

# Surface Warfare

OCTOBER 2022

DIGITAL FEATURE



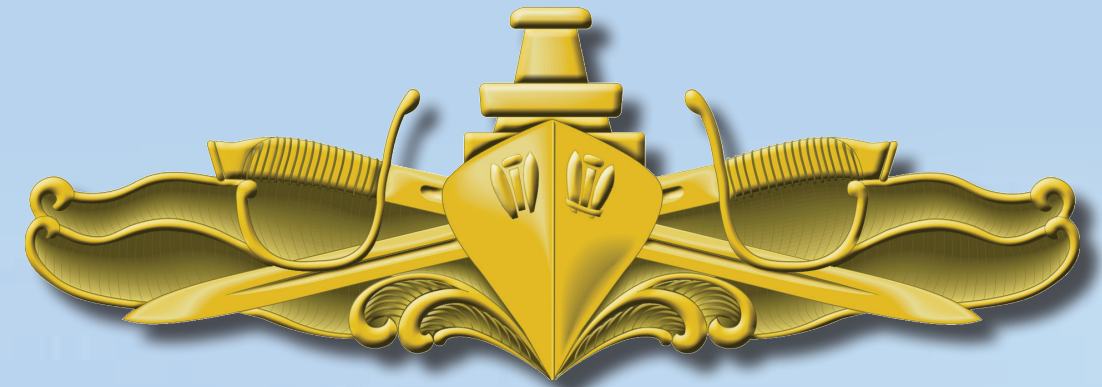
## Surface Warfare Officers of the Year

Story By  
Commander, Naval Surface Force,  
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs



Photo by U.S. Navy





Surface warfare officers (SWOs) have one of the most distinguished, time-honored roles in the Navy. They are tactical warfighters, skilled ship drivers, and are among the most highly trained mariners in the world. From combat systems to navigation, shipboard engineering, and damage control, SWOs are the Navy's subject matter experts for anything and everything Surface Warfare.

Although SWOs are already a part of the most prestigious Navy community, two individuals stand out each year. These surface warfare officers are selected from the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets and honored with an esteemed award: the SWOs of the Year. This year's winners are Lt. Cmdr. Matt Intoccia (Atlantic) and Lt. Cmdr. Corey Campos (Pacific).





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TO REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY IN THIS WAY  
INSPIRES ME TO BE BETTER THAN I AM.

Intoccia was selected as SWO of the Year for Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet while assigned to the Cyclone-class patrol coastal ship USS Tempest (PC 2). Intoccia currently serves as the combatant modernization resource officer at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (N96). “I’m incredibly humbled by my selection,” said Intoccia. “There are so many deserving officers in the fleet – to be considered by Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic to be among the best in our community is such an honor. And to represent the community in this way inspires me to be better than I am – I will do my best to live up to this honor.”





Tempest was decommissioned in Bahrain on March 7, 2022 after 29 years of service. The ship was the oldest serving patrol ship in the U.S. Navy. In its last year of service, Tempest partnered with USS Typhoon (PC 5) and with their embarked U.S. Coast Guard team, they conducted multiple interdictions with a high seizure yield. Intoccia attributes his success to his family, including his wife and their son. "My wife has selflessly

sacrificed so much, including her own career ambitions, to take care of our family while we move around the world, serving our country," said Intoccia. "She is my shining example of servant leadership and I am lucky to have her in my life. I am a better naval officer and a better man because of her. And my son is a kind and generous young man, who also knows the worth of sacrifice for service to country. I am proud of who he is becoming and he challenges me to be better every day."

He also thanked his commodores – Capt. Jeff Baker and Capt. Rob Francis who enabled him to execute mission command and gave clear direction. Intoccia said he will carry their lessons with him for life and that he's eternally grateful for their confidence and wisdom. Last, Intoccia thanked the crew of Tempest. "They are particularly special to me since they served alongside me as I learned how to

be a commanding officer," said Intoccia. "They treated each other with dignity and respect in all things. They were passionate and professionally curious. And I attribute our own mission accomplishment to their 'extra-mile' commitment to protecting our national interests and regional stability in U.S. 5th Fleet. I'm honored to call myself their captain and whatever success I saw in command was because of them."



*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class Mark Thomas Mahmood*



*Photo by U.S. Navy*



*Photo by Sgt. Brandon Franklin  
U.S. Army*



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**BOTH OF MY PARENTS WERE IN THE NAVY,  
WHICH PROVIDED ME WITH PERSPECTIVE AND  
APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE.**

Campos was selected as SWO of the Year for Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet while assigned to Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59), where she currently serves as combat systems officer.

Campos attributes her success to her upbringing and experiences. “Both of my parents were in the Navy, which provided me with perspective and appreciation for service,” said Campos. “They have been my number one supporters. Since joining the Navy, I have been lucky enough to work for and be surrounded by some pretty amazing people, who both encouraged and challenged me.”



*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Melvin Fatimehin*



During 2021, Princeton completed an 11-month deployment to U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet, participated in sustainment operations in April, and executed a seven-month Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) at NASCO Ship Yards.

As department head, Campos was thankful for the true sense of family, fighting spirit, and the grit of the Princeton crew. She said it is inspiring to work amongst the country's "finest Sailors."

"I also wouldn't be able to do what I do without the drive and support of my husband," she said. "Our alternating deployment schedules have been challenging, but I wouldn't embark on this journey with anyone else."

Campos said this award is humbling and she is honored to be recognized among the naval officers she serves with. She believes her award is a reflection of those who have mentored her and dedicated time towards her development as a leader and surface warrior. Campos reflected on her first division officer tour as an ensign, which she says was arguably one of her most formative tours, where she was surrounded by leaders who invested in her, including Capt. Dan Uhls (ret.), Cmdr. Dan Hancock, and Chief Boatswains Mate Gabriel Alvizo.

"Fast forward, I can only hope to make the same impact on future generations of surface warfare officers," said Campos.




*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Melvin Fatimehin*



*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Melvin Fatimehin*

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Devin Wray*



A woman in a dark blue naval uniform, identified as Lt. Cmdr. Corey Campos, is shown from the chest up. She is looking towards the left, where the back of a man's head is visible. The background is a ship's control room with various panels and labels, including "NOR", "CO", and "COMBAT SYST".

## Advice for the future generation of SWOs:

Lt. Cmdr. Corey Campos

- ▶ Ask the hard questions.
- ▶ Lean in and uphold the standard.
- ▶ Be sure to take care of yourself and your Sailors. Lead by example in investing in your well-being; whether that's working out, reading, or just taking 30 minutes to recharge. The more even-keeled you are, the more effective leader and warfighter you will become.

*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist  
2nd Class Melvin Fatimehin*

Two men in dark blue naval uniforms are standing on a ship's deck. The man on the right, Lt. Cmdr. Matt Intoccia, has his arm around the shoulder of the man on the left. Both are smiling and making a "rock on" hand gesture. The background shows the ocean and a sunset sky.

Lt. Cmdr. Matt Intoccia

- ▶ Build rapport through genuine love.
- ▶ Try to understand each Sailors' "why" and, likewise, tell them your "why."
- ▶ Be transparent with your communication.
- ▶ Trust your team.
- ▶ Be consistent and frequent when discussing your commander's intent.
- ▶ Know when to get out of the way and let your team achieve excellence.

*Photo by U.S. Navy*