

## **Master Chief Bill Houlihan**

Master Chief Bill Houlihan was born and raised in Saginaw, MI. He entered the Navy in May 1989 and attended boot camp at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL. He then attended the Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN where he completed Journalist "A" and "C" schools.

Houlihan's first assignment was with the Far East Network, Subic Bay, Philippines. He served there from 1990 until the closure of Subic Bay Naval Station in 1992. From Subic he transferred to Naval Station Adak, Alaska and worked at the Navy Broadcasting Service there until 1994. During that tour he was named the Chief of Information Worldwide Sailor of the Year. He also attended the University of Oklahoma Short Course in Communications during that tour.

His first at-sea assignment was aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63). He earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare qualification aboard KITTY HAWK and transferred from there as a JO1 in 1996.

He reported to the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, MD in late 1996 where he would spend four years as a television skills and advanced electronic journalism instructor. He was named DINFOS Instructor of the Year in 1997, Sailor of the Year in 1998 and pinned on Chief Petty Officer anchors September 16, 1999. He was initiated by the Ft. Meade CPO Mess. Houlihan transferred to pre-commissioning unit IWO JIMA in 2000 as the ship's first public affairs officer. He earned his Surface Warfare Qualification there and transferred to Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN in September 2004.

Houlihan served a 7-month Individual Augmentee assignment in Baghdad, Iraq in 2005 and was selected to Senior Chief Petty officer before transferring to the office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy in 2006. He served as public affairs Chief for MCPONs Campa and West until transferring to USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) in 2010. Houlihan was advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer while aboard VINSON and served as LCPO of Media Department.

Houlihan graduated from the Senior Enlisted Academy with Class 127 (Purple) in 2005. He has earned various personal awards and decorations and proudly wears 3 Battle Efficiency (Battle "E") awards earned as member of the KITTY HAWK, IWO JIMA and VINSON crews.

Master Chief Houlihan is married and has three daughters. They reside in Coronado, CA with their dogs Bos'n and Sailor.