



ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE SURFACE WARFARE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award recognizes the top Surface Warfare Officer and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist from an Atlantic and a Pacific Command, who have demonstrated superior achievements in the operational aspects of Surface Warfare during a deployment.

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE SURFACE WARFARE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



OFFICER EAST

LCDR LINDSEY BOYLE, USN

*USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51)
PLANS & TACTICS OFFICER*

Lieutenant Commander Lindsey Boyle's operational leadership and tactical acumen were instrumental in advancing USS ARLEIGH BURKE's warfighting effectiveness during a demanding deployment. As Tactical Action Officer on April 14, 2024, she led the ship through the historic first combat employment of SM-3 missiles, intercepting enemy ballistic missiles in defense of Israel. Simultaneously managing casualty control and ship self-defense, she ensured mission success under intense pressure. Her immediate after-action reviews and coordination with key agencies, including SMWDC and the Missile Defense Agency, provided real-time feedback that directly enhanced ballistic missile defense operations across EUCOM and CENTCOM.

As Plans and Tactics Officer, LCDR Boyle coordinated ARLEIGH BURKE's seamless integration into three strike groups and spearheaded participation in advanced multinational exercises such as European Air and Missile Defense Exercise 2023 and DYNAMIC MANTA. Her meticulous planning enabled coordinated air and missile defense and antisubmarine warfare across multiple allied navies, significantly bolstering interoperability.

LCDR Boyle's operational mindset extended to the tactical level, where she drove rigorous training that enhanced the ship's combat readiness. Her leadership on the Bridge during complex evolutions and her ability to seamlessly transition between air defense, surface warfare, and ASW roles underscore her exceptional warfighting capability. LCDR Boyle's contributions embody operational excellence and make her highly deserving of the Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award.

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE SURFACE WARFARE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



OFFICER WEST

LCDR DYUTI DAS, USN

*USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
REACTOR TRAINING ASSISTANT*

Lieutenant Commander Dyuti Das demonstrated unparalleled operational excellence and leadership as Reactor Training Assistant aboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, ensuring mission readiness through her technical expertise and innovative approaches. As the leader of the ship's nuclear training and certification programs, LCDR Das oversaw the safe qualification of 466 nuclear-trained Sailors, directly enabling the reliable operation of two nuclear reactors and associated propulsion systems. Her meticulous planning during the ship's requalification program after an 18-month dry-docking overhaul ensured the timely completion of over 15,000 practical factors, restoring the Reactor Department's readiness for a compressed pre-deployment certification cycle and subsequent deployment to SEVENTH and FIFTH Fleet AORs.

LCDR Das was critical in integrating reactor plant drills with the ship's operational schedule, delivering seamless coordination across departments to enhance readiness. As Propulsion Drill Team Leader, she applied technical rigor and leadership, managing 80 Sailors through complex casualty drills, ensuring safe and efficient reactor operations. Her efforts directly contributed to THEODORE ROOSEVELT's sustained combat readiness and operational lethality.

Through her vision, commitment to training, and collaborative leadership, LCDR Das has raised the operational standards of the Reactor Department and the command, epitomizing the spirit of the Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award.

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE SURFACE WARFARE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



ENLISTED EAST

BM2(SW) AHMED EL HAROUN, USN

*USS MASON (DDG 87)
ODO1 LEADING PETTY OFFICER*

Boatswain's Mate Second Class (Surface Warfare) Ahmed El Haroun's exemplary leadership and operational expertise as ODO1 Leading Petty Officer and Work Center Supervisor were critical to USS MASON's success during a highly dynamic FIFTH and SIXTH Fleet deployment. Leading a team of five Boatswain's Mates and 19 Deck Seamen, he expertly managed 39 deck spaces, safely executing high-risk evolutions, including 28 RHIB operations, 1,065 MH-60R flight hours, transfer of 6.24 million gallons of fuel, 733 pallets during 24 replenishments, and two successful Suez Canal transits. His efforts qualified 42 Sailors in key watch standing roles, boosting underway proficiency by 65%.

As a BATTLE-TESTED and BATTLE-PROVEN Boatswain's Mate, BM2 stood as Boatswain's Mate of the Watch during multiple missile engagements, ensuring the safety of the crew and bridge team. On November 28, 2023, he demonstrated unparalleled courage as a VBSS team member during the rescue of M/V *Central Park*, disarming five pirates and ensuring the safe release of 22 hostages without injury.

BM2's leadership extended to maintenance, qualifying 15 personnel and overseeing 3,246 checks, raising SAR/PAR scores above 96%. His unwavering resolve, operational expertise, and leadership under fire make him a standout candidate for the Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award.

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE SURFACE WARFARE OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



ENLISTED WEST

STG1(SW) HANNAH MATZKO, USN

*USS STERETT (DDG 104)
CA DIVISION LEADING PETTY OFFICER*

Sonar Technician Surface First Class (Surface Warfare) Hannah Matzko is a proven leader whose professionalism, tactical expertise, and dedication to her Sailors were instrumental to USS STERETT's operational success. As SONAR Supervisor during the ship's 2024 deployment in the SEVENTH Fleet, her leadership in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations was vital in the detection and tracking of subsurface critical contacts of interest, garnering her recognition at the flag level, a testament to her commitment and dedication.

As Combat Acoustics Division Leading Petty Officer, STG1 Matzko led 38 ASW scenarios and delivered 576 hours of SONAR training, resulting in 48 in-rate qualifications and five advancements. Her mentorship cultivated a culture of excellence among her team. As 3M Assistant for Weapons Department, she oversaw execution of 9,589 man-hours of Planned Maintenance System (PMS) tasks and 416 spot checks across eight work centers, propelling STERETT to the top 3M scores among San Diego-area destroyers.

Her impact extends beyond tactical and maintenance domains. As Berthing Petty Officer in Charge, she ensured 100% inspection readiness for 45 female Sailors, and as a CSTT member, she enhanced watch stander proficiency through 241 hours of training. STG1 Matzko's unparalleled dedication and operational excellence make her truly deserving of the Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award.