

Vice Admiral Eric T. Olson
Deputy Commander
U.S. Special Operations Command

Vice Admiral Eric Thor Olson is the deputy commander, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

A native of Tacoma, WA, Olson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1973. During his career as a Naval Special Warfare officer, he has served operationally in an Underwater Demolition Team, SEAL Team, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team, Special Boat Squadron and at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. He has also served as a SEAL instructor, strategy and tactics development officer, and joint special operations staff officer.

His overseas assignments include duty as a United Nations Military Observer in Israel and Egypt and as the Navy Programs Officer in Tunisia.

Olson has participated in several conflicts and contingency operations, and has commanded at every level from SEAL platoon officer-in-charge to Naval Special Warfare force commander. His primary staff duty was as Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy and Operations).

Olson earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School. He is a joint specialty officer and political-military affairs subspecialist. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver Star. Olson is married with two children.