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## Command Master Chief William "Bill" Smalts *Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet*

Master Chief Bill Smalts is a native of California and Texas, and after graduating from Palestine High School, he joined the Navy in November 1986.

He assumed the duties as the U.S. 2nd Fleet command master chief in August 2018. His previous command and force master chief tours were Force Master Chief, Naval Air Force Atlantic, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), Naval Air Station Oceana and Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 124.

He received recruit and seaman apprentice training in Great Lakes, Illinois. His first duty assignment was aboard the USS L.Y. Spear (AS 36), where he deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm. Other shipboard assignments include USS Simpson (FFG 56), USS Briscoe (DD 977) and USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7). He also served in two expeditionary commands in the U.S. Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group and Riverine Squadron Three.

His shore tours include the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Admiral's Barge and the Afloat Training Group Atlantic.

Master Chief Smalts is a graduate of the

U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and Command Master Chief course. He completed the keystone leadership course with the National Defense University in July 2010.

In January 2008 he graduated from the United States Marine Corps School of Infantry in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He also completed combined/joint studies at the Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra, Australia, earning a degree in maritime studies from the University of Wollongong. In 2011, he completed the Senior Shore Leadership Course at Naval Installations Command. In 2012, he completed the Navy's Senior Leader Seminar at the Navy Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. He is qualified as an afloat and master training specialist.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Joint Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (six awards), and various unit and campaign awards. He has also earned his Enlisted Aviation and Surface Warfare Specialist qualifications.

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Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet | 1562 Mitscher Ave., Suite 250 | Norfolk, Virginia 23551-2  
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