

Randel L. Zeller

Director for Interagency and First Responder Programs

Science and Technology Directorate

Department of Homeland Security



Randel Zeller is a native of Virginia. He was commissioned in 1975 as an Ensign upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy. At the Academy he earned a degree in Nuclear Marine Engineering. He has 24 years of nuclear engineering experience with the US Navy. Zeller also holds a Master of Science in Management from Salve Regina University and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He serves as a member of the Harvard University Junior Faculty for the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative (NPLI).

His early Navy assignments included service on nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers. From 1992 to 1994 Zeller commanded the nuclear attack submarine USS GATO. Following command, he served on the staff of the Chief of Navy Legislative Affairs as the submarine portfolio manager, responsible for representing the Navy on Capitol Hill.

From 1997 to 1999, he commanded the navy shipyard in Kings Bay, Georgia. He was responsible for 2000 maintenance and support personnel, a \$110 million budget, and the upkeep, overhaul, and repair of 10 Trident Class nuclear submarines.

He then reported to the Secretary of the Navy as Deputy Chief of Navy Legislative Affairs. During this assignment Zeller was responsible for supervising all Navy-Congressional liaisons. In June 2000, he assumed duties as Special Assistant and Legislative Director for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He served in the Office of the Chairman under General Hugh Shelton, USA and General Richard Myers, USAF.

In January 2004, Zeller retired from the United States Navy and joined the office of U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel as Senior Policy Advisor for national security. His responsibilities included the Senator's Defense, Intelligence, and Veterans Affairs portfolios.

He left Senator Hagel's office in August 2006 to join BAE Systems as a senior executive.

Zeller was sworn in to the Senior Executive Service on 3 January 2007 and assumed his current duties at the Department of Homeland Security. The Interagency and First Responder Programs Division provides leadership in the Science & Technology Directorate for collaboration and coordination with federal, state, local, tribal and territorial partners, and private sector entities, in order to field solutions for complex customer problems.