

## General Alfred M. Gray Award for Outstanding Communications Leadership 2022

### Captain Hunter R. Gibson

Captain Gibson was born in Mesa, AZ. on 18 September 1990. He graduated from Desert Ridge High School, Mesa, AZ. (2009), and graduated from the United States Naval Academy (2013) where he received his commission.

He attended the following military service schools and courses: The Basic School (2014), Basic Communications Officer Course (2014), Security Plus Course (2014), Amphibious Ready Group/Marine Expeditionary Unit Staff Planner's Course (2014), Marine Air Ground Task Force Communications Planner Course (2019), and Expeditionary Warfare School (2021).

From June 2021 through December 2022, Captain Gibson dynamically integrated himself in the MEU S-6 and collaborated with all sections and MSEs within the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit, the Amphibious Ready Group, and multiple combatant commands. Captain Gibson led the design, planning, innovation, and coordination for all communications architectures for the 22d MEU command element and its subordinate elements. Significant accomplishments include but are not limited to: Spearheading the installation of six afloat Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Combat Systems and Intelligence (CSI) architectures and two additional ashore network architectures, designing a communications architecture that maximized Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology due to the lack of satellite coverage availability in the Arctic Circle and Baltic Sea, planning and installing Kymeta mobile satcom solutions for the first time ever on L-Class ships and a US Navy Destroyer, establishing a semipermanent 22d MEU NOC at Naval Station Rota, integrating Link-16 networks ashore and over-the-horizon to the Kearsarge (KSG) ARG for the first time ever for an East Coast MEU, integrating coalition network solutions afloat and ashore, and supporting the integration of VBAT ISR feed afloat and ashore for the first time ever in the EUCOM AO. Captain Gibson's performance during a highly dynamic deployment as the Assistant Communications Officer was remarkable and directly impacted the command's ability to command and control alongside our NATO allies and partners. These actions directly contributed to the successes of the 22d MEU during all exercises, partner nation engagements, and overseas operations. To summarize, Captain Gibson's technical proficiency, innovative solutions for joint command and control, sound leadership and planning expertise, and creative contributions to the furthering of naval integration and littoral Operations in a Contested Environment (LOCE) have been key to the success and mission accomplishment of the 22d MEU Command Element and the Marine Corps as a whole.

