

**MC1(AW) D. Keith Simmons**  
*Navy Public Affairs Support Element East*

MC1(AW) D. Keith Simmons is currently serving as the Production Leading Petty Officer to Navy Public Affairs Support Element, East. He assumed his duties August, 2011.

Simmons was born in Decatur, Texas, and enlisted in the Navy on December 4, 2000.

Upon graduation of Photographer's Mate "A" School in May 2001, he became the third generation of Simmons' to be designated as a PHAN, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

Simmons was first assigned in September 2001 to USS Inchon (MCS 12) in Ingleside, Texas, serving as ship's photographer. After an in-port main space fire left the ship disabled and slated for decommissioning, he reported to USS Wasp (LHD 1) in July 2002. While on board Wasp, he served as ship's photographer, command webmaster and family website administrator during a 2005 deployment to the Arabian Gulf in support of OIF and OEF missions. He was promoted to E4 during his time there and was ranked highest among his peers in the Operations/Intelligence division.

Transitioning to shore duty in January 2006, he took orders to NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas, serving as the photography studio ALPO and later in the base Public Affairs Office as photographer and journalist for the base CE newspaper, the "Jet Ranger". He was promoted to E5 on the last advancement cycle before the 2006 rating merger with JO, LI and DM.

Accepted for staff duty in 2009, he reported to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Bahrain, after completing the Digital Multimedia Course in route, earning the 8193 NEC. As staff photographer, graphic artist and command web master for Commander, US Fifth Fleet, he spent 24 months and was again rated highest among his peers in the Public Affairs Office.

With time remaining on his sea rotation, he took orders to Navy Public Affairs Support Element, East in July 2011. En route, he completed the Intermediate Photojournalism Course, adding 8147 to his list of NECs. While at NPASE, he deployed as an Individual Augmentee to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for 9 months. While there, he served as command web master and media specialist, supporting military commissions for high profile detainees charged with the USS Cole bombing and 9/11 terror attacks.

His awards include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4 awards), and other unit deployment citations and ribbons.