

Rear Admiral Derek John Christian

Rear Admiral Derek Christian, a qualified submariner, served in a variety of seagoing and shore-based posts in the South African Navy and broader South African National Defence Force throughout his 42 years of service, until his retirement in February 2017.

Some of his more senior appointments included being the Naval and Assistant Defence Attaché in Washington, DC, the Commandant of the Military Academy in Saldanha, and the Director of Naval Logistics at Navy Headquarters in Pretoria. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in early 2016 and appointed as the Deputy Chief of the Joint Operations Division, and then as the Acting Chief of Joint Operations, until his retirement.

His qualifications include a B.Mil (B.Sc) from Stellenbosch University, an MBA from the University of Cape Town, and an MA (International Relations) from Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island. He is also a graduate of the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

He was the recipient of several academic and service-oriented awards throughout his career. Amongst others, these include the Military Merit Medal (MMM), the Legion of Merit Medal (US Navy), and the Tamandaré Medal of Merit (Brazilian Navy).