

## 1. Command Data

Name of your Command or Organization: **USS GRIDLEY DDG-101**

Unit Identification Code (UIC): **N23151**

Name, rank, and contact information of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: Uzarski      First: Joel      M.I.: S      Rank: CDR

Email: [REDACTED]      Phone: [REDACTED]

Date Assumed Command (date format is YYYY-MM-DD): 2018-07-20

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: Gridley's primary mission is to provide air defense in a carrier strike group. Gridley can also coordinate and execute operations in anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, maritime interdiction, strike warfare, and a variety of other warfare areas. Gridley has the capability to embark two MH-60R Seahawk helicopters. The crew trains underway primarily in the Pacific Northwest area. When deployed, Gridley operates in the THIRD, SEVENTH, and FIFTH Fleet areas of operation.

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): Everett, WA

Immediate Superior in Command: DESRON 21

Operational: DESRON 21

Administrative: DESRON 21

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and/or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable):

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable):

Type and number of Aircraft/Ships Assigned and Tail Codes/Hull Numbers, if applicable:

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable):

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 39      Enlisted: 288      Civilian: 0

Command Point of Contact:

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LT [REDACTED]

Job Title/Office Code: Navigator

E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Command Mailing Address: USS GRIDLEY DDG 101 FPO AP 96666-1210

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## 2. Commander's Assessment

For the crew of USS Gridley (DDG 101), 2018 proved to be a challenging year due to Basic Phase certification requirements occurring simultaneously with Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) preparation and execution. Gridley started out the New Year preparing for Engineering Light off Assessment (LOA) where the ship scored a 93% after a week of very long days and hard work by the entire crew, including a few Saturdays working on the engineering plant and cleaning the intakes both dirty and clean sides in preparation for Engineering Assessment Team Pacific (EAP). After LOA, the ship had to go through crew certification before Contractor Sea Trials in February which was mostly conducted by Regional Support Organization who is Commander Naval Surface Pacific's representative in Everett, WA.

After receiving a passing score during crew certification, Gridley was ready to get underway for the first time in over 17 months. There were only a handful of officers who had been onboard the last time Gridley was underway which made the risk much higher. Through extensive simulator training and table top discussion, the commanding officer was able to adequately mitigate the risk of getting underway and Gridley's first underway went as smoothly as it could go in the Pacific Northwest in winter; heavy seas forced Gridley to finish Contractor Sea Trials inside the protected waters of Puget Sound once equipment calibration runs for NAVCERT were complete. Basic Phase training events kicked off after Contractor Sea Trials in February and Gridley's crew drilled continuously in March on Damage Control, Engineering, and Force Protection in preparation for certification events in May/June.

New requirements promulgated during Gridley's dry dock period in 2017 that were directly related to separate collisions of USS Fitzgerald and USS McCain in Seventh Fleet meant Gridley was required to complete Ready for Sea Assessment (RFSA) during her underway in April just before TYCOM Sea Trials. The crew performed ok during RFSA, however there were many areas where the crew believed we were conducting ourselves IAW the references and as close to the training as ATG was providing, but it turned out there was a large disconnect between what was required for basic phase what was required for RFSA. This was a good reality check for the team as we started to prepare for underway operations and basic phase events after being either in a dry dock or tied to the pier for previous 17 months. After RFSA, Gridley was able to proceed forward with Type Commander (TYCOM) Sea Trials in April.

In April, Commander Joel Uzarski was relieved as Executive Officer to begin his Perspective Commanding Officer training. He was relieved as Executive Officer by Commander Kevin

Ducharme on April 13, 2018. The transition seemed to go well and Commander Ducharme brought much motivation and expectations to the job.

April, May, and June were filled with Basic Phase training and certification events for Tier I warfare areas (Aviation, Cyber, Damage Control, Engineering, Explosive Safety, Seamanship, and Navigation), and kept the crew busy with drills and training in preparation for those events.

June was a whirlwind of certifications and inspections. Days after completing multiple certification events during mobility certification week, Gridley conducted her first readiness inspection, READ-E6, since exiting the shipyards. READ-E6 was also designed to help prepare Gridley for INSURV, a huge material inspection scheduled for October. Gridley did well in most warfare areas, scoring 81% in Antiterrorism, 82% in Communications, 89% in Damage Control, 97% in Medical, 83% in Navigation, and 80% in Seamanship, and was able to achieve certification in almost all Tier I areas despite requiring some remediation in a few areas. Gridley's engineering department struggled through their first attempt at certification due to inadequate training and accountability issues, however, and had to repeat their certification event later in August. Gridley ended June on a positive note by conducting a Tiger Cruise, where 49 friends and family members were able to ride Gridley from San Diego to Everett and experience life onboard a guided missile destroyer.

July was a short reprieve before Gridley re-attempted her engineering certification events in August. On July 20, 2018, CDR Joel Uzarski relieved CDR Mike Mortensen as commanding officer of USS Gridley. The event took place at Naval Station Everett while Gridley was moored starboard side to on Alpha Pier. The ceremony took place on the pier with the backdrop being the ship with a large American Flag draped from the aft missile deck. The weather was sunny and clear. Afterwards a short reception was held aboard the flight deck followed by ship tours for guests. Engineering Operational Certification (EOC) was scheduled again for the second week of August. The team was able to complete and certify in engineering after EOC. After completing and certifying in Engineering, Gridley turned around and conducted READ E7 two days later. READ E7 was the last inspection to identify discrepancies before INSURV. The crew put in long days during the week and worked several Saturday's in the month between READ E7 and INSURV. This was the first INSURV in over six years for Gridley. An additional challenge to preparing for INSURV was the continued Basic Phase. Nonetheless, INSURV arrived and Gridley's crew pulled through and performed better than what was expected scoring an overall score of 79%, about fleet average. With INSURV complete, the only remaining challenge was finishing all Basic Phase certifications before a short notice Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) in December that Gridley was mandated to participate.

Gridley's crew continued to work hard after INSURV to finish remaining Tier II Basic Phase certifications for Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, Strike, Undersea Warfare, and Naval Surface Fire Support before SWATT. Along with the basic phase requirements, Gridley had to conduct a 3M inspection. After many long hours put in by the entire crew to adequately document maintenance and administration of the program, Gridley performed very well, scoring 91% on the inspection, one of the highest in the fleet for the year. In order to meet requirements for Basic Phase and SWATT, Gridley's crew got underway the day after Thanksgiving to transit down to Southern California where the remaining certification events would take place. Despite a few

concerns off ship from leadership that Gridley was not going to finish all of her Basic Phase certification prior to SWATT, the crew pulled off a magnificent end to basic phase certifying in event after event with no failures. It was a great moment for the ship and proved to everyone Gridley was ready and the team was more than capable. After completing all Basic Phase events, except mooring to a buoy, Gridley pulled into San Diego for SWATT in-port academics. In order to complete the mooring to a buoy event, Gridley got underway Saturday before SWATT to accomplish the event and receive full Basic Phase certification prior to SWATT commencing December 10th.

Gridley conducted SWATT with Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS John P Murtha (LPD 25), and USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49)), USS Momsen (DDG 92), and USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110). The crew's hard work paid off and Gridley did very well at both SWATT and Live Fire with a Purpose (LFWAP) where Gridley was the first ship in the group to fire an exercise missile. After gaining confidence in her weapon systems and with her operations, the crew was firing on all cylinders. With SWATT and LFWAP complete, Gridley was able to return home for the holidays just three days prior to Christmas and enjoy some well-deserved and much needed time off with family. She ended 2018 ready to, "Fire When Ready!".

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### **3. Chronology**

#### **January**

01JAN2018 Celebrated New Years in port Everett, WA

15-19JAN2018 Engineering Department completed Light-Off Assessment.

#### **February**

05-09FEB2018 Completed Crew Certification.

10FEB2018 Celebrated Gridley's 11th birthday in port Everett, WA

16-22FEB2018 Gridley underway for Contractor Sea Trials, ISIC Navigation Check Ride, and NAVCERT.

22-23FEB2018 Gridley visited ammunition pier at Naval Magazine Indian Island, WA to onload ammo for further sea trials before returning to Everett, WA.

#### **March**

Gridley continued with Tier I and II basic phase training events for Anti-terrorism, Cyber, Damage Control, and Explosive Safety, as well as Aviation Equipment and Facilities Certification.

#### **April**

03-09APR2018 Gridley underway for TYCOM Sea Trials and RFSA.

09-12APR2018 Gridley returned to Naval Magazine Indian Island to on-load more ammunition for later basic phase certification events.

16-20APR2018 Gridley underway for engineering drills and training events.

30APR2018 Gridley underway to transit down to SoCal for more basic phase training and certification events.

## **May**

03MAY2018 Gridley conducted her first UNREP since leaving dry-dock with USNS Henry J. Kaiser.

04MAY2018 Gridley pulled into port San Diego, CA for a weekend port visit.

07MAY2018 Gridley underway to continue basic phase training and certification events for Aviation, Engineering, Navigation and Seamanship.

08MAY2018 Gridley conducted towing evolution with tug King Sea.

10MAY2018 Gridley conducted precision anchorage for ATG certification event for navigation.

11MAY2018 Gridley conducted second UNREP with USNS Henry J. Kaiser.

16MAY2018 Gridley returned to Everett, WA to continue Tier I and II basic phase training events for Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, Cryptologic Warfare, Electronic Warfare, and Visit Board Search and Seizure training.

## **June**

04-06JUN2018 Gridley participated in Surface Line Week with USS Shoup, USS Momsen, USS Ralph Johnson and USS Kidd.

08JUN2018 Gridley underway to transit to Port Hueneme, CA for a Combat Systems groom.

11-14JUN2018 Gridley in-port Port Hueneme, CA for Combat Systems groom.

14JUN2018 Gridley underway from Port Hueneme, CA to San Diego, CA. Gridley conducts night time UNREP with USNS Charles Drew.

15-19JUN2018 Gridley in-port San Diego, CA for basic phase training and certification events.

19-22JUN2018 Gridley underway in SoCal for basic phase training and certification events for Seamanship, Navigation, and Engineering.

22-26JUN2018 Gridley in-port San Diego, CA for basic phase training and certification events.

26-27JUN2018 Gridley underway to conduct Readiness Evaluation-6 in preparation for Board of Inspection and Survey in October 2018.

29JUN2018 Gridley underway from San Diego, CA with 49 crew friends and family members for Tiger Cruise.

## **July**

02JUL2018 Gridley conducted a burial at sea off coast of WA.

03JUL2018 Gridley returned to Everett, WA.

20JUL2018 CDR Joel Uzarski relieved CDR Michael Mortensen as Commanding Officer of USS Gridley.

## **August**

09-13AUG2018 Gridley underway for EOC practice.

13-17AUG2018 Gridley in-port Everett, WA for EOC events.

17-18AUG2018 Gridley underway for EOC.

18-21AUG2018 Gridley in-port Everett, WA for READ E-7 preparations.

21-22AUG2018 Gridley underway for READ E-7.

22AUG2018 Gridley in-port Everett, WA.

## **September**

17-21SEP2018 Gridley continues basic phase Tier II certification and training events for air (AW), surface (SW), cryptologic, and electronic warfare (EW), as well as for postal certification and remediation for explosive safety.

27-28SEP2018 Gridley underway for mock-INSURV.

## **October**

01-02OCT2018 Gridley underway for INSURV.

02-03OCT2018 Gridley in-port Everett, WA for INSURV.

04-05OCT2018 Gridley transits to Naval Magazine Indian Island to on load more ammunition for tier II basic phase certification events.

19-29OCT2018 Gridley underway to transit to SoCal for tier II basic phase certification and training events for Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS), Undersea Warfare (USW), SW, and AW.

21OCT2018 Gridley conducted a burial at sea. Later that day, Gridley conducted an UNREP with USNS Yukon.

24OCT2018 Gridley in-port San Diego, CA for emergent repairs to Main Reduction Gear.

26OCT2018 Gridley underway from San Diego, CA to continue tier II basic phase training.

29OCT2018 Gridley returned to Everett, WA.

## **November**

23-30NOV2018 Gridley underway to transit to SoCal for tier II basic phase certification events.

30NOV2018 Gridley in-port San Diego, CA for SWATT classroom training.

## **December**

08DEC2018 Gridley underway from San Diego, CA to complete mooring to a buoy evolution event, last outstanding basic phase event.

10-17DEC2018 Gridley participated in USS Boxer Amphibious Readiness Group SWATT.

18DEC2018 Gridley participated in Live Fire with a Purpose along with USS Momsen, USS William P. Lawrence.

22DEC2018 Gridley returned to Everett, WA.

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## **Narrative**

USS Gridley celebrated the New Year in Everett, WA. The New Year kicked off to a busy start with Light-Off Assessment (LOA) for Engineering Department the week of January 15th, quickly followed by Navigation Equipment Certification (NAVCERT), Crew Certification (Crew Cert), and ISIC Navigation Check Ride to certify Gridley's crew to take their ship underway for Contractor (KTR) Sea Trials on February 16th. KTR Sea Trials was Gridley's first underway in 17 months due to the extended Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) and two follow-on short continuous maintenance availabilities (CMAVs) she had finally completed in early January. Gridley's underway transit went smoothly however heavy seas forced her back inside the protected waters of the Puget Sound upon completing NAVCERT.

Gridley returned to Everett, WA seven days after getting underway for KTR Sea Trials and began her third CMAV since officially completing the extended DSRA. During the CMAV, Gridley's crew worked hard to both fix equipment problems that arose during KTR Sea Trials,

and train for certification events for the basic phase. During March, Gridley's crew completed Tier I basic phase training for Anti-terrorism/Force Protection, Cyber, Damage Control, and Explosive Safety. Gridley also completed her Aviation Certification (AVCERT) to certify her aviation equipment and facilities for flight operations.

April was a busy month for Gridley; starting off with Ready for Sea Assessment (RFSA) and TYCOM Sea Trials before pulling into the ammunition base for Gridley's first big ammunition on-load since her last deployment in 2014. Gridley completed her ammo on-load early and was able to return to Everett a day earlier. Gridley got underway the following week for some much-needed engineering training with ATG in preparation for certification events in June. Gridley continued her basic phase training in May in SoCal. She completed her first Underway Replenishment (UNREP) in 21 months with USNS Henry J. Kaiser on May 3rd. The crew was able to enjoy a well-deserved port visit in San Diego, CA the following weekend before getting underway to continue basic phase training events for engineering, seamanship, and navigation. After getting underway from San Diego, CA, Gridley certified her capability to tow by towing ocean going tug King C on May 8th. On May 10th Gridley certified her navigation team in conducting a precision anchorage. On May 11th, prior to heading back north to the Pacific Northwest, Gridley conducted her second UNREP with USNS Henry J. Kaiser. Gridley returned to Everett, WA on May 16th for some well-earned time in homeport after a busy two and a half weeks in SoCal.

On June 8th, Gridley departed Everett, WA once again to head down to SoCal. Prior to reaching the SoCal Operating Areas (OPAREAs), Gridley stopped in Port Hueneme, CA for a Combat systems groom from June 11th through 14th. Gridley left Port Hueneme on June 14th, conducted her first nighttime UNREP, this one with USNS Charles Drew, before pulling into San Diego for the weekend. After a busy weekend of preparation, Gridley got underway on June 19th to conduct her certification events for Damage Control, Engineering, Medical, Seamanship, and Navigation. Although Gridley was unable to demonstrate countermeasure wash-own for damage control and mooring to a buoy for seamanship, the crew performed well and, after ISIC remediation for two Anti-terrorism drills and Navigation drills, would certify in all warfare areas with the exception of Engineering. Four days after completing basic phase "cert week" Gridley got underway for READ E-6, a material inspection designed to verify material condition of all equipment.

Gridley finally caught a break after READ E-6 and was able to host a Tiger Cruise for friends and family on the transit back to Everett. On June 29th, Gridley got underway with 49 friends and family members for a three-and-a-half-day cruise back home. "Tigers" (friends/family ship riders) participated in "Tiger University" where they learned about life on board Gridley; tigers were able to dress out in fire-fighting protective gear, tour engineering spaces, and drive the ship from the Bridge. On July 2nd, Gridley conducted her first burial at sea that year for 15 sets of cremains; tigers were able to watch the solemn ceremony from the aft missile deck. Prior to entering the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Gridley put on a fireworks gun show for the tigers. Once inside the Puget Sound, Gridley's chief's mess put on a steel beach picnic; Gridley crew and tigers were able to enjoy burgers and hot dogs while taking in the breathtaking views of the Olympic Mountains, Victoria Harbor, and Whidbey Island. Gridley returned to Everett on July 3rd, just in time for the Fourth of July.

For just over a month Gridley remained in-port, completing a short maintenance availability and continuing preparations for engineering department's certification, scheduled for mid-August. On July 20th, Commander Joel Uzarski relieved Commander Michael Mortensen as Commanding Officer. Gridley got underway on August 9th and after spending three and a half days focused on engineering drills, returned to Everett on Monday August 13th to start engineering certification events. The following Friday, August 17th, Gridley got underway to re-attempt engineering certification. Second time around was better than the first and Gridley's engineering department passed. However, with INSURV fast approaching, no reprieve was granted and despite returning to Everett on Saturday, August 18th, Gridley got underway again on Tuesday, August 21st for READ E7, the last inspection before INSURV in October.

After READ E7 concluded on August 23rd, Gridley had just over 30 days in-port to finish preparing for INSURV while simultaneously continuing Tier II basic phase training events. Weekend work days became the norm for the next month and the crew fought to see the light at the end of the tunnel; almost immediately after INSURV ended, Gridley was scheduled to get underway to head to the ammunition depot and then proceed down to SoCal for Tier II basic phase training events for two weeks. About half way through September, the Navy changed pre-deployment training requirements which drastically impacted Gridley's Tier II basic phase certification schedule but did not change INSURV. Gridley got underway on Thursday September 27th for one last rehearsal before INSURV inspectors arrived on Monday.

At long last, INSURV arrived on October 1st, Gridley completed over 200 INSURV material checks over the next two and a half days. Overall, Gridley scored an overall average, which was better than everyone thought Gridley would do considering the issues that plagued Gridley upon exiting the shipyards. Upon completion of INSURV and after stopping at Naval Magazine Indian Island for the rest of the basic phase ammunition load out, Gridley's Air Warfare (AW), Surface Warfare (SW) and Undersea Warfare (USW) teams started a compressed training schedule that started at 8am and went until midnight for two weeks before Gridley would head down to SoCal for certification events on Friday October 19th. All of Gridley's basic phase certifications had to be completed before December 10th so Gridley could participate in Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training (SWATT) with the Boxer Amphibious Readiness Group (BOXARG).

During the transit down to SoCal, Gridley conducted a second burial at sea for 15 cremains on October 21st and later that day conducted her fourth UNREP that year with the USNS Yukon. While in SoCal, Gridley conducted Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) and USW exercises off the western coast of San Clemente Island. A casualty to the Main Reduction Lube Oil system caused Gridley to pull into port San Diego, CA for a day to conduct repairs. Upon getting underway from San Diego on October 26th, Gridley headed back north to Everett, WA to continue Tier II basic phase training for AW, SW, USW, NSFS, and Strike Warfare, as well as conduct certifications for 3M and Supply Management Certification (SMC). Gridley did well in both, scoring a 91% in 3M and 94% in SMC.

After completing and certifying in Strike Warfare, Gridley headed back down to SoCal the day after Thanksgiving to conduct certification events for AW, NSFS, SW and USW. After completing and certifying in those areas, Gridley attempted mooring to a buoy, her final



certification event left from basic phase. Weather conditions caused Gridley to call off mooring to a buoy, nevertheless, Gridley pulled into San Diego on November 30th in order to start in-port SWATT academics on December 3rd. After completing SWATT in-port academics on December 7th, Gridley got underway on Saturday December 8th to attempt mooring to a buoy for the second time in better weather. Upon completing mooring to a buoy, Gridley was finally fully certified and officially done with basic phase and able to move on to SWATT.

Gridley kicked off SWATT by transiting through a simulated mine danger area and drilled the entire crew by going to General Quarters (GQ) at the end of the danger area to flex the crew's response to a mine hit. The rest of the week was filled with training exercises in three phases - basic, intermediate, and advanced; for scenarios like inbound small attack craft, inbound missiles, and inbound torpedoes. These exercises flexed Gridley's crew's capability to work in close proximity to other ships while conducting exercises in warfare areas that Gridley certified in only the week prior. Immediately after the last SWATT exercise, Gridley conducted an UNREP to ensure there was enough fuel onboard to get home through the gale the was forecasted to be off the coast of WA when Gridley was supposed to be entering the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Prior to departing SoCal, Gridley, along with Momsen and William P Lawrence, conducted Live Fire with a Purpose and was able to shoot an exercise missile. SWATT and LFWAP were a success; Gridley did well, and was able to start the transit home earlier than originally planned and returned to Everett on Saturday December 22nd. Gridley's crew was finally able to enjoy some much-needed and well-deserved time off for the holidays and spent both Christmas and New Year's in-port Everett, WA.

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#### 4. Supporting Reports

INSURV Report submitted as an additional attachment.

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#### 5. Published Documents

##### CDR Joel Uzarski Biography



Commander Uzarski was raised in Ada, Michigan, and graduated from Lowell High School in 1996. He attended United States Naval Academy earning a B.S. degree in General Engineering and his commission as an Ensign in May, 2000.

CDR Joel Uzarski took command of USS Gridley (DDG 101) in July, 2018. Prior to taking command, CDR Uzarski was Executive Officer of USS Gridley from December 2016 –April 2018.

Ashore CDR Uzarski has served in two billets. One as Test and Evaluation Officer for PMS 420 Littoral Combat Ship Mission Modules at NAVSEA as part of Program Executive Office Littoral Combat Ships from 2014 -2016. The other billet was at Missile Defense Agency (MDA) headquarters in Fort Belvoir, Virginia from 2011 to 2014 where he earned his joint officer qualification while filling multiple positions including executive officer to Deputy Director, Chief of Staff for Standard Missile-3 Block IIB missile Program Director, and Chief of the Navy Cell in Office of the Director for Warfighter Strategic Integration (DDW).

CDR Uzarski earned a Master of Science Degree in Computer Science and his Phase One Joint Professional Military Education (JPME Ph I) from Naval Postgraduate School in 2007. In 2012, CDR Uzarski attended Joint Forces Staff College where he earned his JPME Ph II certificate. Joel is Acquisition Corps Eligible as well as Level Three DAWIA certified in Program Management.

After attending Surface Warfare School Divisional Officer course in Newport, Rhode Island, CDR Uzarski served as Electrical and Operational Intelligence Officer on USS Fletcher (DD 992) while stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from 2001-2003. Afterwards he proceeded to Norfolk, Virginia to serve as Training Officer on USS McFaul (DDG 74) from 2003-2005. After graduating from Naval Post Graduate School, CDR Uzarski attended Surface Warfare School Department Head course in Newport, Rhode Island, and then served in Pearl Harbor again as Weapons and Combat Systems Officer on USS Lake Erie (CG 70) from 2008-2011 where he earned 2010 Surface Forces Junior Officer Award for Excellence in Tactics. While Combat Systems Officer, he led the department in installation as well as the successful at-sea testing and Navy's first live-fire demonstration using the BMD 4.0 combat system.

CDR Uzarski's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and two Naval and Marine Corps Achievement Medals as well as various campaign and unit awards. CDR Uzarski is married to [REDACTED], formally of [REDACTED]. Joel and [REDACTED] have two children, [REDACTED] age 11, and [REDACTED] age 6.

## CDR Kevin Ducharme Biography



Commander Ducharme enlisted as an Operations Specialist in 1990 serving in USS Hewitt (DD 966) in Yokosuka Japan, USS Kidd (DDG 993) in Norfolk, Virginia and with the Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet staff in Gaeta, Italy. Selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1998, he commissioned through the College of the Holy Cross NROTC program and graduated from Worcester State College in 2001.

His first tour of duty as an Ensign was in USS Anzio (CG 68) stationed in Norfolk, Virginia where he served as the First Lieutenant. In 2004, then Lieutenant Junior Grade Ducharme reported to Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO where he served as the staff Training and Readiness Officer.

From 2006-2007 he attended the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California and earned a Master's Degree in Security Studies and completed his Joint Professional Military Education from the Naval War College.

In 2008, then Lieutenant Ducharme reported as the Operations Officer in USS Ramage (DDG 61) the first ballistic missile defense ship on the east coast of the United States stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. In June 2010 he was selected for early Command at Sea of Patrol Coastal Crew JULIET. His crew was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Safety award in 2010, Golden Anchor award for retention in 2011 and the Battle "E" Efficiency award in 2011.

In 2011 he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and reported to Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia and was assigned a dual role as both the Aegis Combat System Materiel Readiness Officer and as the Ballistic Missile Defense Officer. In November 2012, he was selected by Admiral Michelle J. Howard, then Deputy Commander for U. S. Fleet Forces Command to be her Deputy Executive Assistant until July 2013. He was subsequently retained by Vice Admiral Nora Tyson until June 2014.

Commander Ducharme most recently served as an exchange officer with the Royal Australian Navy. He was posted within the Naval Technical Bureau Combat System Management Cell as the lead advisor for Aegis Weapon System integration with the SEA 4000 Air Warfare Destroyer and SEA 5000 Future Frigate projects.

Commander Ducharme reported as the Executive Officer in USS Gridley (DDG 101) homeported in Everett, Washington in April 2018. His personal awards include the Meritorious

Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3); Navy Achievement Medal (3) and various campaign, service, and unit awards

### **CMC Kassel Ndiaye Biography**



Command Master Chief Kassel K. Ndiaye joined the United States Navy in June 1997 and attended basic training at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois. Upon completion of basic training, he attended Basic Engineering Common Core School at Naval Station Great Lakes, Illinois.

His first sea tour assignment was at Assault Craft Unit-1 in Sasebo, Japan. In October 2000 he reported to USS Ardent (MCM 12) in Bahrain where he served as a Work Center Supervisor and proceeded to his next tour of duty at AS-39 SITE COMP in La Maddalena, Italy.

In 2004, he reported to Recruit Training Command as a Recruit Division Commander where he trained more than 600 recruits and received his Master Training Specialist qualification. After detaching from RTC in 2008, he was assigned to Forward Operating Base, Gardez, Afghanistan.

In 2010, he transferred to USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) and crew swapped to USS Germantown (LSD 42) in 2011. He then returned to RTC in February 2013, and trained more than 350 recruits and assumed duties as LCPO of Fire Fighting Training Division. In December 2015, he detached from RTC to report to COMLCSRON1 and was selected for the Command Master Chief program in 2016.

Master Chief Ndiaye reported for his current assignment as Command Master Chief of USS Gridley (DDG 101) in September 2016. He is a graduate of Excelsior College earning an Associate's Degree in Applied Science, the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 171) and the Command Master Chief Capstone Course (Class 157).

His personal decorations include Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal (five awards), and numerous unit and campaign awards

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