

Associate Professor Michael T. Lents

Professor Michael “Mike” Lents graduated from Millikin University, Decatur IL, in 1987 with a Bachelor’s in Human Resources. He entered Aviation Officers Candidate School and was commissioned in 1989 enroute Dam Neck, VA for the Intelligence Officer’s Basic Course.

His first fleet tour was in Lemoore, CA with VA-22 “The Fighting Redcocks” where he served as the Air Intelligence officer for the squadron from January 1990 until Feb 1992. This tour included deployments aboard the USS ENTERPRISE and the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN. On the Lincoln’s maiden deployment the battlegroup participated in both Operations DESERT STORM and FIERY VIGIL.

In 1992 CDR Lents was credential as a Federal Special Agent with NCIS. From May 1992 until May 1995 he served as a Special Agent with in Naples, Italy. During this tour he worked primarily counter-terrorism investigations in support of the U.S. Naval Forces in Europe and coordinated all port overviews and threat assessments for the Mediterranean. He deployed aboard the USS KAUFMAN to Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey providing AT/FP and CI support to the crew. During the final 6 months of this tour, he served as the Task Force Counterintelligence Coordinating Authority (TFCICA) for JTF Provide Promise leading CI teams in Italy, Croatia and Macedonia.

CDR Lents returned to the U.S. in 1995 to USTRATCOM, Omaha, NE. He served his first two years as a future plans officer focused on intelligence architectures, plans analysis, served as a command C4I representative to the 1996 Quadrennial Defense Review and as an augmentee to the USSTRATCOM command center. In 1997 he led the European assessments branch primarily responsible Russian and Chinese geopolitical analysis.

In 1998 CDR Lents went back to sea as the Assistant Intelligence Officer aboard the USS ENTERPRISE. This tour included participation in OPERATION DESERT FOX. During this tour the intelligence team received the Vice Admiral Rufus L. Taylor Award in 1999 recognizing the “Best Intelligence Team” in the fleet for professional excellence.

In 2000 he transferred to USJFCOM Joint Intelligence Center where he served an observer-trainer for the JFCOM Deployable Training Team and exercise planner responsible for planning a national level interagency exercise. In 2001, CDR Lents was recruited to stand-up from scratch a mission planning capability for the USJFCOM J2.

In 2003 he earned his JPME I and Joint planner designation at the Army CGSC.

In 2004 he served as the XO for the USTRANSCOM Joint Intelligence Center. Here he was actively involved in supporting OIF/OEF, and providing support following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the Tsunami relief in Indonesia. Additionally, CDR Lents earned his M.B.A. from Webster University.

In 2008, CDR Lents began training to serve as the Assistant U.S. Naval Attaché to Italy. During this tour CDR Lents served as the Assistant Naval Attaché, the ONI Liaison to the Italian Fleet and as an NGA LNO supporting bilateral and multilateral operations.

CDR Lents wrapped up his career here at the U.S. Naval War College as military faculty teaching the Maritime Staff Officer and Maritime Operational Planner Courses while serving as an Observer/Trainer for the Assist and Assess Team. CDR Lents joined the NWC civilian in 2016.