

CAPTAIN
PETER K. NILSEN
COMMANDING OFFICER

A native of McAlester, Oklahoma, CAPT Pete Nilsen enlisted in the Navy in 1984. Upon completion of Operations Specialist "A" School, he served aboard USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41). In 1990, while assigned as an Instructor at Operations Specialist "A" School he was selected as Commander, Training Atlantic Instructor of the Year and Fleet Combat Training Center Atlantic Sailor of the Year. CAPT Nilsen was advanced to Operations Specialist Chief Petty Officer in 1992 and commissioned through the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program in 1994.



CAPT Nilsen's sea duty assignments include USS CARNEY (DDG 64) as her first Operations Tech LDO and Combat Information Officer in USS ESSEX (LHD-2) in Sasebo, Japan. Following his selection for Unrestricted Line Officer in 2003, Captain Nilsen served as Operations Officer in both USS MITSCHER (DDG 57) and USS MONTEREY (CG 61). He served as Executive Officer in USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59) from June 2008 to September 2010. Most recently CAPT Nilsen was the Executive Officer and then Commanding Officer of USS COLE (DDG 67) from April 2011 to July 2013. During this tour, COLE completed an extended Ballistic Missile Defense deployment to 6th Fleet in support of Operations Atlantic Sentry and Sharp Sentry.

Ashore, Captain Nilsen served as the Assistant Officer in Charge of AEGIS Training and Readiness Detachment Center, Norfolk, responsible for the tactical training of all Pre-Commissioning DDG-51 Class ships in Bath, Maine and Pascagoula, Mississippi. He served on the staff of Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic as Deputy for Operations and Plans (N3) and Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Training and IAMD WTI at Navy Air and Missile Defense Command (NAMDC). Additionally, he served as Chief of Staff for Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO embarked onboard GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77).

Captain Nilsen graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1990 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and from Troy University in 2007 earning a Master of Science degree in Management. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Navy Commendation Medal (six awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), Good Conduct Medal (two awards) and various other unit and campaign awards.