

RDML Pete Small, USN



RDML Pete Small is a native of Tabernacle, New Jersey. In 1995 he was commissioned from the NROTC at the University of Virginia where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also has Naval Engineer and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a Master of Science in Operations Research degree from Columbia University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

RDML Small qualified in submarines aboard USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686) where he conducted dry-deck shelter operations on two deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf. He then served as Assistant Professor of Naval Science at the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College and Fordham University NROTC. In 2007 he deployed as an individual augmentee to HQUSEUCOM in Stuttgart, Germany supporting management of military engineering forces to EUCOM and AFRICOM.

As an Engineering Duty Officer, RDML Small has served across all phases of manned and unmanned submarine and unmanned ship design and construction. He has served at private shipyards at Navy Supervisors of Shipbuilding (SUPSHIPs), initially qualifying as an EDO doing VIRGINIA Class submarine new construction and LOS ANGELES Class submarine repair at SUPSHIP Newport News, VA. Later he served as the PMS450 Program Manager's Representative for VIRGINIA Class submarine construction at SUPSHIP Groton, CT and delivered USS NORTH DAKOTA (SSN784) from new construction and re-delivered USS CALIFORNIA (SSN 781) and USS MISSISSIPPI (SSN 782) from their post-shakedown availabilities.

From 2010-2012 RDML Small was appointed Associate Professor of the Practice in the Mechanical Engineering Department at MIT and taught ship and submarine design in the graduate Naval Construction and Engineering (Course 2N) curriculum. He continues to teach Submarine Concept Design in the MIT Professional Summer program.

In NAVSEA Headquarters in Washington, DC he has served as the Deputy Ship Design Manager and Aft Project Officer in the OHIO Replacement Program Office (PMS 397), Assistant Program Manager for Acquisition in the Advanced Undersea Systems Program Office (PMS 394), Construction Manager for the COLUMBIA Class Submarine Program Office (PMS 397), and project officer for the AUKUS Nuclear Powered Submarine consultation period.

In command RDML Small served as Major Program Manager of the Unmanned Maritime Systems Program Office (PMS 406) in PEO Unmanned and Small Combatants, leading development and delivery of a multibillion-dollar portfolio of unmanned undersea and surface vessels and later stood up the New Attack Submarine program--SSN(X)--in PEO Attack Submarines (PEO SSN). In 2024, he was selected for promotion to Flag rank and assigned to be the Deputy Commander for Ship Design, Integration, and Engineering (NAVSEA 05) of the Naval Sea Systems Command.

RDML Small's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (third award), Meritorious Service Medal (fourth award), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (fourth award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (fourth award).