

Commander Ritchie Taylor United States Navy

A native of Albany, Georgia, Commander Ritchie Taylor enlisted in the United States Navy in July 1986. Upon completion of Basic Training and Nuclear Field "A" School, he attended Basic Enlisted Submarine School in Groton, Conn. After completing submarine school, Cmdr. Taylor reported onboard the attack submarine USS *Billfish* (SSN 676) in January 1988. During this tour he qualified in submarines and was selected as Sailor of the Year for 1991.

Following his tour on *Billfish*, Cmdr. Taylor reported to Naval Submarine Support Facility in Groton, Conn. There he served as the liaison between submarine commands and contracted shipyards for submarine Depot Modernization Periods from June 1992 until June 1995.

Upon returning back to sea duty, Cmdr. Taylor reported onboard the attack submarine USS *Pasadena* (SSN 752) and in 1997 was the ship's Sailor of the Year. He was advanced to Chief Petty Officer in 1998, and one year later, was selected for a commission as an Ensign under the Limited Duty Officer Program. Cmdr. Taylor served as a Machinist's Mate for thirteen years before earning a commission as a Limited Duty Officer.

After receiving his commission in 1999, he attended Limited Duty Officer/Chief Warrant Officer School in Pensacola, Fla. with follow-on orders to the submarine repair tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) homeported in Guam. During this tour he completed numerous fleet exercises supporting forward-deployed submarines.

Upon completion of this tour and returning stateside, Cmdr. Taylor was assigned to the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Conn. from May 2002 until June 2005. There he served as the Electronics Division Officer until his selection as the Engineering Department Head in 2003.

Transferring to the west coast, Cmdr. Taylor reported aboard Submarine Development Squadron FIVE, in Silverdale, Wash. From June 2005 until May 2008, he was the Quality Assurance Officer responsible for the oversight of quality maintenance practices for all *Seawolf*-class attack submarines, Deep Submergence Rescue efforts, and other various detachments involved in undersea research and development.

He then reported back to USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) in July 2008 and served as Chief Engineer. During his tour, his department received the Engineering Excellence Award and the Red Damage Control Award for two consecutive years, a recognition not accomplished in the ship's recent history.

In August 2010, Cmdr. Taylor once again transferred back stateside and relieved as Officer in Charge for Detachment SIERRA. In 2011, he then relieved as the Special Projects Department Head on the Submarine Development Squadron FIVE staff. He was then selected as Deputy for Undersea Research in May 2012, where he served until October 2014.

Returning back to the east coast in December 2014, Cmdr. Taylor reported to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine and assumed the duties and title as Deputy Commander, Base Operations.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Summa Cum Laude and he holds a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Brandman University.

His service awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards), and various other campaign medals and ribbons.