

# Visionary Leadership at all levels: LT Christina Danai mentors all of us

“To someone, you are their first.”

“Are you going to stay silent or speak up when the professional conversation turns to gossip?”

“Be fearlessly yourself — even as you are in a training program that is molding you.”

These reflections, questions, and challenges were just a few of the #OPS-timistic takeaways from the story CAPT Joy Bright Hancock

award winner LT Christina Danai inspired us with, live from her stateroom on USS Manchester (LCS 14) where she serves as both the Operations officer and the Chief Engineer.

Listen here to her remarkable story, and like one attendee wrote in the chat, you will be convinced that with Christina, "the Navy is in good (and well-manicured) hands!"

One takeaway for me was a challenge to re-think the value of self-expression, even in uniform. I think in my career I've over-valued attempts to try to be uniform, to look like the image of the "standard." I've downplayed uniform complaints as minor distractions. In fact, the better we are at this, the less afraid leaders are to be themselves!

A second takeaway for me was the specific language Christina offered me to use when I found myself in a gossipy conversation that should have been a professional one. Too often, I might stay silent, or make a joke, when instead I might have done better for our profession if I had called out the behavior sooner. Christina led talks with Ensigns in the Basic Division Officer Course, and taught them to name this behavior and stop it soonest! One attendee wrote in chat: "Your talks are like pebble rings in the water that lead to other conversations."

Join this conversation, and start your own!

Thanks, Christina, for showing us the power of positivity!

Lean On, friends!

Emily Bassett, CAPT

https://leanonnavy.com