

**MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1st CLASS
(SURFACE WARFARE/AIR WARFARE)
NATHAN LAIRD
UNITED STATES NAVY**

Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Nathan Laird is a native of Ocean City, Md. He joined the Navy in January of 2005 and attended Photographer's Mate (PH) "A" school at the Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Ft. George G. Meade, Md.

His first duty assignment was aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in Norfolk, Va. He completed two deployments to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations and transitioned to his current rating of Mass Communication Specialist while stationed there from September 2005 - January 2010.

Following this tour, he took orders to Maritime Patrol Squadron (VP) Four in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. While stationed there, he was chosen for an Individual Augmentee (IA) deployment to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Public Affairs at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti from May 2010 - January 2011. During this deployment, he was sent on assignment to Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya to document CJTF-HOA's missions in the region.

In February 2012, he applied and was selected for the 2012/2013 Military Photojournalism Program at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. He is currently the Features Leading Petty Officer for All Hands Magazine at Defense Media Activity, Fort George G. Meade, Md.

Laird's personal awards include the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Insignia and Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia.