



Biographies of MTS-Member Admirals

Being a member of the Marine Technology Society means being in good company. The Society is proud of the accomplishments and contributions of the admiralty in its ranks.



Adm. James D. Watkins (Ret.) is chair of the Commission on Ocean Policy, adding a new chapter to a long career of public service. Before his appointment, Watkins was president of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions in Washington, D.C., and before that, president of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE). Watkins served under the first President Bush as Secretary of Energy, where he helped develop the first comprehensive national energy strategy. He also served as Chairman of the Presidential Commission on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic (AIDS). A 1949 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Watkins holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering. He has served various sea and shore tours of duty. He was the 22nd Chief of Naval Operations and has served as the Chief of Naval Personnel, Commander of the Sixth Fleet, Vice Chief of Naval Operations and Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet.

Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher (Ret.) is the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. Prior to his appointment, he served as president of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE). A 1964 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Lautenbacher holds master's and doctorate degrees in applied mathematics from Harvard University. Lautenbacher's military career has included a range of operational experience and command positions, including Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Commander of the U.S. Third Fleet, Director of the Office of Program Appraisal, and Director of the Joint Staff. He has served tours in Vietnam and the Gulf War.

Rear Adm. Thomas Q. Donaldson is the commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command in Gulfport, Miss. Donaldson is a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds master's degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and the National War College. He has served as Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy; Oceans Division officer at the Naval Oceanography Command Center, Guam; instructor at the Fleet Norfolk Antisubmarine Warfare Center; oceanographer aboard the USS John F. Kennedy; second force oceanographer on the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; executive officer and later commanding officer of the Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Center; and senior oceanography officer detailee.

Rear Adm. Brad Mooney (Ret.) is one of the pioneers of deep ocean submersibles. A 1953 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Mooney commanded the attack submarine Menhaden and piloted the bathyscaph Trieste II in 1964 when it located the hull of the sunken nuclear submarine Thresher. He coordinated deep submersible and diving operations at a depth of 2,850 feet in the search and recovery of a hydrogen bomb lost off the coast of Spain in 1966. Mooney served as Oceanographer of the Navy and Chief of Naval Research. He was a member of the editorial board of the U.S. Naval Institute from 1983 until his retirement in 1987. He was then president

and managing director of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. Since 1992, he has been an independent consultant to academic, government, and private sector managers of research, technology, engineering and international technology transfer programs.

Rear Adm. James E. Koehr (Ret.) is the first oceanography specialist to be selected for flag rank. Koehr is a 1959 graduate of St. Louis University and holds a master's degree in airocean environment from the Naval Postgraduate School. He has served as an air intelligence officer at Carrier Division 7 and an Arctic sea-ice forecaster and weather forecaster at the Fleet Weather Facility in Newfoundland. Koehr has served as the plans, programs and operations officer for the Oceanographer of the Navy and as commanding officer of the Naval Eastern Oceanography Center. He also served as Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy before assuming the post of Commander of the Naval Oceanography Command. Koehr retired from the Navy in 1991 and has since been employed by the Hughes Information Technology Corp. in Virginia.

Rear Adm. Evelyn J. Fields is the director of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations and director of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. She is the first woman and the first African-American to hold the post. She began her career with NOAA in 1972 as a cartographer at the agency's Atlantic Marine Center. After her commissioning, she served on board a number of NOAA ships, commanding NOAA Ship McArthur. Fields hold the distinction of being the first female to serve as commanding officer of a NOAA ship and a U.S. government ocean-going vessel. Fields' land assignments include administrative officer, NOAA's National Geodetic Survey; chief of Coast Survey's Hydrographic Survey's Division; director, NOAA's Corps' Commissioned Personnel Center; and deputy assistant administrator, NOAA's National Ocean Service.

Rear Adm. Harley D. Nygren (Ret.) holds the honor of having a U.S. Continental Shelf canyon and an Antarctic mountain named after him. Nygren enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves at age 17, and later received his commission as a Navy ensign and bachelor's degree from the University of Washington. In 1947, Nygren joined the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey as a deck officer, and was commissioned an ensign in the USC&GS in 1948. He served aboard numerous ships during his career and was assigned to several field parties conducting hydrographic, geodetic and gravity studies. Among his assignments were a tour to the U.S. Arctic regions; serving as the U.S. representative on the British Antarctic Survey Expedition in 1962; and serving as a member of the U.S. Inspection Team to Antarctica in 1970. When NOAA was created, Nygren was chosen as the first director of the Corps. He served in that post for 10 years and retired in 1981.

Rear Adm. Winford G. "Jerry" Ellis is the former Commander of the Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific. Ellis is a 1964 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds a master's degree from the Sloan School of Management at MIT. He began his naval career aboard the USS Catfish and also served on the USS Snook. Subsequent tours included director of the Enlisted Department at the Nuclear Power School; Chief of Naval Operations Scholars Program; executive officer aboard both the USS Billfish and USS Andrew Jackson. Ellis's land assignments have included head of the Submarine, Nuclear Power and Strategic Weapons System Enlisted Manning; senior member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; commander, Submarine Squadron SIX; chief of staff, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application, U.S. Department of Energy; and Commander, Submarine Group TEN.

Rear Adm. John Richard Seesholtz (Ret.) served as Oceanographer of the Navy for five years (1983-1988). He is a 1956 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds a 1968 doctorate in oceanography from MIT. He qualified in both submarines and surface ships, serving on six ships including command of the deep diving submarine USS Dolphin and the repair ship USS Ajax. Seesholtz also spent tours as an airborne test director in a fleet ballistic missile submarine with the Navy Long Range Planning Group, and at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Upon retirement from the Navy in 1988, Seesholtz worked for the Defense Group, Inc. in Arlington and then Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Md., from which he

retired in November 1998. He currently provides technical advice to DARPA and the Hawaii Center for Excellence in Research and Ocean Science (CEROS).

Rear Adm. Kenneth Barbor, (Ret.) is the director of the Hydrographic Science Research Center at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a bachelor's and masters degree in Meteorology and Oceanography. His 28-year career in the U.S. Navy culminated with his assignment as Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command where he directed the Navy's operational hydrography, oceanography and meteorology activities. His prior tours of duties include command of an oceanographic unit conducting hydrographic survey operations in Somalia, Oman and Diego Garcia; command of two meteorology and oceanography forecast activities; and service at sea aboard several classes of surface warships. He is the president of The Hydrographic Society of America, and is the U.S. nominee for the position of Director, International Hydrographic Bureau of the International Hydrographic Organization.

Rear Adm. Chris Andreasen (Ret.) spent nearly 30 years as a NOAA commissioned officer during which time he served as the head of nautical charting for the U.S.; deputy director for NOAA ships and aircraft; and lead for NOAA negotiations with maritime unions. He is the immediate past president of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), an intergovernmental organization. For the past four years, Andreasen has served as the chief hydrographer at NIMA. Rear Admiral Samuel H. Packer enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and was commissioned upon graduation from Tufts University in 1945. He graduated from Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College and George Washington University (MA). He was a Submarine School instructor, and served on the staffs of COMSUBLANT, COMSUBPAC, CINCUSNAVEUR, COMUSMACV, and the Joint Staff (J5); as Director of Operations (J3) USCINCEUR; and as ADCNO Plans, Policy, and Operations (OP-06). Retiring in 1983, he is an adjunct staff member at the Institute for Defense Analyses, where he has worked in the CINC Support Program.

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