

CAPTAIN ROBERT C. COMPHER
DIRECTOR OF INSPECTIONS & COMPLIANCE (CG-5PC)
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Captain Compher assumed duties as Director of Inspections and Compliance at Coast Guard Headquarters in April 2025. In this position, he develops and maintains policy, standards, and program alignment for all prevention activities associated with the safe operation of vessels and facilities. The CG-5PC Directorate manages policy development and program oversight for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, recreational boating safety, foreign and domestic commercial vessel compliance, international and domestic ports and facilities safety and security, vessel documentation, and marine casualty investigations.



Captain Compher previously served as the Coast Guard's Chief Traveler, where he led a specialized staff of senior marine inspectors in providing professional commercial vessel knowledge, experience, and training to field commanders and commercial vessel inspectors to ensure safe, consistent application of requirements and to expand technical expertise throughout the Prevention program. Captain Compher's previous staff assignments include Marine Safety Center Commanding Officer and Chief of the Office of Design and Engineering Standards (CG-ENG). He also served under U.S. Northern Command where he led contingency planning and exercises for Department of Defense Joint and Interagency Arctic, Homeland Defense, Support to Civil Authorities, and Theater Security Cooperation missions.

Captain Compher's first assignment was aboard the Cutter DAUNTLESS in 1997. His operational tours include service as a Marine Inspector, Port Operations Officer, and Senior Investigating Officer at Marine Safety Unit Galveston. From 2009 to 2012, he served Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, leading the Coast Guard's marine safety missions in the nation's 11th largest port, and providing response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for the parishes in Southwest Louisiana. He was assigned as Chief of Prevention at Coast Guard Sector Mobile from 2015 to 2018, where was the Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections and oversaw commercial vessel inspections, investigations, waterways management, and aids to navigation in Mississippi, Alabama, and Northwest Florida.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Master of Science degrees from the University of Michigan in Naval Architecture and Industrial Engineering, and graduate degrees from the Naval War College and Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. Captain Compher is a licensed Professional Engineer.

Captain Compher is the recipient of the Defense and Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Joint Service and Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and numerous other personal, unit, and service awards.

Captain Compher is a native of Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife Katy live in Maryland with their two children, Luke and Charlie.