



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5) GOLD
UNIT 100357 BOX 401
FPO AP 96693

March 2026

From: Commanding Officer, USS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5) GOLD
To: Prospective Shipmates and Friends of the MIGUEL KEITH
Subj: WELCOME ABOARD!

Congratulations on your orders to USS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5) GOLD! As Commanding Officer, let me be the first to welcome you to our ship. **You are joining a team that represents the fighting spirit of Medal of Honor Recipient, Lance Corporal Miguel Keith.** I am certain you will find your upcoming tour to be both professionally challenging and personally rewarding.

Our ship is unique in that we are a **hybrid crew of Civilian Mariners and U.S. Navy Sailors.** Civilian or military, we are ONE team and work together to accomplish the ship's missions as a forward-deployed expeditionary sea base. You will play a big role in our future successes.

My expectation is that you will uphold the highest standards of our profession, letting our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment be your guide. As United States Navy Sailors, we have been entrusted by the American people to defend this nation, maintain the world's sea lines of commerce, and provide humanitarian assistance at home and abroad when called upon. Whether in or out of uniform, you are and will always be a United States Navy Sailor, and that is something to be proud of.

As much as I expect of you, you should expect the same of me. From the ship's most senior officer to the most junior enlisted Sailor, we all play a critical role. **Our command culture is built on a foundation of respect, trust, integrity, and open communication both up and down the chain-of-command.** Our goal is to ensure our leadership team provides you with the mentorship you deserve from day one. I encourage your feedback for ways to improve and expect your immediate and confident intervention should you see anything unsafe. One team, one fight!

To assist in making your transfer as smooth as possible, a sponsor will be assigned to you. Your sponsor will contact you to help answer any questions you may have. If we can be of any assistance during this transition period, please do not hesitate to contact the Command Sponsor Coordinator.

For questions about the San Diego area or your transfer:
Command Sponsor Coordinator: esb5_sponsor_coordinator@us.navy.mil

For leadership-related inquiries:
Command Senior Enlisted Leader: esb5_gold_cmc@us.navy.mil

For family and personal support:
Command Ombudsman: esb5gold.ombudsman@gmail.com

Again, welcome aboard! I am very pleased that you are joining our team and look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, reading "Damon R. Loveless", is written over the typed name and title.

Captain Damon Loveless
Commanding Officer
USS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5) GOLD