



Christopher M. Williams

Deputy Port Director

Muskogee City-County Port Authority

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Mr. Williams began working as the Deputy Director for the Muskogee City-County Port Authority in March 2016.

Chris is originally from Muskogee where he attended the Hilldale school system until 1989 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

Chris spent 21 years in naval service which he began as a boiler technician on the battleship USS Wisconsin (BB 64). After Operations Desert Shield and Storm he transferred to a destroyer tender and began working towards a commission as a Surface Warfare Officer. As a commissioned officer he has served in many roles at sea which include tours as commanding officer, chief engineer, operations officer, and deck officer. Ashore, Chris has served on several staffs which include positions as the Current Materiel Readiness Officer of the Atlantic Surface Fleet in Norfolk, VA; Operations Officer for the Office of the Administrative Review of the Detention of Enemy Combatants in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and as an Operational Test Director for the Navy's independent Operational Test Force for new acquisitions weapons systems in Norfolk, VA.

Upon retiring from active duty, Chris began work as a defense contractor in the Research and Development field. He supported the operational testing of several ships and watercraft before they entered service in the fleet. In April of 2012 Chris left the R&D field to manage surface vessels' lifecycle maintenance as a federal civil servant with the U.S. Navy and remained there until accepting the deputy position at the port.

Mr. Williams graduated from Norfolk State University with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, and completed his Master's degree in Public Administration at Old Dominion University. Chris is currently enrolled in the public administration PhD program at ODU and is expected to graduate in May 2016. Chris has focused his graduate studies on maritime policy and port management. He holds a graduate certificate in Maritime, Ports and Logistics Management from ODU and his dissertation is focused on developing a theory of port governance that can be used to help port managers and governing boards understand the public consequences of their decisions.

Chris has been married to Sheila Morales-Colon of Coamo, Puerto Rico since May of 1992 and they have twins, Christopher and Melinda, who are both juniors at Hampden-Sydney College and the College of William and Mary in Virginia.