

## **Command Master Chief (EAWS / ESWS)**

**Kenneth Smart**

### **Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division**



Master Chief Kenneth Smart was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and raised in Lakeside, California. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in April 1997 and completed Basic Training at Naval Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois. He then reported to the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Pensacola, Florida, where he graduated from Aviation Structural Mechanic “A” school.

Smart served onboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as a rated Aviation Aircraft Mechanic Hydraulics from October 1997 to June 2001, where he quickly qualified as an F/A-18 Servo-cylinder Test Station technician performing intermediate repair of F/A-18 components. He supported a homeport change to Japan in 1998, participated in two deployments and earned both his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist warfare pins.

His other fleet assignments include the “Stingers” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 113, the “Golden Dragons” of VFA-192, and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 as the Air Wing Flight Deck Coordinator, embarked onboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).

Smart completed shore assignments with Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department at Naval Air Station North Island, California, and with the “Dust Devils” of Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 31 in China Lake, California, where he assumed the duties as a Contract Oversight Representative qualifying Safe for Flight in support of 20 uniquely configured test and evaluation F/A-18A-G aircraft and transitioned the EA-18G from the Advanced Weapons Laboratory to contractor maintenance.

Smart’s transition into the Command Senior Chief Program began when he was hand-picked to establish the pre-detachment squadron “Grim Reapers” of VFA-101 to prepare Naval Air Station Lemoore for the arrival of the Navy’s 5th Generation fighter. He was selected as the Command Senior Chief and was instrumental in reactivating VFA-125, which is the first west-coast based Fleet Replacement Squadron for the F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter.

He was promoted to Master Chief in 2019 and was selected for his post-tour CMC command at the “Stingers” of VFA-113. He joined Fleet Readiness Center West in March 2021, and in April 2023, he became the Command Master Chief of Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division.

Smart is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 207, Orange), and the CMC/COB Course (Class 188) at the Command Leadership schools in Newport, Rhode Island.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (eight awards), and various unit and campaign awards.