



NICOLE Y. UCHIDA
UNITED STATES NAVY VETERAN
SPEECHWRITER TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY

Nicole Uchida is a native of Whittier, California. She commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer from the United States Naval Academy in 2012, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in English with a minor in Japanese Language.

From 2012 to 2015, she served on USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106) as Communications Officer, Information Systems Officer, and EKMS Manager. While on STOCKDALE, she completed a 10 month deployment to the Fifth and Seventh Fleets. In May 2015, she reported to Commander, Destroyer Squadron SEVEN in Singapore and served as Assistant Operations Officer,

planning and executing theater security cooperation exercises with 10 Southeast Asian nations and providing command and control of forward-deployed ships in the Seventh Fleet.

In 2016, Nicole was selected for the Graduate Education Plus Teaching (GE+T) program and earned a Master of Arts degree in English from Georgetown University in 2017. Her thesis focused on the literature of war and trauma and the act of writing as therapy for those suffering from post-traumatic stress and moral injury. Upon graduation from Georgetown, she returned to the United States Naval Academy as an English instructor, teaching Rhetoric and Composition, Literature of War, and Creative Writing.

Nicole reported to USS SAN JACINTO (CG 56) in August 2020 and served as Weapons Officer. In November 2021, she completed a national tasking deployment to the AFRICOM area of responsibility, and in December 2021, deployed to the Sixth Fleet with the HARRY S. TRUMAN Carrier Strike Group. In January 2022, she reported to USS DECATUR (DDG 73) and served as Combat Systems Officer. In December 2022, she deployed to the Seventh Fleet and planned and led Ballistic Missile Defense tasking for the NIMITZ Carrier Strike Group.

In August 2023, Nicole separated from the Navy and currently serves as Speechwriter to the 78th Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro.

Her personal awards include four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. In 2022, she received the Commander, Naval Surface Forces Junior Officer Award for Excellence in Tactics. Her family includes her partner, Ben Elzner, a retired Surface Warfare Officer who works as an instructor and analyst at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center in Fallon, Nevada; her parents, Hiro and Yoko, retired professionals who reside in Southern California; and her older brother Tim, a Surface Warfare Officer, and sister-in-law Kortney, a speech therapist, who are currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan.