

## ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE SURFACE WARFARE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Recognizing superior achievements in the operational aspects of Surface Warfare, by qualified Surface Warfare Officers, & Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists. This award not only recognizes the activity where operational excellence was demonstrated or required, but also in the activities during deployments of surface ships that require the skill & professionalism of all Surface Warriors. We received 26 nominations by Commanding Officers.

### OFFICER EAST

#### LTJG PETER BUSKILL, USN OPERATIONS OFFICER, USS TORNADO (PC-14)



Lieutenant (junior grade) Buskill is billeted as the Operations Officer, but he also serves as Navigator, Training, and Combat Systems Officer. He does the job of four officers. He coordinates directly with Fourth Fleet and JIATF-S scheduling teams to build the CONOPS for our counter-illicit narcotics trafficking deployments. He is responsible for the communications, operational tasking, safe navigation, and works closely with our LEDET OIC in the targeting and evaluation of contacts of interest for interdiction. During TORNADO's two deployments, he oversaw the safe navigation of over 40,000 NM, executed 25 port visits, over 25 Sea and Anchors as CONN or OOD, including four Panama Canal transits. His tactical expertise ensured the successful interdiction of a go-fast vessel smuggling nearly 300kg of cocaine and 800 lbs. of marijuana valued at \$12.5 Million. He consistently delivers quality results when we need it most. Leading five different rates is no easy task, but he does it with ease - as a LTJG. He overcomes equipment degradations and casualties with a relentless pursuit of resolution, keeping us on station and in the fight. LTJG Buskill is a remarkable ship handler. When a major steering casualty caused us to only maneuver with engines, he pulled TORNADO in safely with over 20 knots of on setting winds, ensuring the ship and the crew were moored safely - NO TUG, NO RUDDER. When it comes to operational excellence, he not only emulates, he dominates. He not only possesses this quality; he instills it in others and demands it from his Sailors. Excellence is a requirement to lead on a ship of this class. Operational excellence absolutely defines Peter Buskill.

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### OFFICER WEST

#### LCDR AARON JEFFERSON, III, USN EXECUTIVE OFFICER, USS STERETT (DDG 104)



LCDR Jefferson embodies the indomitable spirit, professionalism, and leadership of Admiral Burke. There is no finer leader, mariner, and warfighter in the Fleet. Every time a need has arisen requiring effective leadership, culturally impacting positive motivation, and consistently high performance, he has answered the call. As the Executive Officer of the most dynamically tasked and operationally experienced destroyer on deployment, he unfailingly sets a sterling personal example of excellence and inspires those around him to join him in exceeding the high standards of performance required while serving on the front lines. He came to STERETT as a temporary replacement for the Chief Engineer position in the middle of Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training and NIMITZ Group Sail in January. With one month before TYCOM Readiness Evaluation 7, his department garnered top scores across the board demonstrating his ability to masterfully prepare, plan, and execute Type Commander standards. With an unplanned loss of STERETT's Executive Officer, and within 12 hours of his flight to San Diego to transfer, he volunteered to be Executive Officer. Knowing that our deployment end date was uncertain, his distinct devotion to duty, our mission, and our Sailors, kicked in. He has sailed this destroyer off the coast of China, through the Suez Canal, into the Mediterranean and through 10+ straits transits off the coast of Iran and Yemen. He has directed small caliber teams in response to incoming Iranian fast craft, and he does so with precision, zeal, and professionalism. LCDR Jefferson has demonstrated he can accomplish everything from motivating a flailing department to backing up a Commanding Officer on the bridge on deployment with command level decision making and foresight. He is performing in a demanding job, above his paygrade, and doing it extremely well: clearly with the virtues we honor as a Surface Force. LCDR Jefferson's leadership ensured STERETT crushed operations in a high tempo environment. A positive, energetic, and inspirational Officer, he leads with humility. His volunteerism and commitment make him undoubtedly the most qualified Officer, manifesting the best of our Surface Force.

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### ENLISTED EAST

#### BM2(SW) ESFRAIN ADAME, USN 2ND DIVISION LEADING PETTY OFFICER, USS OAK HILL (LSD 51)



BM2 (SW) Adame ensured mission success through his hard work, leadership by example, and tireless grit which truly embodied the principles of Naval Surface Warfare. During an arduous deployment that only saw 7 days in port out of 215, with a stretch of 147 days straight at sea, BM2 Adame singlehandedly drove the safe accomplishment of 118 well deck evolutions, 50 critical crane lifts, and 20 small boat launch and recoveries. BM2 served as deck safety and well deck control officer, positions usually reserved for chief petty officers. When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the ability of other units to sustain operations at sea and OAK was called upon, BM2 ran to action. When the ship conducted replenishments at sea for several submarines in theater to support continuous underway operations for national tasking, it was BM2 Adame who operated the crane in a no-fail scenario. His skill and persistence made the transfer of 13,400 pounds of food, cargo, and stores possible without incident. When the amphibious ready group launched a full speed rehearsal for a VBSS boarding, BM2 first was the safety to launch the LCU, then immediately transitioned to the crane to launch the rest of the ship's small boats: Again, when the amphibious ready group conducted its raids, BM2 was there, launching the AAVs in support. His actions were evident in every evolution conducted onboard OAK during deployment. BM2 Adame's dedication and devotion to the Navy are manifested in the Sailors he leads. Three of his Sailors have received the Blue Jacket of the Quarter award. BM2 Adame's knowledge of deck evolutions helps train all of the Sailors in deck department. He led 34 instructors in the preparation and delivery of 76 in-rate and BMR lessons. His dedication resulted in 95% advancement and 3 ESWS qualifications. He trained 53 Sailors on the benefits of staying in the Navy which resulted in 100% retention. He was the driving factor that supported a command focused on daily performance improvements, sustained superior results across all warfare areas, and the highest levels of readiness. BM2 Adame's leadership by example resulted in the USS OAK HILL's sustained operation and material readiness. His highly commendable performance and dedication to duty have earned him the well-deserved recognition of the Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award.

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### ENLISTED WEST

#### QM2 (SW/AW) ANASTASIA CLARK, USN NAVIGATION DEPARTMENT LEADING PETTY OFFICER USS AMERICA (LHA 6)



QM2 Anastasia Clark expertly led and mentored 11 Quartermasters in the preparation and execution of navigating over 62,000 nautical miles during two FDNF patrols and 32 restricted water transits with zero incidents. She was selected as USS AMERICA Sailor of the Quarter for 2nd Quarter 2020 and Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN Sailor of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter and was awarded a Navy and Marines Corps Achievement Medal. With her department manned at 70% during the 20.1 and 20.2 patrols, she volunteered to take on extra responsibility as Training Petty Officer and other duties to help her team succeed. She led her department to 100% advancement after selflessly dedicating her off time to help four Sailors study and prepare for the exam. Due to an unforeseen turnover in Navigation leadership, she volunteered to extend onboard for four months in FDNF Japan to provide watch team and departmental continuity. Petty Officer Clark is a qualified Conning Officer and Navigation Evaluator, a watch typically stood by a Lieutenant Commander or seasoned Chief Petty Officer. She earned her Captain's trust and confidence based on her timely recommendations and superior navigation abilities. Junior Officers routinely seek her out for training based on her bridge knowledge and she has helped IO achieve their Officer of the Deck Underway qualification. She provided 60 hours of Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist training resulting in 212 Sailors and 6 Marines earning their warfare pins. She helped author and execute eight Navigation Training Team packages focusing on 16 repetitive exercises, resulting in AMERICA maintaining 100% operational requirements. Petty Officer Clark epitomizes the Navy Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment. She always delivers results and her selfless devotion to her Sailors and the mission are impeccable.