

Command Master Chief Marilyn Kennard is a native of Bessemer, Alabama. She graduated from Jess Lanier High School in 1988 and reported to Recruit Training Command in Orlando, Florida in January 1989, then graduated from MS "A" school in San Diego, California.

Master Chief Kennard served her first initial assignment as a Mess Management Specialist at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in May 1989. Her other assignments included USS MOUNT HOOD (AE 29) in Concord, California; Naval Air Station Alameda, Alameda, California; USS McKEE (AS 41) San Diego, California; and USS BOXER (LHD 4) in San Diego, California. In October 2002 she reported to Navy Personnel Command, Millington, Tennessee as a MS/CS Detailer, eventually becoming the Lead Detailer managing over 4,500 Sailors within her community. In 2007 she reported to MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8) Pre-commissioning Detachment in San Diego, California and later transferred Pre-commissioning Unit in Pascagoula, Mississippi until 2009 where she served as the Department Leading Chief Petty Officer. In October 2009 she commissioned USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8) and was later selected for the Command Master Chief Program in 2010 where she served three years onboard JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG-53). She is currently serving as the Command Master Chief at Washington Navy Yard for Naval Support Activity Washington, DC.

Master Chief Kennard is a graduate of the Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 126) and a graduate of the Command Master Chief/COB course. She has earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Resource Management from Park University and Master's of Science Degree in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas.