

COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCES EXPERT SHIPHANDLER AWARD

This award recognizes Surface Warfare professionals that excel in the art of naval shiphandling.



LT MICHAEL HOLDER, USN

*USS JOHN BASILONE (DDG 122)
NAVIGATOR*

Lieutenant Holder was recognized for meritorious service while serving as Navigator, USS JOHN BASILONE (DDG 122) from January 2023 to December 2023. Lieutenant Holder, with distinction, defeated a pool of accomplished shiphandlers from 190 crews across all surface forces, winning the 2023 Junior Officer Shiphandler of the Year Competition. He surpassed the competition in a series of shiphandling events that included pier work, underway replenishment, and man overboard. Evaluated by senior surface warfare officers, his confidence and composure led him to victory over peers assessed as the premier shiphandlers in their respective fleets. Lieutenant holder's unswerving determination, wise judgement and complete dedication to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.