



Captain Douglas M. Fears

Chief of Staff
United States Coast Guard Atlantic Area



Captain Fears assumed his current duties as Coast Guard Atlantic Area Chief of Staff in April 2015, where he oversees a staff that supports all U.S. Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf, spanning five Coast Guard Districts, and 40 states.

Prior to his current assignment, Captain Fears served as the Plankowner Commanding Officer in USCGC HAMILTON (WMSL 753), the first National Security Cutter homeported in the Atlantic.

Ashore, Captain Fears specialized in legislative affairs, the federal budgeting process, and federal policy coordination and development. He previously served as the Coast Guard's Chief of Law Enforcement, Policy Director for Central America and the Caribbean Basin on the National Security Council staff, Program Reviewer in the Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Budget and Programs, and Assistant Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives.



Afloat, Captain Fears is both a designated cutterman and Navy surface warfare officer. During his 33-year career both as enlisted and officer, he served aboard eight ships to include assignments as Commanding Officer in USCGC SITKINAK, USCGC DILIGENCE and USCGC HAMILTON. He started his seagoing career in USCGC TANEY as a deck seaman, and later served as Operations Officer and Navigator in USCGC BASSWOOD, Aegis Fire Control Officer in USS VINCENNES, Combat Information Center Officer in USS LEAHY and Executive Officer in USCGC THETIS. With over a decade of sea service, he conducted law enforcement, search and rescue, defense operations, aids to navigation, ports, waterways and coastal security missions, including two deployments with the USS KITTY HAWK Carrier Strike Group to the Western Pacific, Horn of Africa and Northern Arabian Gulf.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Captain Fears is a native of Maryland's Eastern Shore and enlisted in the Coast Guard in August 1982. He received his commission from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1989 where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Government. He is also an alumnus of the U.S. Naval War College, and Harvard University, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, and Master in Public Administration degree, respectively. He was also a Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI.