



United States Navy Biography

CDR Theresa L. Carpenter Chief Public Affairs Officer, Allied Maritime Command

CDR Theresa Carpenter, a native of Columbus, Ohio, enlisted in the Navy in 1996 as an Aviation Electrician's Mate (Aircrewman). Her first assignment in the Navy was to the Operational Maintenance Division at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland where she worked on electrical systems on the Navy P-3 Orion. In 2000, she reported to Sea Control Squadron (VS) 35, which deployed on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

In September 2003, CDR Carpenter was selected for the Seamen-to-Admiral 21 program and completed her Bachelors of Arts degree in Communication from Worcester State College, MA. She was commissioned in 2006 and reported to duty in Hawaii onboard USS RUSSELL (DDG 59) and earned her Surface Warfare Officer qualification.

CDR Carpenter then reported to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and was selected as a Navy Public Affairs Officer in May 2008. She served as fleet community relations director, coordinating multiple senior leader engagements and running the aircraft carrier distinguished visitor program, for which the command received the 2009 RADM Thompson-Ravitz award; a Navy award bestowed on programs which demonstrate public affairs excellence.

In April 2010, she reported to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). CDR Carpenter worked as a media officer during Japan's Operation Tomodachi, coordinating commander engagements and strategic communication efforts with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and component command public affairs. During this operation, CDR Carpenter created crisis communication messaging for response to an almost simultaneous humanitarian crisis, earthquake, nuclear reactor explosion and tsunami. During her assignment at INDOPACOM, she created the command's first integrated, proactive communication plan tying strategic messaging to media events and internal products.

In June 2013, CDR Carpenter assumed duties as the public affairs officer for the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, providing Navy strategic communication guidance for nearly 3,500 Marines and Sailors.

She graduated from San Diego State University in May 2016 with a Masters of Arts Degree in Mass Communication and Media Studies. In July 2016, she reported to USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) as the media department head and public affairs officer. While onboard, she deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and supported Exercise Malabar and the Three-Carrier Strike Force Exercise. This milestone tour culminated in her team winning 17 Navy and DOD communication awards. Starting July 2018, she served as first PAO for Commander, Carrier Strike Group 15 (CSG 15), building a foundation for a four-person media team, and she was the first integrated phase public affairs trainer for the OPTASK VI program. In September 2020, she assumed duties as an operational planner and public affairs officer for Joint Planning Support Element, where she provided ready, tailored, rapidly deployable joint planners and public affairs professionals with expertise to increase the effectiveness of a joint force headquarters during emerging operations. This included a tour to headquarters, European Command (EUCOM) where she was instrumental in planning and executing the strategy for the U.S. military's response to the unprovoked attack in Ukraine. In August, 2022, she reported to NATO's Allied Maritime Command as the chief public affairs officer.

CDR Carpenter's personal awards include one Joint Meritorious Service Medal, two Joint Commendation Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, one Joint Achievement Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and numerous campaign medals. She is a graduate of the Naval War College, with a Masters of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, specializing in Information Operations. Additionally, she is a fully qualified joint officer with an accreditation in public relations (with a military emphasis) from the Public Relations Society of America.

