

From Cadet to Tactical Action Officer

By Mitzi Palmer

After rescuing Capt. Richard Phillips, the USS Bainbridge towed the lifeboat where he had been held hostage so it could be processed for evidence.



Photos courtesy of U.S. Navy

US. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jason Kipp joined CAP's Honolulu Cadet Squadron in Hawaii while in ninth grade.

"I was attracted to the education and developmental opportunities," said Kipp, "combined with the real-world aviation and SAR experiences I knew I would have in the program."

After transferring to St. Mary's Composite Squadron in Maryland just one year later, Kipp continued progressing through the CAP cadet program. Throughout the remainder of high school, he took full advantage of the program's benefits, like cadet orientation flights, summer encampments and numerous search and rescue missions.

Following in his father's footsteps, Kipp joined the Navy after graduating from high school. His service on the Bainbridge began in 2006, and he is currently deployed with the Eisenhower Strike Group as a tactical action officer.

Kipp attributes to CAP many of the life skills he now carries with him in the Navy.

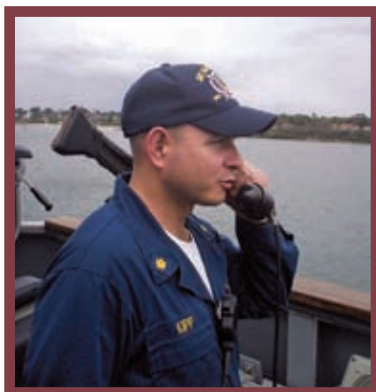
"Dedication, discipline, integrity and a sense of duty

were all instilled in me as a young CAP cadet," he commented. "It is this foundation that has driven me to climb the ladder from an enlisted sailor to an officer."

Kipp has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in systems engineering. He enlisted in the Navy as an electronics technician in 1992. Following boot camp, he completed the nuclear propulsion training pipeline and qualified as a reactor operator before he was selected for an ROTC scholarship. In addition to his involvement on the Bainbridge, Kipp's sea tours have included serving as strike officer on the USS Paul F. Foster and combat information center officer on the USS Portland.

Ashore, Kipp has served as frigate modernization manager and strike group interoperability officer in the Fleet Support Office of Program Executive Office-Ships (PEO Ships). While he was assigned to PEO Ships, he once again worked with CAP Col. Lawrence L. Trick, this time on ScanEagle requirements for shipboard operations. They later worked together on the Bainbridge's ScanEagle installation.

Kipp's military decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various other unit and expeditionary awards. ▲



Shown here on the USS Bainbridge, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jason Kipp is one of four tactical action officers on the ship.