



Captain Deer assumed command of Coast Guard Elizabeth City, NC in June 2017. As one of the oldest air stations in the Coast Guard, Air Station Elizabeth City has proudly served the nation and citizens of North Carolina since 1940. Flying as an HC-130J pilot, CAPT Deer leads a compliment of 300 members operating a fleet of three MH-60T helicopters & five HC-130J fixed-wing aircraft in the execution of maritime safety & security missions in the Atlantic region.

Prior to assuming command, Captain Deer served as Chief, Incident Management Branch in Juneau, AK where he was responsible for Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Fisheries and Marine environmental protection in the Coast Guard's most remote area of responsibility encompassing 3.8 million square miles, including the Aleutian Islands and Arctic.

Prior to serving in Alaska, Captain Deer served as the Commanding Officer of Air Station Detroit where he oversaw 110 personnel and 5 MH-65D aircraft with a span of control extending from Lake Michigan to New York. In addition to statutory CG missions, Airsta Detroit flew Rotary Wing Air Intercept for the National Capital Region and POTUS support missions.

Captain Deer entered the U.S. Coast Guard and completed Officer Candidate School in 1992. His initial assignment was to Naval Air Station Belle Chasse in New Orleans, LA – USCG's busiest all helicopter unit. After New Orleans, he completed a five year tour in Kodiak, Alaska where he spent three years flying patrols in the Bering Sea off the flight decks of the Coast Guard's largest cutters, followed by a transition to the C-130 Hercules.

Captain Deer completed his first Air Station Elizabeth City tour from 2002-2005 where he upgraded to C-130 Instructor pilot; in addition to training new pilots, he flew Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement missions off of Central and South America as well as Int'l Ice Patrol out of St. John's, Canada. Captain Deer led the Coast Guard in acquiring the medium-range HC-144A "Ocean Sentry" aircraft at USCG Headquarters from 2005-2009. He then served as Operations and Executive Officer at Air Station Kodiak from 2009-2012; in addition to managing 380 active duty members and 14 aircraft, he led CGAS Kodiak in the debut of the Weather Channel's Coast Guard Alaska series.

A former DoD Officer, Captain Deer served as a pilot in the 1st Persian Gulf War. He has flown three separate aircraft and has acquired nearly 5,000 hours of flight time.

His awards include four Meritorious Service Medals, three Commendation Medals, three Achievement Medals, the Kuwait Liberation Medal and various other personal and unit awards. He possesses both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree.