

Dusan M. Ilic
Lieutenant
UNITED STATES NAVY

Lt. Ilic was born in 1972 in the Bronx, N.Y. A first-generation American citizen of Serbian descent, Lt. Ilic graduated from Jezdimir Lovic High School in Belgrade, in the former Yugoslavia in July 1990.

Following his return to the United States in 1992, Lt. Ilic enlisted in the Navy through the airman apprentice program and completed basic training at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes, Ill., in April 1993. He then reported to the Naval Station Roosevelt Roads weapons department on Vieques Island in Puerto Rico.

While in Puerto Rico, Lt. Ilic worked as an ordnance handling team leader and explosive's driver. During this tour of duty, he "struck" for the Photographer's Mate rating and was advanced to Photographer's Mate Third Class.

In May 1995, he reported to the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) photo lab. During this assignment he deployed with the United States Army's ground forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Serbo-Croatian linguist in support of peacekeeping efforts in the Balkan region.

Upon his return to the "Ike", he was advanced to Photographer's Mate Second Class and in April 1998, he reported to Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Indianapolis as a recruiter.

While at NRD Indianapolis, he quickly rose through the ranks of recruiting and became Recruiter-in-Charge of Navy Recruiting Station, Piqua, Ohio. While on recruiting, Lt. Ilic was promoted to Photographer's Mate First Class and closed out a successful recruiting tour as the 2001 Southwest Ohio Recruiter of the Year for NRD Indianapolis.

In January 2002 Lt. Ilic reported to the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md., as a student in the Intermediate Photojournalism Course. He then completed Naval Aircrew Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla., before reporting to Fleet Combat Camera, Atlantic in Norfolk in April 2002.

His primary duties at combat camera were as an Aerial Cameraman and Videographer. During this tour he spent 90 percent of his time deployed in Support of Operation's Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom on multiple deployments to the Middle East, South America and a deployment aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65) just to name a few.

A notable tour while at Combat Camera was his deployment to Iraq in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq and the Information Operations efforts in capturing the ground war as the Crew Chief of the first United States Navy Combat Camera team deployed to Iraq for an extended period of time. In 2005 Lt. Ilic was selected as the Fleet Combat Camera, Atlantic Sailor of the Year.

In May 2006, he reported to the Defense Information School (DINFOS) as an instructor. He was promoted to Chief Petty Officer on September 16th 2006. During his tour at DINFOS, he was an instructor for the Video Production and Documentation course, the Visual Information Managers course and the Combat Camera Leadership course.

On October 1st, 2008, Lt. Ilic was commissioned as a Photographic Limited Duty Officer (designator 6472). He reported to USS Harry S Truman (CVN 75) in Norfolk, as the Media Department Division Officer and Photographic Officer in April 2009. During this tour Lt. Ilic completed a seven month deployment to C5F/C6F in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

In April 2011 he reported to the Navy Office of Information (CHINFO) as the Afloat Media Systems Officer and deputy Afloat Video Networks Manager. In November of that year he completed a lateral transfer from Photographic Limited Duty Officer to Special Duty Officer – Public Affairs (designator 1650).

Lt. Ilic's personal awards include, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, five awards, and the Army Achievement Medal. He has two sons, Noah and Kyle.