If I had the opportunity, I would love to find him and thank him for doing what he did for me. At times I sit back and think to myself, he is probably one of the most influential reasons I am at where I am now as an MKC on board CGC Confidence. MKC Hellmers was tough but easy going, he had a certain look to him, at least in my eyes, as slightly unapproachable, but if you just work up the courage he was very approachable. If you are a ever in a position where you think your Chief is unapproachable, or you think your Chief is a scary person, push yourself to go to that Chief, push yourself to ask the question that you think you shouldn't ask. Your Chief may surprise you and you may find yourself writing a story similar to this.

MKC Josh Post
USCGC Confidence (WMEC 619)
Main Propulsion