

**LCDR William M. Kafka,**

*Deputy Director for Fleet Public Affairs and Outreach, U.S. Fleet Forces Command*

LCDR Kafka received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of South Florida in 1997, and was commissioned through the Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla., May 1998. He is a graduate of San Diego State University where he earned a master's degree in Journalism and Media Studies. In March 2008, he was selected among hundreds of applicants to present his research at the International Public Relations Symposium in Miami, Fla. In November 2009 he was awarded the Betsy Ann Plank Graduate Student Paper Award by the Public Relations Society of America as a co-author of a graduate school research project.

At sea tours include a deployment in 1999 on USS NASSAU (LHA 4) to the Mediterranean Sea as part of the HARRY S TRUMAN Strike Group. In 2008 he was the public affairs officer for USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and Carrier Strike Group TWO for an eight month combat deployment in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, provide public affairs coordination for the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier to visit South Africa, and oversaw the first ever visit of Afghanistan President Hamad Karzai to an aircraft carrier. In January 2010 LCDR Kafka was hand-selected to lead the public affairs efforts for all amphibious forces assigned to the USS Bataan (LHD 5) Amphibious Relief Mission in support of earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

Shore tours include the staff of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, where he served as the deputy public affairs officer and media officer for the Surgeon General of the Navy; the office of the Chief of Navy Information as a newsdesk action officer; Commander, U.S. Second Fleet where he served as the deputy fleet public affairs officer; U.S. Fleet Forces where he served as the Branch Media Officer and Deputy Director, Fleet Public Affairs and Community Outreach.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), along with various campaign and service awards.