



Rear Admiral Keith M. Smith

Director, Joint Interagency Task Force West
U.S. Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Smith assumed his current duties as Director, Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF West) on 21 May 2015. A standing Joint Task Force, JIATF West is the U.S. Pacific Command's executive agent for planning, integrating, synchronizing, conducting, and assessing Department of Defense counterdrug activities in order to shape the theater and disrupt transnational criminal organizations that threaten U.S. interests in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility.

Prior to his assignment as Director of JIATF West, Rear Admiral Smith served as the Coast Guard Atlantic Area Chief of Staff from April 2013 to April 2015, where he oversaw a staff that supported all U.S. Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf, spanning five Coast Guard Districts, and 40 states.



Rear Admiral Smith previously served as the Fifth Coast Guard District's Chief of Incident Management and Chief of Response from July 2011 to April 2012. Additionally, he served as Chief of the Tactical Intelligence Section at JIATF East.

Rear Admiral Smith has extensive operational experience with a specialty in tactical law enforcement and Port/Homeland Security Operations. During his 34-year career, he served as a Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) Officer in Charge, Commanding Officer of Tactical Law Enforcement Team (TACLET) North, Deputy Group Commander in St. Petersburg, Florida, and plank owner Commanding Officer for Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) Los Angeles/Long Beach. Rear Admiral Smith also served as Deputy Operations Officer for the Deployable Operations Group (DOG) and Commanding Officer of the Maritime Security Response Team (MSRT), the Coast Guard's only counter terrorism unit.

Rear Admiral Smith's personal Awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, seven Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and two Coast Guard Achievement Medals.

Rear Admiral Smith is a native of Cypress California, enlisted in the Coast Guard in September 1980, and served as an air crewman on both HH-3F helicopters and C-130 aircraft before receiving his commission in 1987.

A graduate of California State University Long Beach, Rear Admiral Smith holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Master's degree in Homeland Security from American Military University.