

DESMOND K. WALKER

Desmond K. Walker, is a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the United States Navy, stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He currently serves on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as the Navy Liaison Officer to the Commandant of the Marine Corps Strategic Initiatives Group, an active duty strategic think tank.

LCDR Walker is a native of Hollandale, Mississippi. He graduated from the Mississippi School of Math and Science in 1996 and enlisted in the United States Navy. After serving nearly 9 years as an enlisted sailor, he was selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral 21 Program and commissioned as a naval officer in 2005. A nuclear-trained Surface Warfare Officer, LCDR Walker served on multiple naval ships and worked to advance the mission and spirit of Surface Warfare in the execution of his duties as a division officer and department head. His thoughts on the Surface Warfare Officer community have been published in *Proceedings Today* online magazine, the flagship publication of the U.S. Naval Institute.

LCDR Walker exemplifies the ideal image of a mentor. He has an established record of consistent mentorship over a number of years. He has contributed to the support and development of mentoring programs within the Navy and the community. In 2017, LCDR Walker received the National Naval Officers Association's (NNOA) Capt. Sallee P. Kafer Mentoring Award for several years of mentoring high school and college students that have interests in serving in the military, along with midshipmen and junior officers currently serving across the Navy and Marine Corps. In 2018, he received NNOA's Dorie Miller Award for mentorship and advocacy of African American Surface Nuclear Officers and sustained mentorship of Midshipmen at Norfolk State University's NROTC.

LCDR Walker earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electronics Technology from Norfolk State University in 2005; a Master of Engineering Management from Old Dominion University in 2012; and Joint Professional Military Education Phase I from Naval War College in 2015 through off-duty educational opportunities.

