

Neil Smith takes helm of the Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center

FROM THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Captain Neil Smith, former senior oceanographer detailer at the Navy Personnel Command, assumed command of the Office of Naval Intelligence's Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center 2 Aug.

Smith relieved CAPT Scott Chesbrough, who will serve as senior assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman's Control Activity for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance.

Smith will command the ONI center responsible for deploying military and civilian intelligence specialists and providing intelligence for mission planning, targeting and operational threat support.

He said now more than ever in recent history, the Navy and nation are being called on by world events to operate decisively to deter and defeat adversaries and to evolve quickly.

"I've only been here with Scott and the Kennedy team for two weeks but in this short – but rather intense – introduction to the ONI universe and Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center, it has become clear that this is the right place and these are the right people to confront these challenges," Smith said.

"I look forward to working with the men and women here today to carry out the Kennedy mission and help safeguard the nation," he said.

RADM Robert Sharp, ONI Commander, praised Chesbrough for his leadership during the past two years and welcomed Smith, saying, "We lose talent, we gain talent."

Sharp said he had specifically sought to get an oceanographer as part of the ONI Enterprise to connect capabilities in ways that haven't been done before.

"I know Neil that you will continue to take this command to the next level," Sharp said.

Chesbrough, who took command of Kennedy in June 2015, said he was honored and humbled to have been a part of the team.

"You have a strong fleet reputation for quality work and mission focus," Chesbrough told Kennedy staff. "I have no doubt all of you will continue to step into the breach, deliver information advantage, drive operations and build Kennedy's capabilities."



CAPT Neil Smith departs the ceremony where he assumed command of the Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center 2 Aug.

