



United States Navy Biography

CAPT Houssain “Sam” T. Sareini



A native of Dearborn, Michigan, Captain Sareini enlisted in the United States Navy in 1994 as an Operations Specialist. While serving aboard USS *Vicksburg* (CG-69), he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and earned both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Biochemistry from Iowa State University in 2002.

A Nuclear-trained Surface Warfare Officer, Captain Sareini's Division Officer sea tours include USS *Hue City* (CG-66) as Air Defense Officer and Combat Information Center Officer, and USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) as Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant and Radiation Health Officer. In 2007, he was selected as Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic Engineering Officer of the Year.

As a Department Head, he served as Operations Officer aboard USS *Kauffman* (FFG-59) and as Reactor Training Officer aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75). Captain Sareini reported aboard USS *Nitze* (DDG-94) as Executive Officer in

October 2019 and later fleeted up as her 12th Commanding Officer in April 2021. During his command, he led *Nitze* through all phases of the Optimized Fleet Response Plan, three deployments, and a Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). Under his leadership, *Nitze* earned the 2020 Battle “E” for DESRON TWO and the 2021 and 2022 Battle “E” for DESRON TWO SIX.

Following command, Captain Sareini returned to USS *Harry S. Truman* as Reactor Officer, completing a highly compressed workup cycle, an INSURV, two U.S. Fleet Forces Command examinations, and a combat deployment to the Red Sea.

Ashore, Captain Sareini served as Division Director for Chemistry and Materials at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, South Carolina; Deputy Module Head for Surface Warfare at Tactical Training Group Atlantic, where he was selected as the command's 2015 Instructor of the Year, and as Officer in Charge of the Atlantic Sealift Operations Support Element.

His personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, six Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Good Conduct Medals, Combat Action Medal, nine Battle “E” Awards, and multiple unit commendations.