CAPT Scott Chesbrough, who led the Naval Warfare Department in ONI’s Nimitz Operational Intelligence Center, assumed command of the Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center on June 9.

He relieved CAPT Michael Brookes, who was selected to serve as Commander, Joint Intelligence Operations Center, U.S. Central Command.

During the ceremony at the National Maritime Intelligence Center, Suitland, Maryland, COMONI RADM Elizabeth Train called Chesbrough an outstanding Naval Officer with “tremendous and diverse intelligence and leadership experience.”

RADM Train said she first worked with him in 1997 when assigned to the U.S. Pacific Fleet and then again when he was part of the OPNAV staff from 2011 to 2014.

“Scott knows command is not only making decisions but understanding consequences of your decisions and having the conviction to follow through with them,” she said. “I fully expect Kennedy will continue to achieve its high level of success and I challenge you and your entire Navy leadership team to further develop and set the conditions for success that benefit all of Navy, military and civilian personnel assigned to Kennedy.”

CAPT Brookes said serving as Kennedy CO has been the highlight of his career and he was confident Chesbrough's leadership would lead Kennedy to further success.

“This has been pretty much my dream job and it is difficult to relinquish it,” CAPT Brookes said. “As Rear Admiral Train noted, Scott has an expeditionary background and certainly has spent his share of time on the ground in less than hospitable locales. Scott, knowing that I’m turning these fine folks over to you, an officer of your caliber and experience, makes it a little bit easier.”

CAPT Chesbrough said he looks forward to leading Kennedy and commended staff members for being an important part of the Navy’s mission success.

“You have a strong fleet reputation for the quality of your work and dedication to our mission,” he said. “Your services and expertise and deployments will continue to be needed. New challenges are coming and I promise to give you my best as we face them together.”

CAPT Chesbrough said he is honored and humbled to be chosen to lead Kennedy. “Honored by the trust the Navy has placed in me,” he said. “and humbled by the professionalism of the people I’m about to lead.”

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Before arriving at the Nimitz Operational Intelligence Center in 2014, CAPT Chesbrough spent three years on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff where he conducted analysis and assessments in the Naval Warfare Integration Office. He also served as an action officer in the Warfare Integration Office and was executive assistant to the assistant deputy director of Naval Intelligence and to the director of Intelligence Operations.

A 1992 U.S Naval Academy graduate, CAPT Chesbrough served his first operational tour aboard USS John Young (DD 973) as the communications officer and navigator from 1992 to 1996.