

Spotlight On

Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Jason B. Kaplan

By: JO1(SW) Bev Allen, U.S. Northern Command Public Affairs

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Edison, New Jersey native, Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Jason B. Kaplan, United States Navy, is the Administrative Manager to the Commander for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the Commander, United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). Kaplan was hand picked to work in the Commander's office as the Administrative Manager. He supports the homeland defense mission by processing and managing all incoming and outgoing information. "I ensure the Commander receives timely and critical information. This information directly contributes to the Commander maintaining situational awareness of the global war on terrorism." U.S. Army Major Katheryne Leedham, the JIACG/LOGS/Training Officer for the Interagency Directorate said, "Kaplan was an integral member of the USNORTHCOM transition team. He played a significant role, directly contributing to standing up the command on time. Kaplan single-handedly stood up the Interagency Admin Office and provided reach back support to the Washington Office in establishing their operating budget. He spent countless hours supporting the USNORTHCOM Washington Office, U.S. Southern Command Liaison Office, and U.S. Army Forces Command Liaison Office. While managing the Interagency budget, Kaplan planned and coordinated all official trips for all the offices consisting of over 20 officers. He made all the reservations, prepared, processed, submitted, and liquidated all travel orders and travel claims. Kaplan is a true professional who works well with others." Kaplan was selected as the 2002 Sailor of the Year for NORAD and USNORTHCOM and said, "I feel privileged and honored to be a part of standing up this new command. I am exceptionally proud to be selected as the first NORAD/NORTHCOM Sailor of the Year." Kaplan said his role models are his mother and stepfather. "She taught me to do unto others as you would have them do unto you, and he taught me the true value of hard work. He showed me that there are no easy way outs, or short cuts in life, and that success is earned and achieved by hard work." "Although I enjoy my job, I am looking forward to returning to the fleet. I was the Admin Leading Petty Officer at my last command, and I miss leading and training junior personnel. I enjoyed training young Sailors, passing on the knowledge I have been fortunate to receive over the past few years and making sure they take advantage of the opportunities I missed out on during my first enlistment." Kaplan has been in Colorado Springs since July 2002.



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