

Rear Admiral Philip M. Kenul, NOAA
Director, Marine and Aviation Operations Centers
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RDML Philip M. Kenul is the director of the NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations Centers, which are part of NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO). He was nominated for this position by President George W. Bush, confirmed by the Senate, and subsequently promoted from captain to rear admiral, lower half. RDML Kenul is an officer in the NOAA Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services.

As director, RDML Kenul is responsible for the safe operations of NOAA aircraft and ships as well as the management of OMAO's operations centers' \$100M budget and more than 500 fleet personnel.

The Aircraft Operations Center, located in Tampa, Fla., on MacDill Air Force Base, oversees NOAA's fixed-wing aircraft, including the renowned NOAA "hurricane hunters." The Marine Operations Centers, located in Norfolk, Va., and Seattle, Wash., oversee NOAA's multi-purpose oceanographic research, fisheries research, and hydrographic survey vessels. Port offices are located in Woods Hole, Mass.; Charleston, S.C.; Pascagoula, Miss.; San Diego, Calif.; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Kodiak and Ketchikan, Alaska.

RDML Kenul was appointed into the NOAA Corps in 1981. His first tour was aboard NOAA hydrographic survey ship WHITING; he then served as Chief of a shore-based hydrographic field party surveying in the Gulf of Mexico. In 1985 he received flight training through NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center, and most of his career since then has been focused on NOAA aviation. RDML Kenul flew light aircraft in support of aeronautical charting and photogrammetry while also serving as Chief of those respective branches. He then trained with the Navy to become a P-3 aircraft pilot, and served for two years as Acting Chief of the Military Operations Branch, Naval Research Laboratory. There he supervised 22 Naval officers and 90 enlisted personnel, and was responsible for the worldwide deployment of five Navy P-3 research aircraft. In 1996 he reported to NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center, where he served consecutive positions covering the gamut of aircraft operations as Heavy Aircraft Coordinator, Special Projects Officer, Chief of Flight Management, and Chief of the Aircraft Maintenance Branch. During this time he also served as a NOAA hurricane hunter pilot, flying P-3s into the eyewall of hurricanes to acquire the meteorological data needed by forecasters to make accurate hurricane predictions—one of only a handful of pilots in the world qualified to fly P-3s into hurricanes.

RDML Kenul was selected in 2001 for NOAA's first Leadership Competency Development Program. The following year, he was named the first Director of NOAA's newly established Homeland Security Office, which was also one of the first NOAA-wide matrix programs. There he was responsible for coordinating the delivery of NOAA's products, services, and capabilities to Federal, state, and local emergency managers and responders, and strengthening NOAA's own infrastructure to protect agency personnel, facilities, and information services. In this capacity he



positioned NOAA to be a recognized and vital contributor to the Nation's Homeland Security effort.

RDML Kenul assumed command of the Aircraft Operations Center in 2006, where he oversaw the daily operations of NOAA's light and heavy aircraft. NOAA aircraft conduct such operations as snow surveys to support hydrological forecasts of flooding and drought; marine mammal assessments, including endangered right whale surveys; remote sensing in support of homeland security; aeronautical charting; and disaster assessments following extreme weather events.

RDML Kenul holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the State University of New York at Cortland (1975) and a master's degree in environmental/civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin (1981). From 1978 to 1981 he was an engineer at the Texas Department of Water Research. .