



United States Navy Biography

Vice Admiral William R. Merz Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (OPNAV N9)

Vice Adm. Bill Merz is a native of San Diego. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering and subsequently earned master's degrees from The Catholic University of America and the U.S. Naval War College.



Merz qualified submarines on USS Haddo (SSN 604). He served as engineer officer on USS Boise (SSN 764) and as radiological controls officer on USS Proteus (AS 19). He commanded the deep sea vessel "Submarine NR-1", USS Memphis (SSN 691) and Submarine Development Squadron 12.

His flag assignments included commander Task Force 77 and Naval Mine & Anti-Submarine Warfare Command in San Diego; commander, Task Force 54 in Bahrain; commander, Task Force 74 in Japan; and director, Undersea Warfare Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations ([OPNAV] N97) in the Pentagon. Ashore, he conducted submarine design research in Carderock, Maryland, completed two tours in the Pentagon as a budget programmer on both the Navy and joint staffs, served as head of the Naval Reactors' "Line Locker" and as chief of staff for Commander, Submarine Forces Atlantic, Commander, Task Force 144.

Merz currently serves as the deputy chief of naval operations for warfare systems (OPNAV N9) in the Pentagon. In this capacity, he is responsible for the integration of manpower, training, sustainment, modernization, research and development and procurement of the U.S. Navy warfare systems.

He has completed nine overseas deployments in support of U.S., Joint and Coalition submarine operations in the Pacific Command, European Command, Central Command and Africa Command. The crews he served with collectively earned six unit awards, five Battle "E"s and the Atlantic Fleet's Battenberg Cup.

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