



Commander Jeffrey W. Novak United States Coast Guard



Commander Novak is currently assigned as the Deputy Sector Commander of Coast Guard Sector Buffalo, New York. Sector Buffalo supports 15 subordinate units with an assigned area of responsibility stretching from the Saint Lawrence Seaway in Massena, NY, westward through Lakes Ontario and Erie to Lorain, OH, including Niagara Falls and portions of the Finger Lakes region and Erie Barge Canal.

He has over eight years of sea time in four Coast Guard cutters, including as Commanding Officer in USCGCs BLOCK ISLAND and GRAND ISLE, Executive Officer in USCGCs BEAR and BLOCK ISLAND and Combat Systems Officer in USCGC JARVIS. These assignments covered a wide variety of missions including counter narcotics and fisheries law enforcement, migrant interdiction, search and rescue and defense operations. As Commanding Officer of USCGC GRAND ISLE, he led his crew on 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.



Commander Novak's previous staff assignment was as the Special Assistant to 25th Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, where he was responsible for the daily and long term administration of the Commandant's strategic priorities and engagements. From 2011 to 2013, he was assigned as the Coast Guard's Senior Liaison to the U.S. Department of State, where he spent time detailed to the Executive Office of the President, National Security Staff, for the development of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. Other ashore assignments include as the Budget and Programs Reviewer at Atlantic Area and Operations Officer at Vessel Traffic Service Houston/Galveston.

He graduated the United States Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Government. He was awarded a Master of Public Administration degree and Graduate Certificate from East Carolina University. Commander Novak graduated with Distinction from the Naval War College College of Naval Command and Staff, receiving the Director's Award for Academic Excellence. He was selected for and completed a fellowship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI program. He is a graduate of the Air War College with a Master of Strategic Studies degree. His graduate thesis paper on Excess Defense Article programs in Southeast Asia was selected as the Air War College nomination to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategic Research Paper competition.

Commander Novak's personal awards include the Secretary of State Superior Honor Award, Secretary of Transportation Outstanding Achievement Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals and four Coast Guard Achievement Medals, along with numerous other unit and campaign awards. All his personal and unit awards are with the Operational Distinguishing Device.