



Commander Dan T. Somma

Deputy Sector Commander, Sector Lake Michigan



Commander Dan Somma is originally from Rye, NY. He graduated cum laude from the University of New Hampshire in 1994 with a BS in environmental conservation. He earned a commission in the Coast Guard in 1998 after working with Marine Safety Office (MSO) Boston as a contractor tasked with developing an oil spill remediation strategy for Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod.

He completed Direct Commission Officer School in Yorktown, VA and was assigned to MSO Puget Sound in Seattle, WA. He served as Assistant Chief, Marine Environmental Response and oversaw the clean-up of 350 oil spills and hazardous materials releases. He later served as Chief Container and Facilities where he coordinated cargo and facility inspection efforts jointly with US Customs after the 9/11 attacks. Commander Somma was promoted and then assigned to Activities New York as a marine inspector. He served three years inspecting vessels of all types including ferries, foreign freight ships and barges. His final year he served as a command duty officer and oversaw all operations in the Port of New York / New Jersey. During this time he earned an MS in international transportation management from the State University of New York Maritime College.



In 2006, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and was selected for a full time post graduate fellowship at the George Washington University in Washington, DC where he completed an MS degree in engineering management. In 2008, he was assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Port and Facility Activities where he ran the cargo and facilities program office responsible for the oversight of 3,200 commercial waterfront facilities. He traveled nationally and internationally promoting the Maritime Transportation Security Act regulations. Due to his previous experience in spill management, he also served temporarily in Grand Isle, LA and New Orleans during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

In 2012, Commander Somma transferred to the Washington Navy Yard and served as the liaison to Military Sealift Command (MSC) where he oversaw regulatory compliance of 150 US Naval Ships (USNS) operating in 24 time zones. He specialized in safety management systems and completed audits of ships domestically and in Gaeta, Italy. MSC was tasked with activating a ship for the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria and Commander Somma served as a safety advisor and key briefer to the Commanding Officer, US Transportation Command. In 2014, Commander Somma transferred to Milwaukee, WI to serve as Chief, Prevention Department of Sector Lake Michigan and was promoted to Deputy Sector Commander in 2016. Currently he oversees all Coast Guard operations in a four state area on and around Lake Michigan. This includes oversight of 545 active duty personnel and 21 stations and sub-units.

A New York native, Commander Somma grew up boating and diving on Long Island Sound. He holds SCUBA certifications in open water, advanced, rescue diver and dry suit / cold water. He is also an avid cyclist and a CrossFit athlete.

Commander Somma is married with three children. His personal awards include the Department of Homeland Security Exceptional Service Medal, the US Navy Meritorious Service Medal, the US Customs Best Practices Recognition Award for Joint Targeting Operations, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.