

COMMANDER ABIGAIL SUSAN HOWELL**UNITED STATES NAVY**

Commander Howell was born 1 July 1955 in Portland, OR. A graduate of Nazareth College of Rochester, she earned her BA in Theater Arts/Secondary English and taught high school prior to joining the Navy. Commander Howell was commissioned via Officer Candidate School. In 1980, she graduated from Communications Officer Ashore School and reported to Naval Communications Area Master Station, Guam as the Assistant Satellite Communications Division Officer and later as the Receiver Site Division Officer through August 1981.

Upon completion of Navy Drug and Alcohol Counselor School and Counseling and Assistance Center (CAAC) Director Course, she reported to Human Resource Management Detachment, Rota, Spain as the CAAC Director and served in that capacity from January 1982 to January 1984. Her next assignment was as Officer in Charge, Naval Telecommunications Center (NTCC) Ward Circle, collocated with Commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command. During her tour, NTCC Ward Circle posted the highest Operational Readiness Evaluation score for any NTCC in the COMNAVCOMTELCOM claimancy during CY85 and aced the Inspector General Inspection in CY86.

Commander Howell's next assignment was as the Current Intelligence Officer for Commander in Chief, Iberian Forces Atlantic (CINCIBERLANT) located in Oeiras, Portugal from August 1987 to June 1989. Selected for attendance at Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, she earned her Master of Arts degree in Strategic Planning/International Organizations and Negotiation in December 1990.

In February 1991, she reported to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Puget Sound as the Executive Officer, until May 1993. Dual-hatted as the Safety Officer, NCTS Puget Sound aced the Navy Occupational Safety and Health Inspection and achieved the highest score of any PACNORWEST command during CY92. Her follow-on tour was on the staff of Commander, Iceland Defense Force in Keflavik, Iceland, where she served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel and Administration from June 1993 through April 1995. Additionally, she was the staff representative at the weekly U. S. Embassy's country team meetings.

Commander Howell reported to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, San Diego, as Western Region Executive Officer with XO, NCTS Puget Sound; XO, Naval Communications Station, Stockton; OIC, NTCC North Island; OIC, NTCC San Diego; and OIC, Naval Strategic Communications Unit, Oklahoma City reporting to her. She served in this capacity from June 1995 through June 1998. Due to manpower reductions, she was dual-hatted and served as Head, Base Communications Department for eight months.

In September 1998, she reported on board USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) as the Combat Systems Officer. During this tour, she participated in OPERATIONS DESERT FOX and SOUTHERN WATCH. During her tenure, the Combat Systems Department earned consecutive Green "CS" awards for Combat Systems Excellence. Her present assignment is Executive Officer, U. S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

Commander Howell is authorized to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with gold star), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. She is a proven sub-specialist in Information Systems Technical Management (0089R), Joint Intelligence (0016S), and Political-Military Planning (0028P).