



## Captain Charley L. Diaz

Chief of Staff  
Coast Guard Pacific Area  
Coast Guard Defense Forces West



A native of Corpus, Christi, Texas, Captain Diaz currently serves as the Pacific Area Chief of Staff in Alameda, CA, reporting to his current position in March, 2008. Prior to reporting to Pacific Area, he served as the Acting Director of the USCG International Affairs Directorate at USCG Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Captain Diaz is, first and foremost, a cutterman having served on six ships, commanding four of them. His first assignment was aboard the USCG cutter ACTIVE in New Castle, NH in 1982. From 1984-1986, he commanded the 82-foot patrol boat POINT MONROE in Freeport, TX. From 1990-1992, he commanded the 110-foot surface effect ship PETREL in Key West, FL. From 1997-1999, he was Executive Officer aboard USCG cutter SPENCER in Boston, MA. From 2002-2004, he commanded USCG cutter BEAR in Portsmouth, VA. And, from 2005-2007, he commanded USCGC SHERMAN, a 378-foot High Endurance cutter in Alameda, CA. In March 2007, SHERMAN seized the Panamanian motor vessel GATUN, with nearly 20 tons of cocaine worth an estimated \$750 million – it was the largest maritime drug bust in U.S. history.



From 1986-1990, Captain Diaz served in the Office of Law Enforcement at USCG Headquarters where he was the initial project officer for the highly successful USCG Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) program aboard U.S. Navy ships. He helped assess Panama's remaining maritime assets in the wake of the 1989 U.S. invasion and briefed author Tom Clancy on drug smuggling techniques for his book Clear and Present Danger. In 1992 he served as an officer assignment detailer. In 1994, he served as Commandant's Aide to Admiral Robert Kramek and organized 90 trips in two years including visits to the beaches at Normandy for the 50th Anniversary of D-Day, Moscow for talks with the Russian Border Guards, Tokyo for the Anniversary of the Japanese Maritime Service, Haiti during the 1994 mass migration, and Cuba after the downing of two "Brothers to the Rescue" planes by Cuban MIG fighters.

From 1999-2001, he spent time on Capitol Hill and was selected to serve as the first USCG Congressional Fellow to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert. In the wake of the September 11th attacks, Captain Diaz helped identify the critical link between illegal drug profits and worldwide terrorism. He was also instrumental in pushing legislation to establish the USCG as an official member of the U.S. Intelligence Community and move the USCG to the newly created Department of Homeland Security.

Captain Diaz has conducted extensive studies in homeland security and national defense. He is a proud member of the Class of '82 from the USCG Academy in New London, CT. He graduated "with distinction" from the U.S. Naval War College in 1993. In 1997, he earned a Masters degree in Public Administration (graduating with high honors) from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. In 2004, he served as a visiting scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He is also a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City.