

Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/EXW) Daniel Ball

Chief Mass Communication Specialist Daniel Ball was born in Detroit, MI and raised in Morgantown, WV. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in the winter of 1999.

Chief Ball graduated from the Basic Journalism Course at the Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Fort George G. Meade, Md., in the spring of 2001.

His first duty assignment was the Naval Historical Center, Washington Naval Yard, DC, where he served as a staff photojournalist and editor for Naval Aviation News magazine. His work with the magazine garnered several Chief of Information Merit Awards including photojournalist of the year.

Chief Ball then joined Pre-Commissioning Unit New Orleans (LPD 18) in New Orleans, LA, as a training department petty officer. While becoming a plank owner he helped build a solid public affairs program for the ship and documented the destruction from Hurricane Katrina to the shipyard and city.

After New Orleans he moved to San Diego for a short assignment with the Commander Navy Region Southwest public affairs department. While there he served as an editor for The Navy Compass newspaper and won a Thomas Jefferson award.

His next duty station was Fleet Public Affairs Center San Diego, which became Naval Public Affairs Support Element West. Upon arrival he was tasked with developing a training department to facilitate the merger of multiple ratings into the Mass Communication Specialist (MC) rating. He oversaw curriculum development for writing, photography and video essential skills training courses along with instructor training. His team trained hundreds of MCs and potential MCs from the fleet. He also led sea operation detachment teams on Boxer (LHD 4) and Swift (HSV 2).

Chief Ball then moved to Fleet Combat Camera Pacific and was a detachment Leading Petty Officer to Iraq to support the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force. Upon return he was selected

and advanced to Chief Petty Officer and became the operations department Leading Chief Petty Officer. Recently he deployed to India to document submarine rescues with the U.S. and Indian Navies and currently runs the command's production department.

His personal awards include three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, one Army Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and the Combat Action Ribbon.