



United States Navy Biography

CAPTAIN DARREN N. BESS



Captain Bess serves as the Executive Director for the Department of Defense office of Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) leading the 2,400 member staff of military, civilian and volunteer employees who carry out the Department's role in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. ESGR operates through a network of 54 committees located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Captain Bess is a 2001 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and holds a Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Finance from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, as well as a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at National Defense University in Washington, DC. He earned his Wings of Gold with distinction and was designated a Naval Aviator in 2003.

Captain Bess' operational assignments include Patrol Squadron TWO SIX, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron SIX FOUR and command of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron FIVE FOUR. During his command tour, Captain Bess' squadron achieved a five year high in flight hour execution and garnered numerous operational and readiness awards, a 100% re-enlistment rate and an on and off duty mishap rate of zero.

Captain Bess' shore assignments include instructor duty in Training Squadron SIX, serving as a Requirements Officer for the Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98) on the staff of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and as the Branch Head for Warfare Requirements on the staff of the Office of the Chief of the Navy Reserve (OPNAV N0959).

Captain Bess accumulated over 4,200 flight hours in various naval aircraft during his career and was awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Achievement Medal (four awards), and various campaign and unit awards.