



# News Release

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### *SBA Appoints New Chief of Executive Office of Disaster Strategic Planning and Operations*

**WASHINGTON** – Retired Rear Admiral Steven G. Smith has been hired by the U.S. Small Business Administration to oversee the newly created Executive Office of Disaster Strategic Planning and Operations (EODSPO), SBA Acting Administrator Jovita Carranza announced today.

The EODSPO will continue to develop and implement institutional changes to SBA's disaster assistance program that will enable the agency to provide timely, effective assistance to disaster victims. SBA is the federal government's leading post-disaster economic recovery agency and plays an important role helping affected communities get back on their feet.

As chief of the unit, Smith will be responsible for ensuring all SBA departments maintain a high state of readiness to deliver on the agency's multiple missions in disaster recovery. One of Smith's first steps will be to visit the Gulf Coast area next week to meet with local business and community leaders to demonstrate SBA's continued commitment to the region's recovery.

"Steve's broad background in small business and military planning and operations will allow him to build on the progress we've made in the agency's disaster loan program and help drive additional initiatives forward," said Carranza. "The EODSPO will help the agency improve its disaster planning. I look forward to Steve leading SBA's disaster team."

"The EODSPO will build on the tremendous reforms the agency has made to help business owners, homeowners and renters recover quickly in the aftermath of a disaster," said Smith. "In my new role, I am committed to ensuring that SBA continues improving its response and stands by, ready to assist in the event of a disaster."

Smith has served as the chief executive officer and chief operating officer of small businesses engaged in providing open source information, risk management and comprehensive security solutions to government and commercial clients. He served for 34 years in the U.S. Navy and retired with the rank of rear admiral. His postings included serving as the director of strategy and plans for the U.S. Pacific Command, Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations and the Commander of Amphibious Group Three.

Smith received his bachelor's degree in industrial management from the University of Texas and his master's degree in national security affairs and strategic studies from the Naval War College.