

Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Kelly Cooper **Operations Master Chief, Advanced Training Command**



Master Chief Cooper, a native of Port Charlotte, Florida, embarked on a distinguished career of service to the United States that spanned three decades. He graduated high school in June 1993 in Carthage, North Carolina and enlisted in the Navy in August of that same year.

He attended recruit training at RTC Great Lakes, Illinois, and upon completion, received orders to the USS Shenandoah in Norfolk, Virginia where he completed one Mediterranean deployment. In 1995 he received orders to Basic Underwater Demolition School and graduated BUD/S class 210 in 1996.

Master Chief Cooper's first assignment as a SEAL was to SEAL Team ONE where he completed two platoons and deployments as an Ordnance Department Head. In 2003, he transferred to SEAL Team FIVE and did multiple deployments to Iraq. On one particular deployment his platoon was responsible for the Personal Security of Iraq's Prime Minister and during his tenure at SEAL Team FIVE he also supported conventional forces as a sniper. In 2008, Master Chief Cooper returned to SEAL Team ONE, this time as a Platoon Chief, where his platoons supported Advise and Assist Operations in Western Iraq with local police commandos. In 2015, he became a TROOP Senior Enlisted Advisor to SEAL Team ONE and deployed to the United Arab Emirates, where he and his platoons supported multiple exercises and an operation off the coast of Yemen.

Ashore, Cooper's assignments include Naval Experimental Dive Unit, Panama City Beach, Florida as LPO of the naval special warfare dive locker, multiple assignments to Naval Special Warfare Group ONE Training Detachment sniper and reconnaissance offices, Instructor, Naval Special Warfare Detachment Kodiak, Center for SEAL and SWCC, and Naval Special Warfare Center, where he was Operations Senior Enlisted Advisor. In July of 2020, Master Chief Cooper assumed the duties of Command Master Chief of The Advanced Training Command. Cooper retired from Naval Special Warfare in September of 2023 after 30 years of service to the United States.

Master Chief Cooper is a graduate of the Joint Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Academy and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5), Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal (2), and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Master Chief Cooper is now serving as Director of Development for the C4 Foundation, furthering the organization's mission to strengthen Navy SEALs and their families.