



# BIOGRAPHIES

## UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND

### **Daniel B. Abel**

Rear Admiral, United States Coast Guard  
Director of Operations  
United States Southern Command

---

Rear Admiral Abel serves as U.S. Southern Command's Director of Operations directing the U.S. military operations across the Caribbean Basin plus Central and South America. Previously, he was Commander of 17th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Juneau, Alaska, that confronted an evolving Arctic and was responsible for multi-missioned Coast Guard operations in North Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea. Additional flag assignments include Command of the 1st Coast Guard District, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, where he directed Coast Guard operations in the Northeast and led responses to Superstorm Sandy and the Boston Marathon Bombings. His first admiral assignment was as Deputy Director of Operations for United States Northern Command.



Other senior-level assignments include Commanding Officer of Air Station Cape Cod and Project Manager for "Rescue 21" that recapitalized the nation's maritime distress alerting and Coast Guard command and control network. He also served as the Coast Guard's Chief of Aviation Safety.

Prior operational tours include command of Air Station San Francisco, Operations Officer for Air Station Houston, Aviation Training Center standardization/instructor pilot for the H-65 Dolphin helicopter and his initial aviation tour as a search and rescue/law enforcement helicopter pilot in Miami. His initial officer tour was as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless homeported in Miami Beach.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, with High Honors, from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1983. He also served as valedictorian of the College of William and Mary's Master of Business Administration class of 1994. In 2005, he was a distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) earning a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy. While at ICAF, Rear Admiral Abel completed the Department of Defense Senior Acquisition Corps syllabus, and subsequently earned his Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Program Manager Designation. He has earned qualifications in both the H-65 helicopter and the HU-25 jet.

Rear Admiral Abel's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legions of Merit, and two Meritorious Service Medals. Admiral Abel is also an Eagle Scout.