



# United States Navy Biography

## **CMDCM(EXW/SW) Clayton L. Alek-Finkelman** **Navy Expeditionary Warfighting Development Center** **Command Senior Enlisted Leader**

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Command Master Chief (CMDCM) Alek-Finkelman is a native of East Meadow, New York. Prior to enlisting in the Navy he served two years in the East Meadow Fire Department and was a first responder to the World Trade Center on 9/11. Additionally, he received a unit citation from the Nassau County Fire Commission for courage, bravery and teamwork in July 2002.

CMDCM Alek-Finkelman entered the Navy in May 2002 and completed basic training at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois. After attending Gunner's Mate "A" School where he was honored as the Distinguished Military Graduate, he attended Vertical Launch System "C" School in Dam Neck, Virginia. In May 2003 he received orders to USS ANTIETAM (CG-54), homeported in San Diego. During three deployments he served as Leading Petty Officer and Work Center Supervisor of Combat Missiles Division, and qualified

Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. Additionally, he served on the Combat Systems Training Team, Force Protection Training Team, and as Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) Assistant Boarding Officer, conducting over 200 boardings and approaches in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In April 2007, he attended Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor training in San Diego, and graduated the course as "Top Gun". His follow-on assignment was Riverine Squadron THREE in Yorktown, VA. After arriving he attended the United States Marine Corps School of Infantry, Common Skills and Machine Gunners Course in Camp Geiger, NC followed by the Riverine Combat Element Course in Chesapeake, VA. Prior to deployment he attended the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers Course (JTAC) in Fallon, NV. During deployments to Al Anbar, Basra, and Maysan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom he served as Riverine Combat Element Patrol Leader, and accumulated 100s of hours of control time with fixed and rotary wing aircraft. He also qualified as an Expeditionary Warfare Specialist and earned the Small Craft Insignia.

Additionally, he was recognized with the Gamewardens of Vietnam Leadership Excellence Award and awarded the Black Beret in 2009.

In August 2010 he reported to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he served as the 5th Company Senior Enlisted Leader and 1st Battalion Leading Chief Petty Officer (LCPO) overseeing the moral, mental, and physical development of over 750 Midshipman.

In June 2013 he attended Senior Enlisted Academy class #174 graduating on the Dean's List. He then attended Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Armorers Course in Crane, IN in preparation for his assignment as the LCPO, Weapons Department, at Special Boat Team TWENTY. He completed one deployment to the CENTCOM Crisis Response Element as the J3A Operations Chief and qualified as JTAC-Instructor through Expeditionary Warfare Training Group-Atlantic.

In February 2017 he was selected for the Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) Program and graduated from CMC/COB Course in December 2017. In April 2018 he reported to Naval Support Facility Redzikowo, Poland working closely with Aegis Ashore Poland and the Polish Force Protection Battalion to establish the Navy's newest installation.

He successfully completed CSEL assignments aboard USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79) from April 2019 to November 2021, leading a crew of 300 Sailors through one of the most complex shipyard availabilities and upgrades of a Flight II DDG-51 Class Destroyer to date, before reporting to Maritime Expeditionary Security Group TWO from December 2021 to December 2024. There he led and mentored a force of over 3,000 Sailors and Civilians deployed to every Geographic Combatant Command. He reported to Navy Expeditionary Warfare Development Center in April 2025.

Master Chief Alek-Finkelman holds an Associate's Degree in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College. His personal awards include: Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), Good Conduct

Medal (7), Expert Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship Medals, and numerous campaign and unit



awards.