

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

March 2021



## Andrew Binder

### United States Navy

Sponsored by:  
Saint Charles  
Chapter



Andrew Binder enlisted in the U.S. Navy while attending high school in Flagstaff, Arizona and left for boot camp shortly after graduation in 1992.

After boot camp in Orlando, FL, Andy attended the Navy Technical Training Center in Pensacola for Cryptologic Technician Administrative School. He served from 1993 to 1995 at Naval Security Group Activity, Kamiseya, Japan, near Yokohama. When the base closed in 1995, he took orders to Kunia Regional SIGINT Operations Center (KRSOC) in HI where he served until he separated from the Navy in February 1999. He moved to Raleigh, NC where he returned to school and joined the Navy Reserves as an Electronic Technician until November 2001 when he was involuntarily recalled back into the Navy as a result of the actions taken against the U.S. on 9/11.

He returned to Norfolk, VA where he met his unit and headed to Cheatham Annex, VA for the Port Security Warfare College. The unit reported to New Port, RI where, for several cold months, they trained and prepared for their eventual deployment. In January 2002 they received their order to secure and protect the NATO port of Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. In May 2002, he and four others from their unit were handed NATO orders to report to Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, Italy where they then flew on to Rota, Spain. In Rota, their job was to provide port security to U.S. and British Merchant Marine escorts through the Straits of Gibraltar into port. He was assigned as a rear gunner on a 26-foot patrol boat during escorts with a secondary job to fix any electrical issues experienced along the way. The unit returned to Newport, RI in late 2002 where he separated from the U.S. Navy for a second time in December 2002 from Groton, CT. He remained with the Reserves through 2003.

In 2008, Andy read about the waterboarding of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed who had told investigators that Al-Qaeda was planning to use rib-boats filled with explosives to ram U.S. and British ships travelling through the Straits of Gibraltar, similar to the USS Cole bombing. Andy truly understood the meaning of the Rota, Spain mission and the importance of it and remembers, "I will never forget my time in the service and the men and women I worked with to accomplish the mission." Commenting on his DD-214 that reads "Member involuntary recalled to active duty (PSRC) in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom" Mr. Binder says, "I would have volunteered if asked."

During his time in the service, Petty Officer 2nd Class Binder was awarded the following medals: Navy Achievement Medal (twice), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Good Conduct Award (three times), National Defense Service Medal with Cluster (three), Navy and Marine Overseas Ribbon (three), U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit (twice from working in joint commands), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Meritorious Device, Navy Expert Rifle Medal, NATO Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and Navy Sharpshooter Pistol Medal.

On December 31, 2020, Andy Binder officially retired from law enforcement after eighteen years of service.

Saint Charles Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Andrew Binder as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation.