

**Captain Debora R. Barr, NOAA**  
**Director, NOAA Homeland Security Program Office**

Captain (CAPT) Debora R. Barr is the Director of NOAA's Homeland Security Program Office. She is responsible for strengthening the Agency's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, disruption of NOAA's Mission Essential Functions and other emergencies. Her office provides a unity of effort and the focal point for incident management and reporting to NOAA leadership, Department of Commerce, the White House Homeland Security Council, Department of Homeland Security, and other interagency partners.



CAPT Barr has served in a variety of operational and staff roles over the course of her diverse career with NOAA and the US Army. As member of the NOAA Corps since 1993, she most recently served as the Acting Deputy Director, National Environmental Satellite and Information Service (NESDIS) Office of Satellite and Product Operations, where she managed and directed the operation of sixteen NOAA environmental satellites, the acquisition of remotely sensed data, the generation and delivery of associated satellite products, and was responsible for three facilities and a workforce of over 500 people.

CAPT Barr has also served as Acting Director of OMAO's Safety and Environmental Compliance Division where she provided oversight for the safety and environmental compliance of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) marine and aviation operations and related facilities. She directly supervised the managers of NOAA's fleet inspection program, small boat safety program, charter aircraft safety program, and the dive safety program. Prior to that, she served as Chief of Staff to the Director of the NOAA Corps and Director of OMAO, and as Chief of the Executive Affairs Division (EAD) where she was a key advisor to the Director on program and policy issues.

CAPT Barr completed her postgraduate education in May 2009, earning a Juris Doctor degree in law from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law as a full-time university (FUT) assignment, graduating cum laude. She obtained a license to practice law in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Prior to law school, CAPT Barr served in a variety of other headquarters staff assignments involving the aviation operations of NOAA and worked closely with every Line Office as they had need to utilize OMAO aviation resources. From 2003-2006, she worked with all NOAA Line Offices to draft and implement a new NOAA Administrative Order (NAO 209-124 Aviation Safety Policy), obtained funding for, developed, and staffed a new Aviation Safety Program for NOAA. This program provides aviation safety training and life support equipment to NOAA employees who fly on non-NOAA aircraft in support of NOAA missions and provides safety oversight of contract aircraft operations for NOAA.

Early in her NOAA career, CAPT Barr served as Aircraft Mission Commander and Certified Flight Instructor in both the Bell 212 and MD 500 helicopters from 1993-1999 at the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center in Tampa, Florida. She traveled extensively as Aircraft Mission Commander where she flew Bowhead Whale and Polar Bear surveys out of Alaska; conducted coastal hydrographic surveys with a LIDAR system; and was deployed several times with the MD-500 helicopter aboard the NOAA Ship DAVID STARR JORDAN where she flew Dolphin Abundance Surveys in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. She also served as Light Aircraft Project Coordinator, where she provided aircraft support to the NOAA Line Offices. She was selected to serve as Flag Lieutenant to Rear Admiral Evelyn Fields, Director OMAO and NOAA Corps in January 2000.

CAPT Barr has been recognized for her outstanding performance, receiving the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal, multiple NOAA Corps Commendation Medals, NOAA Special Achievement Medals, NOAA Unit Citation Awards, and a variety of NOAA Service Medals and Ribbons. Additionally, while serving in the United States Army, she was awarded the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and a variety of other Service Medals and Ribbons.

CAPT Barr was born in St. Louis, Missouri. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from Southwest Missouri State University in 1986, joined the United States Army in 1987, and served as Chief Warrant Officer flying UH-1 helicopters as Aircraft Commander in support of Army Flag Officers and other VIPs while stationed in Germany. Her Army career included a tour of duty flying in combat during Desert Storm in 1991, and later she served as Aircraft Commander of a Medical Evacuation Blackhawk helicopter for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell Kentucky. She earned a Masters Degree in Aeronautical Science (August 1989-June 1993) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University while working and flying full time for the Army both overseas and in the United States.