



Xochitl Castañeda CDR (USCG ret)

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Office of Maritime & Intermodal Outreach

U.S. DOT, Maritime Administration

Xochitl (pronounced So-chee) Castañeda is the Director of the Pacific Northwest & Alaska Gateway Office located in Seattle, Washington. Her area of responsibility includes the states of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington, featuring over one hundred ports, the most extensive ferry system in the United States (Washington State Ferry System), and the longest ferry system in the country (Alaska Marine Highway System), as well as the homeport for the largest fishing fleet in the Nation (Seattle).

Xochitl hails from Pearblossom, CA. In 1990 she enlisted in the US Coast Guard and served as a quartermaster on the CGC MIDGETT. Following this tour she pursued her education and returned to military service in 1995 in the US Navy Reserves and later the US Coast Guard Reserves. She was recalled to US Coast Guard active duty in 2001 and earned her commission in 2002.

Xochitl served afloat and ashore earning expertise in navigation, energy projects, pollution response, waterfront facilities, vessels, mariner licensing, waterways and emergency management.

She started her education at Antelope Valley College then transferred to University of California at Santa Barbara where she earned a B.S. in Aquatic Biology. Later she earned a Master's in Transportation and Logistics, with a Maritime Engineering Concentration from American Military University.

She volunteers as the National Historian to Association of Naval Service Officers (ANSO), a organization that works to recruit, retain and advance Hispanics in the Sea Services.