Rear Admiral William 'Dean' Lee

Deputy for Operations Policy & Capabilities
United States Coast Guard

Rear Admiral William “Dean” Lee reported to Coast Guard Headquarters to be the Deputy for Operations Policy and Capabilities (DCO-D) in May of 2012, following his assignment as the Fifth District Commander in Portsmouth, Virginia. As DCO-D he oversees integration of all operations, capability, strategy and resource policy. While assigned as the Fifth District Commander, Rear Admiral Lee directed more than 3,000 Coast Guard active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel in the Mid-Atlantic region. Mid-Atlantic units were responsible for conducting nearly 20,000 Search and Rescue cases during his tenure, as well as supporting response operations following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and Hurricanes Earl and Irene.

Rear Admiral Lee has spent 13 years in six different Command assignments, including Fifth District, and spent a career specializing in Boat Operations and Search and Rescue. He has served along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts, in addition to supporting operations overseas as Commander, Deployable Operations Group (2009-2010). Rear Admiral Lee’s other operational assignments include: Commander, Sector North Carolina (2005-2007); Commander, Coast Guard Group Fort Macon in North Carolina (2000-2003); Commander, Group Monterey in California (1995-1997); Commanding Officer, Station Atlantic City in New Jersey (1988-1991); and Assistant Operations Officer at Group St. Petersburg in Florida (1981-1984).

Rear Admiral Lee’s staff assignments include: Chief of Staff, Coast Guard Seventh District in Miami, Florida (2007-2009); Chief, Office of Boat Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (2003 to 2005); Chief of Search and Rescue, Coast Guard Fifth District, (1998-2000); Chief of the Atlantic Area Command Center (1997-1998); Branch Chief, Search and Rescue Division at Coast Guard Headquarters (1991-1995), and Instructor, Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia (1984-1988).

Rear Admiral Lee is a native of Richmond, Virginia and a 1981 graduate of Officer Candidate School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Alabama, and a Master of Arts from George Washington University. He and his wife Mary have two sons; Brendan and Landon.

Rear Admiral Lee’s military decorations include the Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards), Coast Guard Achievement Medal (two awards), and various other personal and unit awards.