



Captain Jeffrey W. Novak Chief of Staff, Pacific Area United States Coast Guard



Captain Novak is assigned as Chief of Staff, Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda, CA. In this role, he directly supports the Area Commander and Commander, Defense Force West, and manages the staff, subordinate units and major cutters responsible for all Coast Guard missions westward from the Rocky Mountains across the Indo-Pacific, Arctic and Antarctic regions to the coast of eastern Africa.

His previous assignment was from June 2020 to June 2022 as Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources (CG-1) at Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, in supporting the Service's globally deployed active duty military, reserve and civil service workforce of over 50,000 and their families. He has commanded ashore and at sea, most recently as Commander of Sector Detroit, Michigan, responsible for all Coast Guard missions along the international border with Canada through Lakes Erie, St. Clair and Huron. He served in four cutters and commanded USCGCs BLOCK ISLAND and GRAND ISLE. As Commanding Officer of USCGC GRAND ISLE, he led his deployment to the Mediterranean Sea in 2003 for port security and coastal defense operations in support of U. S. and coalition forces during Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.



He served as the Special Assistant to 25th Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, where he helped oversee the Commandant's strategic priorities and engagements. From 2011 to 2013, Captain Novak was assigned as the Coast Guard's Senior Liaison to the State Department, and further detailed to the White House National Security Staff to work on the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. Other ashore assignments to include, as Deputy Commander of Sector Buffalo, Budget and Programs Reviewer at Atlantic Area and Operations Officer at Vessel Traffic Service Houston/Galveston.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Government from the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, as well as a Master of Public Administration and Graduate Certificate from East Carolina University. He graduated with Distinction from the Naval War College of Naval Command and Staff, receiving the Director's Award for Academic Excellence. He was selected for and completed fellowships with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI, Office of the Secretary Defense's Office of Net Assessment Summer Study 2018, and State Department National Security Executive Leadership program. He is a graduate of the Air War College with a Master of Strategic Studies, where his thesis on Excess Defense Article programs was nominated as the Air University's submission to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Research Paper competition.

Captain Novak is designated as a permanent cutterman, and his personal awards include the Secretary of State Superior Honor Award, the Legion of Merit, five Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals and four Coast Guard Achievement Medals. He was the Runner-Up Coast Guard Elite Male Athlete of the Year in 2020, with distinction in ultra-marathon and trail running.