



Lieutenant Lawrence E. Burkart

United States Navy
Military Mentor

Lt. Lawrence Burkart is a native of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, and graduated from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in 2005. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society and German National Honors Society, president of the German Club, and participated in a German student exchange during his Junior year. He was President of the Cal Solar Car Team at UC Berkeley, where he graduated in 2009 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He continued his studies at Northwestern University, where he researched and published work on robotics and prosthetic devices. After graduating from Northwestern in 2011 with a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, he worked as an engineer for Kyocera in San Diego and as a Patent Examiner for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia, before completing Officer Candidate School and commissioning into the Navy in 2014. Lt. Burkart was motivated to join the Navy because he felt it would provide him with the opportunities to grow as a leader and engineer while also providing an opportunity to give back and serve his country.



Lt. Burkart is currently serving as an Engineering Director at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, where he oversees all construction related activities for the base. He is also currently attending the University of Southern California's MBA program and has been selected for the Naval War College's Defense and Strategic Studies program. Lt. Burkart has previously served as an engineer and construction manager in Coronado, California, China, Korea, and Yokosuka, Japan. During his operational tour, he served as the Airfield Damage Repair Officer-in-Charge, Operation Planning Team Lead, and battalion warfare qualification program coordinator. While on deployment, he was the company commander of 110 sailors participating in major construction efforts in Okinawa, Japan, and led 66 Sailors and Soldiers as the Officer-in-Charge in support of Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts in Tinian.

Lt. Burkart is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer and a registered Professional Engineer (Mechanical Engineering) in the state of California. His awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Lt. Burkart has a history of volunteering for extracurricular STEM activities for grade school students, coordinating and organizing various solar car races and engineering demonstrations, and frequently volunteers to coach youth sports. Off-duty, he likes playing and coaching sports, going off-roading and camping, and enjoys frequent barbeques with his family and friends. Lt. Burkart knows that the Department of Defense plays a pivotal role in shaping our Government's policies both at home and abroad, but that it can still be an unknown entity to the students participating in the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), which is why he is interested in being a Military Mentor. He hopes his eight years of experience serving in the U.S. Navy both stateside and abroad in Japan and Korea, being deployed throughout the Pacific to help shape our government's positioning for potential future conflicts, as well as his extensive education and experience working in the private sector and other government agencies as an engineer will be a valuable asset to the USSYP program.