

USCG STATION NEW LONDON COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

It is my honor and privilege to serve as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station New London. As an operational unit we are an integral part of the Department of Homeland Security responsible to the people of the United States for the safe and effective execution of Ports, Waterways and Coastal Security, Search and Rescue, Federal Law Enforcement, and Environmental Protection in the maritime domain. Accomplishing these tasks requires preparation, coordination of a myriad of complex tasks, constant vigilance, cooperation, and foresight. Without each and every one of you giving your expertise and hard work to the Station and to each other, the unit is nothing more than a building of bricks and mortar and vessels tied alongside the pier. Revere those who served before you that distinguished the Coast Guard as an honorable and dedicated service. Remember our traditions. Add to the organizations legacy. Serve the community, the nation, the Coast Guard, and each other.

Balancing our needs, safety, and readiness will be instrumental to our success:

First, we must maintain an even balance of all our needs. I want to meet your needs and the needs of your families. You will be able to give maximum effort to your duties if you have your needs met and peace of mind at home. Communicating your needs is critical, if you have a concern let someone know... your shipmate, your supervisor, the XPO, or I. I value your portion of the team effort, no member of our team is indispensable, and I understand that personal life events may prevent some of you from being here all of the time. **There are no unimportant jobs or unimportant people on our team.**

Second, **safety of our crew is paramount** both on and off duty. I expect an environment that promotes and encourages communication among every member of our team. Do not hesitate to speak up if you see a dangerous or unsafe situation developing. Your observation of a potentially unsafe situation could break the 'chain of events' leading to a personal injury or small boat accident. We shall use operational risk management tools as a team to guide our decision process in all our endeavors. We are of no use to the public we serve if we do not arrive on scene.

Third, conduct training and complete required maintenance so that we remain "Always Ready". Aggressively seek out new and innovative ways to "train, maintain, and operate" focusing on teamwork, professional expertise, and attention to detail. Lead by example. It is through actions, not words, that leaders achieve the most with their people. **Our readiness to complete missions depends on our ability to effectively maintain our equipment, train our bodies, train our minds, and to constantly test our skills.**

I want you to remember that we are public servants, and **it will be our habit to assist one another, other Coast Guard units, other agencies we work with, and the public whenever we can.** "Excellence is never an accident", together through compassion, teamwork, professionalism, innovation, and hard work we will take Coast Guard Station New London to the next level. Much will be asked of you and I have every confidence in your abilities. Though this is a demanding assignment, we will find time to have fun as well. Your tour will be over before you know it... make the best of it!