

Rob Sparrock
Office of Naval Research
Program Manager
Oceanographic Research Facilities
(closely tied to NFS – as lead
federal agency)

Personal Background

Retired Navy Captain/Surface Warfare – 38 years – last 4 years at ONR

Diverse background focused on Ship Operations, Naval Strategy, Warfighting, Engineering, Ocean Sciences, and Acoustics

9 yrs full time student,

10 yrs at Sea, 4 yrs in Shipyards (including new build): 7 Warships/7 Deployments

5 yrs Instructor-trainer – Tactics, Strategy, Major Combat Operations,

10 yrs Program Management: Navy HQ, DoD HQ, ONR

Education: Physical Oceanography-Acoustics, Operations Research, National Defense Strategy
Nuclear Propulsion Operations and Acquisition.

Schools: Naval Academy, USCD-Scripps, Navy PostGrad School, Navy War College,
Navy Nuclear Power School and Defense Acquisition University.

Veteran of Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan Campaigns and served in Saudi Arabia and S. Korea

First Science job: Meteorological Research Intern at Los Alamos National Lab

ONR Strategic Priorities

- Acoustics – Marine Mammals (impacts), Signal Processing-Autonomy-AI/ML, Physical Oceanography, Coastal & AirSea Processes, Arctic, and Seabed
- Scientific Diplomacy: Partnerships with allied Pacific and NATO nations
- STEM workforce development and education: Social Media
- Instrument Priorities: Multi-beams, WAMOS, gravimeters, Sub-Bottom Profiles, eDNA, Spar-buoys, manned Deep Sea vehicles (ALVIN), Twin Otter Aircraft: low altitude, aerosols & optics.
- Cyber, Cyber Security, Bandwidth expansions: \$4M Congressional add 2022

Personal Strategic Priorities

- Personally, Professionally, and Financially support DEI and STEM
- MATES, STEMSEAS, Cadets, DIVERsity, Research Vessels to School/Teachers
- Near Term: Kilo Moana Midlife -2027
- Rob's 50th Anniversary of Naval Service - 2034
- Mid Term: Replacement of Global Class -2035
- Long Term: Neil Armstrong and Sally Ride Midlife -2039