

CAPTAIN ROBERT C. COMPHER
COMMANDING OFFICER
U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY CENTER

Captain Compher serves as the Coast Guard's lead technical authority for commercial vessel regulation and promotes marine safety and environmental protection through engineering review and approval of nearly 20,000 plans annually for the design, construction and alteration of U.S. and foreign vessels, equipment, and offshore energy facilities.

A 1997 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, his first assignment was aboard Coast Guard Cutter DAUNTLESS, where he served as student engineer and Damage Control Assistant. From 1999 until 2003, he was assigned to Marine Safety Unit Galveston, where he initially held the position of Chief of the Marine Environmental Protection Branch and was later assigned as a Marine Inspector and Senior Investigating Officer.

In 2005, Captain Compher was assigned to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center and served as Chief of the Small Vessel Branch and as member of the Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT). During this period, he was involved in several high profile marine casualty responses, including deployments as the sole federal naval architect following the capsizing of a 700 foot long vehicle carrier in Alaska and to Hurricane Katrina leading salvage efforts on over 500 commercial and recreational vessels.



From 2009 through 2012, Captain Compher served as 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 initial response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for the parishes in Southwest Louisiana. In 2013, Captain Compher transferred to U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs where he was assigned to the Training and Exercise Directorate, leading contingency planning and exercise development for Department of Defense Joint and Interagency Arctic, Homeland Defense, Defense Support to Civil Authorities, and Theater Security Cooperation missions. He was assigned as Chief of Prevention at Coast Guard Sector Mobile from 2015 to 2018, where he 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.

Captain Compher served as Chief of the Coast Guard Office of Design and Engineering Standards from 2019 through 2021, where he led the development of safety and security standards for the commercial shipping and served as the U.S. Head of Delegation for the International Maritime Organization's Ship Design and Construction Subcommittee, leading the development of international standards.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Coast Guard Academy, Master of Science degrees from the University of Michigan in Naval Architecture/Marine Engineering 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.