



United States Navy Biography

CAPT Robert “Robbie” Underhill Executive Director, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

CAPT Robert “Robbie” Underhill reported to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Defense Personnel and Family Support Center, and assumed the duties of Executive Director of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) on September 17, 2019. In this role, Underhill leads the Department of Defense ESGR in its mission of facilitating and promoting a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve service. ESGR operates through a network of more than 3,700 volunteers throughout 54 committees located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands. ESGR’s volunteer operations are supported by a headquarters staff of approximately 30 military and civilian personnel in Alexandria, Virginia.



A native of Richmond, Virginia, Underhill attended the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a minor in German, and was commissioned in May 1998. He also holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of North Florida.

CAPT Underhill reported to Surface Warfare Officer School (SWOS) in Newport, Rhode Island, and completed basic surface warfare officer (SWO) training and follow-on training in gas turbine power plant engineering. His first duty assignment was in Mayport, Florida, aboard the USS Vicksburg (CG-69), where he served as the Electrical Officer. His next assignment was aboard the USS Samuel Eliot Morison (FFG-13) and USS Estocin (FFG-15), where he served as the ship’s Navigator. He then reported for shore duty, at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Jacksonville, Florida, where he served as the Executive Officer.

Upon completion of his shore tour, Underhill left active duty and continued service in the Navy Reserve. His first assignment was with Personnel Mobilization Team A, where he was the Mobilization Officer. He then joined Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 11 as the Executive and Administration Officers. The unit was mobilized from September 2007 to May 2008 and deployed to Kuwait, working for the Army at Port Ash Shuaiba.

Underhill was selected to return to active duty as a Full Time Support SWO in October 2007, and reported to SWOS department head school following his mobilization. He then reported to the USS Klakring (FFG-42), where he served as the Operations and Senior Watch Officer during Standing NATO Maritime Group and Southern Seas deployments. Underhill’s additional sea duty assignments included serving as the Exercise Officer for Destroyer Squadron 40, and Executive Officer aboard the USS Leyte Gulf (CG-55). His additional shore assignments included a role as the Requirements and Action Officer for Cruiser and Destroyer Modernization within OPNAV N96 at the Pentagon and most recently, the Commanding Officer for Navy Recruiting District Richmond.

CAPT Underhill’s decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards); the Army Commendation Medal; the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards); and the Meritorious Unit Commendation (three awards).