

# SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored in part by RTX*



**COMMANDER, NAVAL SURFACE FORCE ATLANTIC**

**LCDR JAMES SIGHTLER, USN**

***USS LABOON (DDG 58)  
WEAPONS OFFICER***

Lieutenant Commander Sightler was recognized for meritorious service while serving as the Weapons Officer on USS LABOON (DDG 58) from January 2023 to December 2023, leading to his selection as the 2023 Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic Surface Warfare Officer of the Year. Stepping up to lead his combat team prior to deployment, he was instrumental in achieving combat certification while in dry dock, a first for any guided missile destroyers. Filling a gapped department head billet in addition to his Weapons Officer responsibilities, he was lead tactical planner for 33 flawlessly executed tactical exercises as part of LABOON's deployment certification. Amidst the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hamas, he led the warship in defending vital international shipping lanes, including multiple self-defense engagements against hostile enemy action. By his unswerving determination, wise judgement, and complete dedication to duty, Lieutenant Commander Sightler reflected credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

# SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

*Sponsored in part by RTX*



**COMMANDER, NAVAL SURFACE FORCE PACIFIC**

**LCDR JASON WHITE, USN**

*USS STERETT (DDG 104)  
PLANS AND TACTICS OFFICER*

Lieutenant Commander White excelled in his performance serving as Plans and Tactics Officer onboard USS STERETT (DDG 104) culminating in his selection as the 2023 Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific Surface Warfare Officer of the Year. When STERETT was designated primary Air and Missile Defense Commander for the VINSON Strike Group his planning efforts quickly integrated knowledge and expertise which facilitated flawless execution of Whiskey duties with zero unescorted overflights of the High Value Unit. LCDR White led a stable of Department Heads as the primary coordinator for STERETT's RE-6 Material Inspection and a Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) Material Inspection. His leadership across functional areas led STERETT to earn an overall INSURV Figure of Merit of 0.80, which tied for the highest overall score for a Destroyer under the new Joint Fleet Maintenance Manual (JFMM) scoring system. LCDR White's ability to lead his peers also helped the Strike Group successfully execute bilateral, trilateral, and Multi-Large Deck Exercises (MLDEs) during STERETT's 2023 WESTPAC deployment. During COMPTUEX, STERETT embarked Unmanned Surface Vessel Division ONE (USVDIV 1) to pioneer USV integration into strike group operations. LCDR White's leadership directly led the development of new tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) leveraging active and passive USV payloads for air and surface domain awareness across the strike group.

Lieutenant Commander White's exceptional foresight, expertise, and complete dedication to duty reflected credit upon him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.