

CDR Sylvia “Michelle” Layne, USN
Deputy N6/Knowledge Manager
Commander, Carrier Strike Group Eight



Commander Layne hails from Birmingham, Alabama. She enlisted in the Navy in 1991 as a Yeoman. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Computer Information Systems from Savannah State University in 1998. She was commissioned through the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP) that same year. She earned a Master of Science Degree in Information Technology Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2006. Layne is also a graduate of the Naval War College, Surface Warfare Officer's School and the Advanced Executive Officer Leadership School.

From August 1999 to August 2001, she served aboard the *USS WASP (LHD-1)* where she obtained her Surface Warfare Officer designation as an Ensign. In September 2001, she reported to the mighty warship *USS DEYO (DD-989)*. There she served as the Auxiliaries Officer and Main Propulsion Officer earning her Engineering Officer of the Watch qualification. In February 2003, she reported to Fleet Area Control Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) Oceana NAS as the Operations Intelligence Division Officer/Information Systems Security Manager.

In May 2003, Layne was selected to laterally transfer into the Information Professional community. Her immediate follow-on tour was at the Naval Postgraduate School. In April 2006, she reported to Naval Network Warfare Command, N3 Operations Directorate. She served as the Network Operations Operational Analysis and Assessments Branch Head where she led the Navy's Enhanced Compliance Validation Visits Program. In November 2008, she reported to Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic as the Deputy C5I Assistant Chief of Staff and Flag Communications Officer. Here she trained, mentored and assessed numerous Carrier Strike Groups and Amphibious Readiness Groups in all aspects of C5I. This tour allowed her to effect change in communications on every big deck and unit level ship she came in contact with delivering ships to COMSIXTHFLT and COMFIFTHFLT theaters ready to support combat missions and maritime operations. She earned her Information Dominance Warfare Officer designation during this tour as well.

In January 2011, she reported to the U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NAVCOMTELSTA) Bahrain as the Executive Officer. Under her leadership, the command received the Green "C" Award for communications excellence, 2011 Golden Anchor Award (2nd consecutive) and the 2011 NCTAMS LANT Outstanding Support to Customers (OSCAR) (5th consecutive). In May 2012, she reported to U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. Tenth Fleet as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commander where she served in that position for eight months under two Rear Admirals. In Jan 2013, she was recruited to fill an emergent billet as an Officer-in-Charge of one of the Cyber Security Inspection teams within U.S. Fleet Cyber Command's Office of Compliance and Assessments. In March 2014, she detached from FLTCYBERCOM and reported to the Naval War College for Maritime Staff Operators Course (MSOC) where she obtained experience in planning operations at the CFMCC level and received a designation as a Naval Operations Planner. In May 2014, she attended the Joint Maritime Tactics Course (JMTC) where experience was obtained in planning operations at the tactical level. She reported to Commander, Strike Group Eight in June 2014 as the Deputy N6 and Knowledge Management Officer (KMO).

Her personal decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, four Navy Achievement Medals, Volunteer Service Ribbon, two Sea Service Ribbons and other personal and service awards.