



United States Navy Biography

Rear Admiral Joseph D. Kernan Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Commander, U.S. 4th Fleet

Rear Admiral Joseph D. Kernan is the commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/ Commander, U.S. 4th Fleet.

Kernan, the son of a career Air Force pilot and Air Force nurse, was born at Travis Air Force Base (AFB), Calif., Feb. 4, 1955. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1977, attended surface warfare officer school, and reported to USS *Horne* (CG 30) based in San Diego. During this tour, he served as an engineering officer, completed deployments to the Western Pacific and Middle East regions and was designated a surface warfare officer.

Kernan completed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training with Class 117 in 1981. He commanded Platoons at Underwater Demolition Team 12, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1 and SEAL Team 5. Additionally while assigned to SEAL Team 5, he served as detachment officer-in-charge of four deployed SEAL platoons and deputy commander, Naval Special Warfare Task Force, Middle East Force. He served his executive officer tour at Naval Special Warfare Unit 1 in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Kernan has served as the Naval special warfare officer detailee, community manager, deputy/chief staff officer, Naval Special Warfare Development Group, chief of staff and deputy, Naval Special Warfare Command and director, Naval Special Warfare Branch on the Navy Staff.



He commanded SEAL Team 2, the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, and most recently, the Naval Special Warfare Command. His joint assignments include deputy director and director of Operations, Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., and director of operations, Center for Special Operations, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Tampa, Fla.

He assumed duties as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/ U.S. 4th Fleet in July 2008.

He and his wife have two children, and both his brother and father-in-law were career Naval Aviators.

Updated: 3 December 2008