

**LT Michael Hatfield**  
*Navy Public Affairs Support Element East*

LT Michael Hatfield joined the Navy as a Seaman Recruit in 1998 and attended Basic Training at Naval Training Station Great Lakes. After graduating as an honor graduate and being meritoriously promoted to Seaman Apprentice, LT Hatfield attended Basic Journalism Class “A” School at the Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Md.

He was then stationed at American Forces Radio and Television Service, La Maddalena Italy. After attaining the rank of Petty Officer Second Class, LT Hatfield was screened and assigned to be the Public Affairs Officer for Navy Recruiting District Kansas City.

While assigned there, LT Hatfield completed the Recruiting Public Affairs Course in Pensacola, Fl. He also was selected and attended the Department of Defense Joint Course in Communication at the University of Oklahoma where he was academically published in a peer-reviewed academic journal “Mass Communication & Society” after studying the effects of embedded journalism during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After earning the rank of Petty Officer First Class, LT Hatfield was selected as the Sailor of the Year. LT Hatfield was selected for Chief Petty Officer in 2005 and transferred to USS BOXER (LHD 4) as the Public Affairs Officer.

LT Hatfield was both the Public Affairs Officer for the ship and also served as PAO for the Strike Group throughout a nine month, extended deployment to the Arabian Gulf. BOXER was awarded, in person by then Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen, three First Place William Thompson Awards for Excellence in Public Affairs and was awarded “Best in Show” beating out all other Public Affairs Programs in the Navy in all categories for 2006-2007. LT Hatfield was the principal Public Affairs Officer for exercise MALABAR and CONTINUING PROMISE in 2006 and 2008. While aboard BOXER he was the first to go to sea with an NPASE SEAOP Det in late 2006, and he has deployed three times under that construct to the Arabian Gulf and South America.

LT Hatfield was selected to be one of the first enlisted Sailors to attend the Public Affairs Qualification Course at the Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Md. Upon graduating as one of three graduates “with honors”, LT Hatfield returned to USS BOXER (LHD 4) and was selected as a Limited Duty Officer in the Public Affairs community.

After being commissioned in 2009, LT Hatfield transferred to USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) where he deployed as the Public Affairs Officer for CCSG-12 for Baltic Operations Exercise (BALTOPS) 2009 and to the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet in support of ENDURING FREEDOM and was subsequently awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Thompson-Ravitz award for Excellence in Public Affairs in 2010 serving as the Deputy PAO for both the ship and the strike group.

LT Hatfield is currently stationed at NPASE HQ as the N7.

LT Hatfield's personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) the Enlisted Surface and Air Warfare qualifications as well as many unit qualifications, citations and campaign awards.