

Eric “Coop” Cooper

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coop@rand.org • (619) 630-0399

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

RAND Corporation

Senior Policy Researcher

April 2023 – Present

Develop strategy and improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis; Lead research projects and provide research project management oversight; Provide subject matter expertise and research support to project leads; Assist with quality assurance to ensure rigor and consistency to improve research; Work constructively with project leaders and other staff to support sponsors; Develop new business through direct contacts with key clients to shape proposals for new avenues of research; Support Congressional inquiries as required.

Senior Military Fellow

June 2017 - June 2018

Conducted research and analysis, provided written documentation and subject matter expertise to the Homeland Security Operations and Analysis Center. Written material focused on improving workforce management, retention of under-represented employees, safety improvements, and effective operations. Authored the Maritime and Port section of "Economic and Disaster Recovery Plan for Puerto Rico" which was incorporated by the Territory as a strategic plan moving forward. Conducted analysis and project/program management skills through hands-on research and organizational support.

White House Executive Office of the President

National Security Council

Director of Maritime Security and Arctic Region Policy

June 2013 - June 2015

Led 22 agencies in the formulation and implementation of national strategy. Provided expert advice to the President of the United States and the National Security Advisor on time sensitive safety and security issues including U.S. citizen kidnapping, piracy, hijacking, Ebola response, maritime immigration, asylum, counternarcotics, and homeland security crises. Chaired the Maritime Security Interagency Policy Committee and led the development and publication of the: Counter-Piracy Action Plan; National Strategy for the Arctic Region Implementation Plan; Executive Order 13689 –Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic; National Maritime Domain Awareness Plan; Blueprint for Maritime Security in Central America; among other classified strategies.

Department of Transportation/Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard Officer

July 1996 – October 2022

Commanding Officer, Maritime Security Response Team West. Led 255+ person organization with a \$17M fiscal portfolio in protecting U.S. citizens with responsibility for operations across the entire Pacific Ocean. Drove changes to the policies and programs across the entire Coast Guard and received 2021 Safety Award for modifying safety procedures for high-risk operations. Initiated and developed systematic changes across the Coast Guard underwater diving program to improve safety and reduce loss of life through increased training, process checks, and updated principles and procedures. Created, executed and maintained strategic plans and initiatives - directly coordinated with over a dozen international and interagency partners to improve law enforcement across the Pacific. Oversaw CWMD operational

readiness and training including Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear Detection as well as high explosive canine detection program. Oversaw west coast counter UAS program with operational employment.

Deputy Director of Operations, Pacific Area. Oversaw 2000+ personnel with \$45M fiscal portfolio and directed Coast Guard current operations for the entire Pacific Area to include safety and security operations in South China Sea and off the coast of East Africa. Coordinated closely with international partners in emergency response and security building activities. Led team of interagency professionals in response to worst ever typhoon season in the South Pacific, ensuring safe operations in coordination with FEMA. Directly briefed the Director of FEMA on team progress, initiatives, and challenges. Provided strategic guidance for all deployable specialized forces, including metrics and monthly reports distributed across the entire Coast Guard highlighting accomplishments. Served on multiple planning committees that set the agenda for operational employment across diverse geographic areas.

Chief of Staff/Deputy Commander, Sector San Diego. Led 1,000 personnel with \$60M fiscal portfolio overseeing all maritime operations along highly charged, politically dynamic, and active international border. Served as Captain of the Port of San Diego responsible for the maritime safety, security, and environmental protection for Southern California region including resilience of a strategic seaport with \$10 billion in annual maritime commerce and the home to the largest U.S. Naval fleet in the Pacific.

Commanding Officer, Maritime Safety and Security Team San Diego. Led 100+ person organization with \$5M fiscal portfolio in protecting U.S. citizens with counterdrug and anti-terrorism response capability. Responsible for all aspects of operations, administration, logistics, personnel, and risk management. Directly coordinated with over a dozen international and interagency partners to improve safety, security, and maritime law enforcement in the western half of the globe.

Executive Officer, Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Boston. Led 100+ person organization with \$5M fiscal portfolio in protecting U.S. citizens with safety and security operations. Designated as the Safety Officer for the entire organization, including monthly safety meetings focused on improving health and welfare of employees. Responsible for all aspects of operations, administration, logistics, personnel, and risk management. Directly coordinated with senior officials in the northeast region for immediate response and preparedness, including protection of the President of the United States during several events including the UN General Assembly.

Project Manager/Naval Architect, Office of Standards and Engineering. Drafted safety and security regulations for the maritime industry, including accident prevention, maritime security response efforts, and third-party oversight. Served as a U.S. delegate to the International Maritime Organization as a technical representative and decision authority for international safety regulations. Directly led an investigation of an accident leading to loss of life and made recommendations that were adopted by Congress to improve safety for passengers of small vessels. Led an interagency consortium in the funding and development of new research to improve the safety of ship structures globally.

Chief of Operations/Operations Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter WILLOW. Responsible for all aspects of vessel operations for a 225-foot vessel. Safely led law enforcement teams in the inspection and oversight of maritime safety

regulations aboard dozens of commercial vessels. Managed the daily, weekly, and annual maintenance requirements for aids to navigation impacting the entire northeast of the United States.

Navigator and Communications Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter CHASE.
Responsible for providing navigation and communication for 180 personnel aboard a 378-foot ship with global responsibility. Led law enforcement teams enforcing UN sanctions in Iraq, foreign fishing vessel incursions, and illegal fishing across the Pacific Ocean.

Department of Defense
U.S. Northern Command
Project Manager/Future Operations Planner
June 2008 - June 2010

Responsible for maintaining the Department of Defense Support to Civil Authority program, including responding to disasters and emergency events. Directly led strategic initiatives that impacted the safety and emergency response for the entire nation. Managed formulation of operational response directives, short-term and long-term planning for maritime security and emergency management for defense support efforts. Regularly briefed senior Admirals and Generals on project status, successes, and challenges.

EDUCATION:

Master of Arts in Security Studies • Naval Postgraduate School • 2022
• Outstanding Thesis Award for Evidence Based Policymaking in Countering Domestic Terrorism.
Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies • Naval War College • 2008
• Thesis on National Integration Center for federal law enforcement and first responders
University of Washington • Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering • 2002
• Thesis on Effects of Transverse Longitudinal Bulkhead on Fishing Vessel Stability
United States Coast Guard Academy • Bachelor of Science (High Honors) in Mechanical Engineering • 1996

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND ABILITIES

Program Management and Administration, Strategy Development, Policy Evaluation and Analysis, CWMD Detection and Response, cUAS Operations, Maritime Operations, Law Enforcement, Security, Emergency Response, Emergency Preparedness, Stafford Act, Environmental Response, Safety and Risk Reduction, Regulation Development, Global Security, Training, Supply Chain Management, International Partnerships, Strategic Guidance, Research and Development, Personnel Management, Interagency Coordination.

AWARD HIGHLIGHTS:

Outstanding Thesis for Evidence Based Policymaking in Countering Domestic Terrorism.
Presidential Service Medal, 2014
Legion of Merit – Commander Pacific Area, 2022
Defense Superior Service Medal – Office of the President of the United States, 2015
Defense Meritorious Service Medal – U.S. Northern Command, 2010
Meritorious Service Medal – 2013, 2017, 2019
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal – 2017
Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal – 2012
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – 1998
USCG Humanitarian Service Medal - 1995