



# United States Navy Biography

**Captain Keith W. Lehnhardt, USN**  
**Director of Ocean Engineering, Supervisor of Salvage and Diving**

A native of Decatur, IL, Captain Lehnhardt graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Oceanography and service selected submarines. Upon completion of the nuclear pipeline, he served as a division officer aboard the USS NORFOLK (SSN 714) from 1993 to 1996 where he completed two deployments, numerous local operations and a dry docking availability.

After completion of this tour, he lateral transferred to the Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) community and attended graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology earning a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Naval Engineer's Degree.



As an EDO stationed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from 2000 to 2003, Captain Lehnhardt conducted submarine overhaul and repair activities on the USS PROVIDENCE (SSN 719) and USS MIAMI (SSN 755); served as the Command Diving Officer and served as project engineer for the Advanced Seal Delivery System and the Atmospheric Diving System.

Following his shipyard tour of duty, Captain Lehnhardt served at the Deep Submergence Unit from 2003 to 2007 as Officer-in-Charge of the Diving Systems Detachment where he led the conduct of submarine rescue exercise Sorbet Royal, led and participated in numerous salvage operations and certified the U.S. Navy's Atmospheric Diving System.

In 2007, Captain Lehnhardt reported to the Naval Sea Systems Command where he served in the Advanced Undersea Systems directorate (PMS 394) as the Assistant Program Manager for Special Systems Acquisition until 2011 and as the Commanding Officer of the Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) from 2011 through 2013.

Upon relinquishing his command of NEDU, he served as the Program Executive Officer, Maritime in the Special Operations Force Acquisition, Technology and Logistics directorate at the U.S. Special Operations Command until 2016 where he delivered numerous undersea and surface craft to the Naval Special Warfare Command operators.

Captain Lehnhardt is currently assigned to NAVSEA where he holds the position of Supervisor of Diving & Salvage (00C). He is an acquisition professional and qualified in submarines, deep submergence systems and as a deep sea diver/salvage officer. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards) and other individual and unit awards.