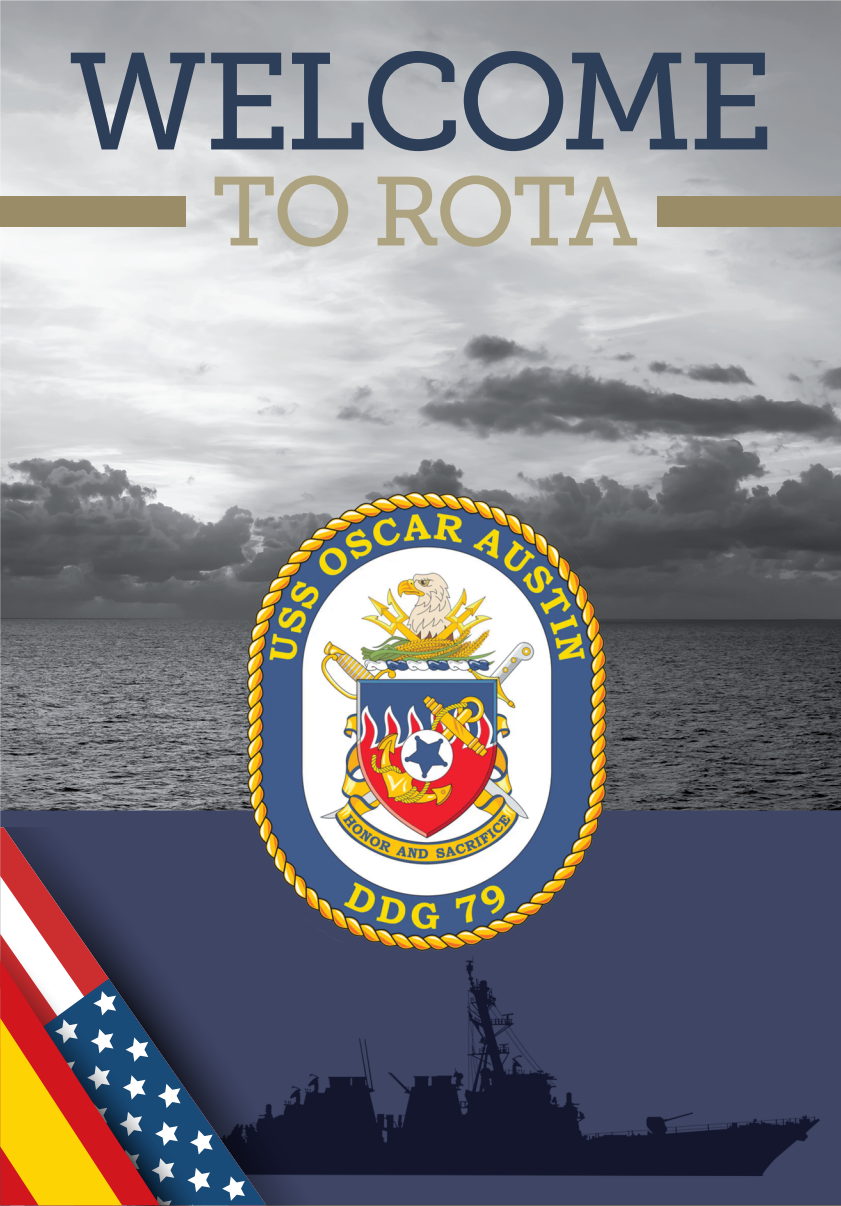


USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79)

# WELCOME TO ROTA



NAVAL STATION ROTA, SPAIN 2024



BIENVENIDOS A ROTA

## Schedule of Events

**Arrival of official party**

**Parade the Colors**

**Spanish National Anthem**

*Spanish Marines TERSUR Band*

**U.S. National Anthem**

*U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Band*

**Invocation**

*Commander James Storie, U.S. Navy*

### Remarks

**Commander Scott Burrill, U.S. Navy**

*Commanding Officer, USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79)*

**Captain Teague Suarez, U.S. Navy**

*Commanding Officer, Naval Activities, Spain*

**Mr. Scott M. Oudkirk**

*Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Mission to NATO*

**Admiral Eugenio Diaz del Rio,**

*Spanish Fleet Admiral*

**Admiral Stuart Munsch, U.S. Navy**

*Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, Africa*

**Rian Harker Harris**

*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim (a.i.),  
U.S. Embassy in Spain and Andorra*

**Benediction**

**Departure of Official Party**





## Cmdr. Scott B. Burrill

*Commanding Officer, USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79)*

Cmdr. Scott B. Burrill graduated from the University of Maine in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Physical Education. He holds a Master's degree in Defense and Strategic Studies with a concentration in Irregular Warfare from the United States Naval War College.

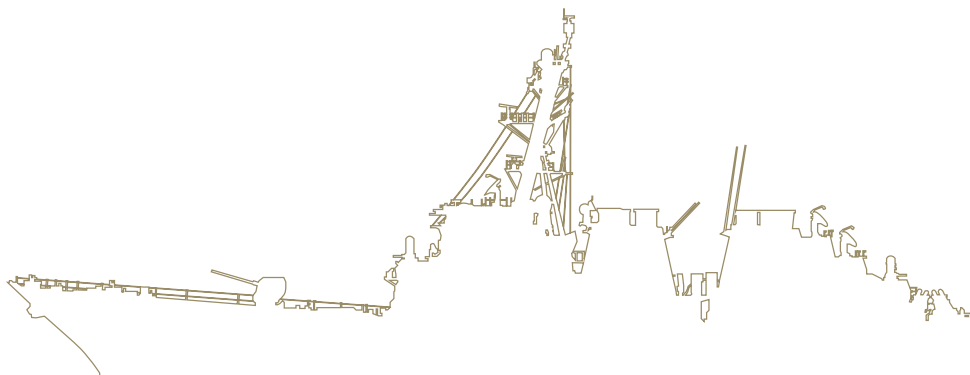
Cmdr. Burrill assumed his duties as Executive Officer of USS OSCAR AUSTIN in April 2022.

At sea, Cmdr. Burrill served in USS MCINERNEY (FFG 8) as 1st LT, deploying to the 4th Fleet AOR. In USS GETTYSBURG (CG 64), he served as damage control assistant, deploying to both 6th and 5th Fleet AOR's. Following Department Head School, he reported to USS BULKELEY (DDG 84) as operations officer, deploying to both 6th and 5th Fleet AOR's, then reporting to DESTROYER SQUADRON TWO EIGHT (CDS-28) as operations officer.

Ashore, Cmdr. Burrill has completed an individual augmentee tour to Joint CREW Composite Squadron ONE, serving as an electronic warfare officer in Iraq, and a navigation, ship handling and seamanship instructor at Surface Warfare Officers School. Additional tours on the staff of United States Fleet Forces Command in Fleet Scheduling and Future Operations and most recently as executive officer of Afloat Training Group Norfolk.

Commander Burrill assumed his duties as Commanding Officer of USS OSCAR AUSTIN in October 2023.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various unit and campaign awards.



## USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79)



The Arleigh Burke-class Flight II Aegis-equipped guided missile destroyer USS Oscar Austin (DDG-79) is homeported at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. USS Oscar Austin is named in honor of Marine Private First-Class Oscar P. Austin, who was killed in action in Vietnam on February 23, 1979.

USS Oscar Austin was commissioned on August 19, 2000, in Norfolk, Va. and constructed in Bath, Maine by Bath Iron Works. She is the first of the Flight IIA class of destroyers. She is ballistic missile defense (BMD), anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare capable. She can embark two MH-60R helicopters to assist in anti-submarine and other warfare areas. Destroyers can work with Carrier Strike Groups, Surface Action Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups or independently as they will in forward deployed naval forces (FDFN) Rota.

USS Oscar Austin is equipped with the Navy's Aegis Weapon System, the world's foremost integrated naval weapon system. When integrated with the Aegis Combat System, the Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) permits groups of ships and aircraft to link their radars to provide a composite picture of the battle space, effectively increasing the theater space.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Builder:** Bath Iron Works, Huntington Ingalls Industries

**Propulsion:** Four GE LM 2500 gas turbines, each rated at 25,000hp with a power turbine speed of 3,600rpm, driving two shafts, with controllable pitch propellers.

**Length:** 509.5 feet    **Beam:** 60 feet    **Displacement:** approx. 9,000 tons full load

**Speed:** 30+ knots    **Crew:** 32 Officers, 27 Chief Petty Officers and 270 Enlisted

**Armament:** Mk 41 VLS for Standard missiles, Tomahawk, ESSM, VLA missiles; one Mk 45 5-inch/54 caliber lightweight gun; one Phalanx CIWS; one RIM-116 SeaRAM; six Mk 46 torpedoes (from two triple tube mounts); two MK38 25MM guns.

**Aircraft:** Two LAMPS MK III MH-60 R helicopters

# NAVAL STATION ROTA, SPAIN



The agreement between the U.S. and Kingdom of Spain to establish a U.S. naval facility on the Bay of Cadiz was signed on Sept. 26, 1953. Since then, the development of Naval Station Rota has been a gradual and well planned process. The Naval Station runway opened on Oct. 4, 1956, and the base was named Naval Air Station Rota until 1957, when the base became Naval Station Rota. The port facility was officially opened April 14, 1958, and three days later, the first ship anchored in port.

In 1964, Submarine Squadron 16 was transferred to Rota, comprised of four ballistic missile submarines and accompanied by a succession of submarine tenders, including the USS Proteus (AS 19), USS Canopus (AS 34), USS Holland (AS 32) and USS Simon Lake (AS 33). Additionally, a Tactical Support Center was established at Rota in 1966, which brought a Communications Security Group and several squadrons of patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. By 1969, Naval Hospital Rota was delivering an average of 40 babies each month and the base population swelled to more than 12,000 U.S. active duty and family members.

The base population reached its peak of approximately 15,000 U.S. personnel in 1973, with the addition of a fleet logistics squadron and various transiting patrol squadrons. Visiting carrier battle groups were a common sight in the Naval Station's port. Following the 1975 re negotiation of the treaty between the U.S. and Spain, Submarine Squadron 16 relocated to Kings Bay, Georgia in 1979.

The 1980s saw an increased Seabee presence in Rota, as improvements at Camp Mitchell allowed accommodations for hundreds more Seabees at the base on rotational deployments. U.S. Air Force presence began to grow in Rota, as C-5 and C-141 aircraft layovers became more frequent. Despite the increased activity, by 1989, the base population dipped to about 10,000 U.S. personnel among 42 tenant commands at Naval Station Rota.

The Naval Station provided key support during the first Gulf War, supporting 3,600 aircraft and 186 ship visits during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Following the war, operations slowed throughout the decade

as several tenant commands relocated or were disestablished. By 1999, the U.S. population at the base was just over 6,000 people among 33 commands.

Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Rota saw a surge of aircraft and ships supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, supporting 8,700 aircraft operations and 206 ship visits in 2003. In 2005, as part of a larger Naval Forces Europe transformation, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 2 (VQ 2) and the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment relocated, and Naval Security Group Activity Rota disestablished, taking the U.S. population to 4,577 among 18 commands.

Today, Naval Station Rota provides outstanding operational logistics support to forces of the U.S. Transportation Command; U.S. European Command; U.S. Africa Command; Commander, Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet. It is home to 44 tenant/affiliated commands, approximately 6,562 service members, dependents, DoD civilians, contractors and Spanish Local National employees. In 2014-15, Naval Station Rota became the homeport to the Forward-Deployed Naval Forces-Europe, which comprise of Arleigh Burke-class destroyers that are assigned to the naval base on a rotational basis. In 2021, Naval Station Rota was one of the key bases in Europe to support Department of State led mission, Operation Allies Welcome, welcoming and accommodating more than 2600 evacuees from Afghanistan. In 2022, Naval Station Rota became the homeport to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 79.

On October 16, 2024, NAVSTA Rota welcomed its fifth Forward Deployed Naval Force-Europe (FDNF-E) Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer, USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79) as the first of the two additional ships to be homeported in Rota to enhance additional capabilities to the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) areas of responsibility. NAVSTA Rota's full contribution to Fleet, Family and Warfighter is immeasurable."



## Captain Teague Suarez

*Commanding Officer, NAVSTA Rota*

Captain Teague J. Suarez is the proud son of a Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer. He is a 1998 graduate of the Naval Academy, and holds a masters degree from the Air Command and Staff College. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 2000.

His aviation assignments include the HSL-51 Warlords, where he completed two deployments in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM; HSL-40, where he served as an instructor pilot and the CNAL Search and Rescue Evaluator; and HSL-42, where he deployed as an Officer in Charge aboard USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58). CAPT Suarez had the honor of serving as the Commanding Officer of the HSM-37 Easyriders.

Ashore CAPT Suarez served a year in Iraq as part of the Multi-National Security Corps – Iraq; as an action officer on the Joint Staff, J-35, Reconnaissance Operations Division; and as the Executive Assistant for the Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98). Afloat he served aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) as the Navigator, completing a 10-month deployment to the THIRD, FIFTH, SIXTH, and SEVENTH Fleet Areas of Operations.

His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Air Medal (2nd Strike/Flight), and various campaign and unit awards.



## Scott M. Oudkirk

### *Deputy Chief Of Mission*



Scott M. Oudkirk began his assignment as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to NATO in September 2024. Prior to Brussels, he was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara from July 2021 – July 2024. He previously served as the Director of the Department of State's Office of Iran Affairs from 2018 to 2020. From 2014 to 2017, his work focused on Iraq and the counter-ISIS campaign, first as the Deputy Political Counselor at Embassy Baghdad and successively as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the State Department's Office of Iraq Affairs.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Mr. Oudkirk previously served in both Ankara and Istanbul for seven years across two assignments and extended temporary duty. He has also served at the National Security Council, as well as in China and Jamaica.

Prior to receiving his Foreign Service commission in 1998, he worked for the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration and for the General Electric Company. A graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Mr. Oudkirk also holds Master's degrees from Columbia University and the National Defense University's Eisenhower School. Mr. Oudkirk is married to Sandra Oudkirk, previously the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, and is the father of three children.

## Rian Harker Harris

### *Chargé d'Affaires a.i.*



Rian Harker Harris is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor. During her more than twenty-year career she has served at the U.S. Embassies in Georgia, Serbia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Guatemala, Armenia, and the U.S. Consulate in Vladivostok, Russia. She also previously served at U.S. Embassy Madrid as the Press Attaché. Most recently, Ms. Harris was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia.

In Washington, D.C., she served as a Director for European Affairs at the White House on the National Security Council staff where she was responsible for nine countries in Southern Europe and the Caucasus, including Spain. She also served as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.

During her career, Ms. Harris has focused on public diplomacy and political-military affairs. She has served as Mission Spokesperson at three embassies and represented the U.S. on NATO Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan, including Herat, led by Italy, and Badghis, led by Spain.

Ms. Harris holds a master's degree in public policy from the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree in Russian studies and environmental science from the College of William and Mary. She has studied Spanish, Georgian, Russian, Serbian, and Dari. Ms. Harris was raised in rural Nelson County, Virginia. Her husband, Christopher, is also a Foreign Service Officer. They have two daughters.



## Admiral Stuart Munsch

**Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Africa/Commander, Allied Joint Forces Command, Naples**

Adm. Stuart Munsch, a native of North Dakota and a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy Annapolis, Maryland, with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. While at the U.S. Naval Academy, he was brigade commander of his class and an All-American and national champion pistol shooter. He was selected for a Rhodes Scholarship and attended Oxford University and earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

He then was assigned to four consecutive sea duty assignments, serving on USS Will Rogers (SSBN 659), USS Jefferson City (SSN 759), USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) on the staff of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 5, and USS Tucson (SSN 770).

In 1999, Munsch reported ashore to U.S. Pacific Command, where he served in the Plans and Policy Directorate (J5) prior to becoming deputy executive assistant to the commander. He then was selected for a White House Fellowship and served as special assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Munsch commanded USS Albuquerque (SSN 706) from 2002 to 2005, followed by duty in the Pentagon as the military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and then as executive assistant to the Director, Submarine Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV N87).

Munsch commanded Submarine Development Squadron (DEVRON) 5 from 2008 to 2010 and then returned to the Pentagon to head the Navy Strategy branch (OPNAV N513). Selected for flag rank, he was reassigned as deputy director, Undersea Warfare (OPNAV N97).

Munsch was assigned overseas to Japan and Bahrain, Munsch commanded Submarine Group 7 and Task Forces 74 and 54 from 2013 to 2015, followed by duty in the Pentagon as the senior military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

In 2017 he reported to OPNAV N3/N5 and in 2018 became the deputy chief of naval operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy.

In 2019 he established and served as the initial deputy chief of naval operations for Warfighting Development, N7. From 2020 to 2022 he served on the Joint Staff as director for Joint Force Development (J7).

Munsch assumed his current role in June 2022 as commander of Allied Joint Force Command, located in Naples, Italy. In this capacity, he directs a combined NATO staff responsible for planning, preparing and conducting military operations throughout the Supreme Allied Commander Europe's area of responsibility.

He concurrently serves as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa, where his area of responsibility encompasses the waters bordering the coasts of Europe and Africa, including the Baltic, Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Munsch is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. Supreme Court Statecraft Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI Fellow and recipient of the U.S. Navy League's Decatur Award for operational excellence.

His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (two awards), Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (five awards) and several unit awards shared with shipmates.



## Admiral Eugenio Díaz Del Río

**Admiral of the Spanish Fleet**

Eugenio Diaz Del Rio was born in Vigo (northwest Spain) on October 11, 1961. He joined the Navy on August 18, 1980. In July 1985, he graduated as Second Lieutenant.

As a Second Lieutenant, he served on Corvette "Cazadora" as Combat Information Center Officer and Naval Gun Fire Support Observer. Following that, he commanded Patrol Boat SPS "Toralla".

He was promoted to Lieutenant in July 1988 and assigned to the Fleet Tactical and Training Program Center, where he was responsible for the "Principe de Asturias" aircraft carrier combat system software, and to the Fleet Evaluation Center (CEVACO) as head of the Above Water Warfare (AWW) branch.

He spent almost four years on board Frigate "Santa Maria" taking part in the KUWAIT Liberation War in 1990, as well as in exercises, operations and deployments with NATO's Standing Naval Forces (STANAVFORLANT and STANAVFORMED). On board this ship, he served as Navigator, Communications, C.I.C. Officer, Electronic Warfare Officer and Tactical Action Officer (TAO).

As Lieutenant, he commanded Fast Patrol Boat SPS "Laya".

In July 1997, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. As LTCDR, he took the Naval College Staff Course and then served as Chief of Staff on the 41st Frigate Squadron, Santa María Class Frigates (1998-1999).

In the year 2000, he worked as Staff Operations Officer (one year tour) for NATO's Standing Naval Force in the Mediterranean (STANAVFORMED). When he returned from STANAVFORMED and after spending three months in the Operations Branch (N3) of the Spanish Fleet HQ, he took command of Corvette "Vencedora" with which he participated in "COHERENT BEHAVIOUR" (an operation integrated into EUROMARFOR) as well as several national and NATO exercises. He ended his command in October 2002 and was then assigned to the Military Cabinet of the Minister of Defense.

He was promoted to Commander on July 1, 2004, and thereafter was appointed to the N3 Division of the NATO Maritime Component Command (MCC) Staff in Northwood (U.K.), where he dealt with all NATO Response Force issues, operational planning and maritime situational awareness.

In September 2007, he took command of the Spanish Navy AEGIS-Area Air Defense Frigate "Mendez Nunez".

During this command, he was deployed to the Indian Ocean integrated into the Royal Navy ORION-08 Task Group. He also conducted anti-piracy operations off the Somali Coast and took part in several NATO (NRF preparation) and national exercises.

In April 2009, he was posted to the Spanish Navy General Staff as Branch Head for Strategic Plans (in the Plans and Policy Division), where he was promoted to Captain.

After the Navy evaluation process, he was designated to command the SNMG-2 during the Spanish rotation scheduled June 2013 to June 2014. On May 26, he was temporarily promoted to Rear Admiral and on June 15, 2013, he assumed command of the SNMG-2 until July 2014. During his command, he was deployed six months in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, mainly dedicated to Operation Active Endeavour and NRF Certification, as well as seven months in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf, where he assumed duties as CTF-508 (NATO Anti-Piracy Operation Ocean Shield).

Once he finished his NATO command, he was assigned as Chief of the Cabinet of the Spanish CNO (AJEMA).

In September 2015, he was promoted to Rear Admiral and posted as Chief of the Plans & Policy Division in the Navy General Staff.

In July 2016, he was posted as Chief of Staff of the Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM) and promoted to Vice Admiral in April 2018. In the summer of 2019, he was assigned as Chief of Plans and Policy Division in the Spanish Navy HQ in Madrid.

In May 2020, he assumed command of Spanish High Readiness Maritime Force (COMSPMARFOR).

On February 23, 2021, he was promoted to Admiral (OF-8) and assigned as the Admiral of the Spanish Fleet.

He has been awarded with two Grand Crosses; six Crosses of Naval Merit; the Military Merit; the Air Force Merit; the Guardia Civil Merit; the Cross of Saint Hermenegildo and two foreign medals: Kuwait Liberation Medal and the Naval Medal of the Republic of Chile; and two NATO Medals (Active Endeavour and Africa).

After his job as Chief of Staff of the Allied Maritime Command he was awarded the "NATO Meritorious Medal".

He is married to Amparo Sotelo and they have five children and six grandchildren.