

**SENIOR CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
(SW/AW)
DONNIE W. RYAN
UNITED STATES NAVY**



Senior Chief Donnie W. Ryan was born and raised in McAlester, Okla., where he attended public school from grades K-12. After graduating from McAlester High School in 1989, he attended Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) in Wilburton, Okla., on an academic scholarship where he majored in journalism. During his second year, he was awarded the Jim D. Sullivan Journalism Scholarship and served as editor of EOSC's award-winning newspaper "The Statesman" from 1990-1991.

Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy as a military journalist in the Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) Program in May 1991. After basic training at Great Lakes, Ill., he attended journalist "A" school at the Defense Information School located at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. His first duty assignment was as a staff journalist at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Washington DC from January 1992 to February 1996. While in Washington DC, he advanced in rank from Seaman to Petty Officer Third Class, and later to Petty Officer Second Class.

Following the disestablishment of the TAR journalist rating, he augmented to the regular Navy and was assigned as a broadcast journalist and disc jockey from February 1996 to February 1999 at the Naval Media Center Broadcasting Detachment in Lisbon, Portugal, an affiliate of the worldwide Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS). While in Portugal, he supported permanently assigned NATO forces and was advanced to the rank of Petty Officer First Class. From February 1999 to June 2001, he was assigned as the public affairs officer and staff journalist for Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA) Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico.

After more than five years of consecutive overseas duty, he transferred to Naval Support Activity New Orleans in July 2001 where his primary assignment was as managing editor of "The Currents," the regional Department of Defense civilian enterprise newspaper for the New Orleans area. In September 2001, after only ten years of naval service, he was advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. For the next four years he continued his role as editor, Deputy Public Affairs Officer for the installation, and as the regional coordinator for special details including color guards and military funeral honors in the southern Louisiana region. In 2005 he was awarded the F. Edward Hebert Ambassador Award by the Mayor's Military Advisory Council of New Orleans for his work in improving relations with the military and the local community.

In June 2005, he reported to USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in San Diego, Calif., for his first sea tour. During this three-year tour he was a crew member for the ship's first two deployments, and qualified as both an enlisted surface warfare specialist and enlisted aviation warfare specialist. During his tour, the ship's newly formed Graphics Media Department achieved a level of unprecedented success, winning 16 CHINFO Merit Awards and receiving worldwide recognition for the ship's team of public affairs professionals.

In May 2008, he transferred to Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West, also in San Diego, and deployed immediately aboard USS Peleliu (LHA 5) to support operations in the Persian Gulf. In June 2009, he was advanced to the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer. He later served as the NPASE West Operations Department Leading Chief Petty Officer.

In July 2011, he returned to sea duty in the San Diego area as the public affairs officer for the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8). Leading a team of eight mass communication specialists, he developed a comprehensive media and communications plan to highlight the ship's unique hybrid propulsion during its maiden deployment in 2011-2012.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Navy Good Conduct Medal (six awards), Navy "E" Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Medal (two awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (three awards), and the Overseas Service Ribbon (five awards). He was also named the Navy's CY-2011 Thompson-Ravitz Enlisted Public Affairs Officer of the Year.

He earned an Associate of Arts (AA) in Journalism from Eastern Oklahoma State College in 1991, an Associate of Arts (AA) in General Studies from the University of Maryland in 1998, a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Communications from the University of Maryland in 2003, and a Master of Science (MSM) in Public Relations Management from the University of Maryland in 2009.