

Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW/SCW) Michael D. Mitchell enlisted in the Navy in July 1994. After completing basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., he attended Journalist 'A' school at the Defense Information School at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind.

From 1995 to 1997, he served as a broadcast journalist and news anchor at the Naval Media Center broadcasting detachments in Adak, Ala. and Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

He then reported to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 where he served as the battalion journalist until July 1999. During the 1998 European Deployment he re-deployed to Bosnia to document Seabee contingency construction in support of the U.S. Army First Armored Division for OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR.

In 1999, he reported to Navy Recruiting District, Portland, Ore., where he served on independent duty as the district Public Affairs Officer.

From 2002 to 2004, he served as Deputy Public Affairs Officer on the staff of Commander, Naval Forces Marianas. He was the public affairs lead for the first People's Liberation Army (Navy) port visit to Guam and the inaugural homeport change of two nuclear powered submarines to Guam. COMNAVMAR was awarded the Rear Adm. Thompson award for Public Affairs Excellence in internal communication and media operations following Super Typhoon Pongsona in 2002.

He reported to USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) in June 2004 where he served as the Public Affairs Leading Petty Officer until his selection for promotion to Chief Petty Officer in 2005.

From Sept. 2006 to Oct. 2009 he was assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element-West where he served as Leading Chief Petty Officer for the production, training and operations departments. His primary duty was to train and deploy public affairs sea operations support detachments deploying in support of Carrier and Expeditionary Strike Groups.

In Dec. 2009 he graduated from the Defense Information School Public Affairs Qualification Course before reporting to U.S. Pacific Fleet as the Fleet Mass Communication Specialist and He also served as Public Affairs Officer for the Pacific Fleet Master Chief.

He currently serves as the Training Leading Chief Petty Officer for Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific.

Chief Mitchell's personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (4 awards); Navy Achievement Medal (4 awards) and various commendations, unit and campaign awards. He holds warfare qualifications as a Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist, Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist. He is a graduate of the Public Affairs Qualifications Course and Expeditionary Combat Skills course.