A Naval career is often thought of as a minimum 20 year service, and throughout those two decades an individual will have many experiences most people will never have a chance to. A Chief utilizes seven guiding principles, and the USO U-505 Naval History Program exemplifies many, but in particular, loyalty stood out to me. Loyalty to shipmates, mission, and country are very important.

After being damaged by the depth charges, the U-505 was ordered to the surface. The American boarding parties were not solely junior enlisted men, and they were trained in what hadn’t happened since the 19th century, vessel boarding. The time and effort taken to properly train these men for an event that may never have happened, demonstrated loyalty to shipmates. As Chiefs, we will lead many young Sailors of all ages and experience, and we have to remain loyal to them as well as our peers and seniors.

Upon initial discovery, USS CHATELAIN was too close for a depth charge attack, but released a bundle of hedgehogs. A second run was made, successfully, with shallow depth charges which caused the damage and surfacing of the German vessel. The quick actions taken, and the unwavering devotion to put the ship into harm’s way clearly paints a picture of loyalty to mission. As Chiefs, we will always have the weight of mission success on our shoulders. If we display a strong sense of loyalty to the mission, our Sailors will follow.

The fact that the U-505 was captured at the beginning of June 1944, but kept secret until mid-May 1945 speaks volume of the Sailors involved with the capture. The entire Task Group maintained their loyalty to their country by not divulging the information. Had the German’s known a U-boat was captured along with all of the equipment, materials, data, and information, it may have changed the entire path of the war. As Chiefs, loyalty to our country must be intact. As we lead Sailors, and train the junior officers we create the outcome of the future Navy, and our future Navy will certainly have an impact on our country’s future.

The USO U-505 Naval History Program has made a lasting impression on my naval career by furthering the understanding of importance for loyalty. The word may be used in many ways, but a Chief should always have loyalty to Sailors, mission, and country.