

Captain Matthew J. Kiser



CAPT Matthew J. Kiser grew up in Bedford, Texas, graduating from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Commissioned as an Ensign in August 2000, he earned the title of Naval Aviator in February 2002.

Sea duty assignments include Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 46 “Grandmasters,” deploying twice with USS [Klarkring](#) (FFG 42) supporting Standing NATO Force Atlantic and Standing NATO Maritime Group One operations and exercises; Expeditionary Strike Group Two/Commander Task Force 51/58/59/151 while forward deployed to NAVCENT; and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 51 “Warlords,” serving as Officer-in-Charge for detachments deploying with USS [George Washington](#) (CVN 73) as part of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) Five, as well as USS [Mustin](#) (DDG 89). He commanded HSM-71 “Raptors” assigned to Team “Shogun” of CVW Three, deploying with USS [John C. Stennis](#) (CVN 74). During this tour the “Raptors” were awarded the Battle “E”, Admiral Jimmy Thach Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation, HSM Wing Pacific “Golden Wrench” and multiple Retention Excellence Awards. As Executive Officer aboard USS [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) (CVN 69), deployed to the Mediterranean and North Arabian Seas as part of Carrier Strike Group Two, he supported Operation *Freedom’s Sentinel*, “Mighty IKE” earned the Battle “E” and the RADM James “Jig Dog” Ramage Award.

Ashore and staff assignments include Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1 where he ultimately served as the MH-60R Operational Test Director, U.S. European Command (EUCOM) J-6 serving as

the C4/Cyber Liaison Officer to NATO Headquarters; and OPNAV N9I serving an extremely short stint as Deputy Branch Head for Joint/Navy Requirements Integration.

He most recently served as Commanding Officer of USS [*Mount Whitney*](#) (LCC 20). flagship of both U.S. SIXTH Fleet and Naval Striking und Support Forces NATO. homeported in Gaeta, Italy.

CAPT Kiser assumed command of *John C. Stennis* in November 2025.

Last updated: 26 November 2025