

Navy League of the U.S. | Imperial Valley Council September 2019 Speaker Biography

CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST CARLA R. BURDT

Public Affairs Officer

Navy Recruiting District San Diego

Chief Mass Communication Specialist Carla Burdt was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She entered the Navy June 1999. Upon completing basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, she attended seaman apprenticeship training.

In September 1999, she reported to her first command, USS Nimitz (CVN 68), in Newport News, Virginia, undergoing Refueling Complex Overhaul (RCOH). Aboard Nimitz she was advanced to Operations Specialist Third Class and Operations Specialist Second Class and deployed for 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Burdt was selected for conversion to Journalist (JO), and in October 2003, she reported to Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Maryland, for Journalist "A" School. She was recognized as Distinguished Honor Graduate of her Basic Public Affairs - Writing and Basic Public Affairs – Broadcasting Course.

In July 2004, she reported to Naval Media Center Bahrain. While assigned to NMC Bahrain, Chief Burdt provided media coverage of the tsunami in Indonesia and Thailand and provided vital coverage of U.S. humanitarian relief efforts in the area.

In November 2005, she reported to Fleet Public Affairs Center Norfolk, where she deployed for nine months aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this deployment she earned her Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist designator.

In December 2007, Chief Burdt was selected for staff duty at NATO's Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia. While assigned to NATO, she was recognized as NATO's Military Member of the Year and served as ambassador for the Norfolk International Azalea Festival.

Following her tour at NATO, Chief Burdt participated in the Navy's Career Intermission Program.

In January 2014, Chief Burdt reported to Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West, in San Diego, California, where she deployed as Task Force Forager Deputy Public Affairs Officer aboard USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3) in support of Pacific Partnership 2015. She was selected for advancement to Chief Petty Officer in August 2017.

Chief Burdt's academic achievements include a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from the University of Maryland, a bachelor's degree in Art Education from Liberty University, a certificate in Women's Leadership Studies from Cornell University; and a master's degree in Professional Writing from Liberty University.

Chief Burdt's awards include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (four awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Battle E, Good Conduct Medal (four awards), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the Navy/Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon.

