Rory O’Connor serves as the director, Naval Sea Systems Command’s (NAVSEA) Office of Corporate Communication (SEA 00D) with responsibility for managing communications efforts for the Navy’s largest systems command. With a workforce in excess of 56,000 military and civilian personnel, NAVSEA engineers, builds and supports the U.S. Navy’s new-construction and in-service ships and their combat and weapons systems. NAVSEA manages more than 100 acquisition programs, which are assigned to the command’s five affiliated Program Executive Officers (PEOs) and various headquarters elements.

O’Connor’s responsibilities include providing strategic communications direction to NAVSEA’s 38 subordinate shore activities, detachments and on-site offices; managing external and internal communication efforts; tactical communication planning; documentary support; enterprise exhibit planning; public release reviews; graphics development; and flag-writing assignments. He further oversees all of NAVSEA’s legislative efforts by providing its senior leaders counsel on congressional, White House, and political matters, including legislative and executive branch initiatives, constituent concerns, hearings, visits, meetings, briefings, and other related matters. O’Connor also has the pleasure of supervising a team of 17 public affairs and congressional affairs professionals.

For 13 years, O’Connor provided public affairs and congressional support for Team Submarine. He began his career with the U.S. Navy as a contractor in May 2001 initially as a flag writer, then transitioning into public affairs later that year. In January 2005, O’Connor was hired as a government employee to head Team Submarine’s public affairs tasks and was promoted in 2007 to lead Team Submarine’s Congressional and Public Affairs staff. He served in that capacity until April 2014, when he transitioned to SEA 00D.

Originally from Massachusetts, O’Connor has a Bachelor’s of Arts in history from Lake Forrest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, and a Master’s of Arts in history from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.