Biography for CAPT Ben McNeal, USN

A native of Jackson, MS, Captain Ben McNeal is a graduate of Southern University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science in 1991. He was commissioned an Ensign through the NROTC Scholarship Program. After commissioning, he immediately reported for duty aboard *USS KALAMAZOO* (AOR 6) in Norfolk, Va., as the Electrical Officer, Electronics Material Officer, and Fire Control Officer. It was during this tour that he was designated a Surface Warfare Officer and additionally earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Troy State University.

Captain McNeal attended the Naval Postgraduate School from 1995 to 1997, earning a Master of Science degree in Applied Physics. While at the Naval Postgraduate School, he was selected for lateral transfer to the Engineering Duty Officer Community. Upon completion of the Engineering Duty Officer School in February of 1998, he reported to Norfolk Naval Shipyard, as CVN Asst. Project Superintendent, LHA/LHD AIT Coordinator, and Integrated Logistics Division Head. In August 2001, he reported aboard *USS WASP* (LHD-1), homeported in Norfolk, Va., as the Command, Control, Communication, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) and Combat Systems Officer. During his time on *WASP,* he made a post-9/11 Fifth Fleet deployment as part of the first Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) and fully IT-21 enabled Strike Group. Following his tour on *WASP*, Captain McNeal reported to the Installations and Logistics Directorate (Code 04F) of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) as the Pacific Fleet Afloat C4ISR Installations and Strike Group Manager. During his time there he played a major role in developing the processes for alignment of the SPAWAR afloat modernization process with the newly implemented SHIPMAIN processes. In July 2005, he reported to SPAWAR Systems Facility, Yokosuka, Japan as Officer-in-Charge with additional duties to NAVSEA 05 as Captain 7th Fleet's C5I Strike Force Interoperability Officer (SFIO).

In February of 2008, CAPT McNeal was assigned to the Department of the Navy's (DON) PEO for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) where he served as the Chief Engineer for the DON's Next Generation Enterprise Network (NGEN). CAPT McNeal is presently assigned to PEO C4I as the Program Manager for the Tactial Networks Program Management Office, PMW-160; where he is responsible for designing, testing, acquiring, fielding and supporting the next generation of afloat networks which meet the requirements for fulfilling the Navy's Information Dominance vision.

CAPT McNeal's personal awards include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with three Gold Stars, Navy Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, and the Navy Achievement Medal with two Gold Stars.