



Rear Admiral Joseph R. Castillo

U. S. Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Joseph Castillo serves as the Director of Response Policy (CG-53) where he oversees the development of strategic doctrine and policy guidance for all Coast Guard forces to effectively and efficiently accomplish operational maritime missions in the areas of law enforcement, search and rescue, counterterrorism and defense operations, incident management and preparedness, and contingency exercise program. He came to Washington after serving as Chief of Staff for the 9th Coast Guard District in Cleveland, OH, where he was responsible for the daily operations of all Coast Guard forces on the Great Lakes conducted by more than 7,000 active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary men and women.

He also served as 8th District Chief of Operations in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he was instrumental in leading the Coast Guard's efforts to rescue and evacuate over 33,500 people from New Orleans, as well as along the Mississippi and Alabama coasts, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Rear Admiral Castillo is a 1978 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy. He has spent the majority of his career in operational assignments ashore, alternating with operational staff tours at the District and Area level. Other past assignments include staff assignments in intelligence and personnel. Special duty assignments have included Officer in Charge of Forward Operating Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during Operation Able Manner and Coast Guard Liaison Officer on the Multi-National Force in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy.

Rear Admiral Castillo holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from the United States Coast Guard Academy and a Masters of Science in Industrial Relations from the University of New Haven, Connecticut. He is also a Distinguished Graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal with "O" Device (two awards), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with "O" Device (six awards), the Army Commendation Medal, the 911 Medal, and numerous other awards including the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Boat Forces Insignia and the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge.