

SUBJ: CAPTAIN JOSEPH ROCHEFORT INFORMATION WARFARE OFFICER DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

Captain Joseph John Rochefort was a major figure in the U.S. Navy's development of cryptologic and intelligence capabilities from 1925 to 1947. He headed the U.S. Navy's fledgling cryptanalytic organization in the 1920's and provided singularly superb cryptologic support to the U.S. fleet during World War II, leading to victory in the Pacific War. At the end of his career (1942-1946), CAPT Rochefort successfully headed the Pacific Strategic Intelligence Group in Washington. In 1986, he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his contribution during the Battle of Midway.

Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and U.S. TENTH Fleet is pleased to announce the selection of Lieutenant Commander Stephen Cortez of Carrier Strike Group FIVE as the 2021 Captain Joseph Rochefort Information Warfare Officer Distinguished Leadership Award winner. According to the nomination, Lieutenant Commander Cortez continually distinguished himself by demonstrating unmatched cryptologic skills, dedicated performance, and sterling leadership throughout his career. Starting as an enlisted Cryptologic Technician Technical, Lieutenant Commander Cortez served in Airborne Special Projects, accumulating over 1700 flight hours, at sea on board USS CAPE ST GEORGE, as an intern in the prestigious Military Electronic Intelligence Signals Analysis Program, and at the Office of Naval Intelligence. Upon commissioning, his pattern of impeccable service continued, with tours as an EP-3E Special Evaluator where he accumulated an additional 1750 flight hours, as Squadron Operations Officer and Troop Commander with Navy Special Warfare Development Group, and as the Cryptologic Warfare Community Limited Duty Officer, Chief Warrant Officer, Cyber Warfare Engineer, and New Accession Detailer. Currently serving as the Carrier Strike Group FIVE Cryptologic Resource Coordinator, he is driving afloat cryptologic operations in the Great Power Competition.

I would also like to acknowledge the other candidates this year for their significant leadership contributions to the IW mission.

- LCDR Andrew J. Adams, Navy Information Operations Command (NAVIOCOM) Georgia
- LCDR Gerie W. Palanca, NAVIOCOM Colorado
- LCDR Stephanie R. Pendino, Commander, U.S. THIRD Fleet
- CWO4 Felix M. Dealba, NAVIOCOM Hawaii

Special thanks to the officers who provided peer nominations for this year's consideration.

As part of his selection, LCDR Cortez will also be recognized by the U.S. Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association for his distinct accomplishments in the very near future.

Congratulations and well done!

VADM R. A. Myers, USN

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