



## **MMCM(SW) Ray Echols Command Master Chief**

Donald Ray Echols was born in Moultrie, Ga., on June 18, 1953. He attended recruit training command, Orlando, Fla., in 1972 and Machinist's Mate 'A' school in 1972.

Following graduation, Echols served on *USS Eugene A. Green* (DDR 711), *USS Putnam* (DD-757) and *USS William C. Lawe* (DD 763). He left sea duty in April 1977 and attended instructor training at Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Va. He was then assigned to the staff of Damage Control School there.

Returning to sea duty in May 1980 on board *USS Sellers*, he was advanced to Chief Machinist's Mate and Senior Chief Petty Officer prior to leaving *USS Sellers*. Senior Chief Echols was instrumental in the ship being awarded the Engineering 'E' and the Battle Efficiency 'E'.

In August 1985, he attended the Senior Enlisted Academy at Newport, R.I., then he was assigned to NAVSURFLANT Readiness Support Group, Charleston, S.C. While stationed RSG, he was



frocked to Master Chief Petty Officer in 1987.

Master Chief Echols returned to sea as Engineering Group Supervisor on *USS Blakely* (FF 1072) in late 1987 and also *USS Mahan* (DDG 42) in 1988.

MMCM (SW) Echols was transferred to *USS Sierra* in April 1990, joining the ship in Gaeta, Italy, as Command Master Chief. He is married to the former Vadene Helms of Lancaster, S.C. They have two daughters, Sara Courtney and Emily Rae.

