



BY JOE DAN WHEELER

*Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Robert J. Walker has traveled extensively since assuming the top enlisted billet in September 1975. Living out of his seabag for much of the last two years, he has kept abreast of current attitudes and concerns of the fleet. ALL HANDS recently talked with MCPON Walker about his job and Navy life in general. What follows are his candid comments about the Navy today.*

**Q:** Master Chief Walker, what does your job entail?

**A:** "As MCPON, I am the principal enlisted advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of Naval Personnel, the primary promulgators of enlisted policy. I am involved in everything concerning enlisted policies and the enlisted community as a whole."

**Q:** How does your job correlate with that of master chief petty officers of the fleet, force and command.

**A:** "Each of us does the same thing, but we do it at a different level. Command master chiefs, for instance, do almost identically what I do, but at the local level; force master chiefs at the type commander level; fleet master chiefs at the fleet level. All of their input concerning enlisted personnel is correlated by my staff."

**Q:** How does your "open-door policy" affect sailors who have problems they feel are not being resolved?