



## Captain Loan T. O'Brien

Commanding Officer  
Marine Safety Unit Houma



Captain Loan T. O'Brien assumed command of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Houma in June 2022. She serves as the Captain of the Port, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, and Officer-in-Charge of Marine Inspection for this area of responsibility. She oversees vessel and facility inspections, marine casualty investigations, and port safety and security for South Central Louisiana including the Atchafalaya River Basin. The unit has dedicated Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian, and Auxiliary personnel assigned as well as Marine Safety Unit Morgan City and Marine Safety Detachment Lafayette as its detachment units.

Previously, Captain O'Brien oversaw the Facility and System Capability Division in the Office of Shore Forces (CG-741) at Coast Guard Headquarters where she was a Capability Manager and Project/Program Manager for the service's largest operational field commands - the Sectors and Marine Safety Units. Her responsibilities also included the capability management of the Coast Guard's Vessel Traffic Services, CG One View, mobility projects for Marine Inspectors, and policy pertaining to the Shore Force Enterprise.

Captain O'Brien served as the Prevention Department Head of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur (2015-2018) and as the Chief of Inspections Division of Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi (2013-2015). Her other operational tours include: Contingency Planner, Regional Examination Center Evaluator and Examiner, Marine Inspector, Port State Control Officer, and the Waterways Management Division Assistant Chief of Sector (formerly Marine Safety Office/Group) Los Angeles-Long Beach (2000-2005).

Captain O'Brien has also served in several other staff positions including as the Security Standards Branch Chief in the Office of Facility Compliance (CG-FAC) (2009-2013) and was responsible for developing and implementing national Coast Guard policies concerning port, cargo, and international supply chain safety and security. These responsibilities also included enforcement of the Maritime Transportation Security Act and other laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the safety, security, stewardship, and resilience of our nation's ports and facilities. She also served as Office of Shore Forces (formerly CG-MRP) as the "C" School, Post Graduate, and Industry Training Coordinator (2005-2009).

Captain O'Brien graduated from Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in 2000. She was also prior enlisted as a Telecommunications Specialist and completed Coast Guard Basic Training in 1999.

Captain O'Brien graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a bachelor's degree and holds three masters degrees: Organizational Management from University of Phoenix; Elementary Education from Old Dominion University; and Business Administration from Grantham University. In addition, she has a Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Intermediate Phase I diploma from the U.S. Naval War College.

Captain O'Brien has earned the Coast Guard Marine Safety Insignia and her personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medals, Commendation Medals, Achievement Medal, and numerous other personal, unit, and service awards. She was also part of the DHS Secretary's Unit Award 2018 to Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur for remarkable innovation and superior public service during Hurricane Harvey by saving more than 3,500 civilians under the most hazardous conditions.

Captain O'Brien is from Los Angeles, CA, is married, and has three children. She was born in Saigon, Vietnam, and is the first female Vietnamese-American Captain to command a Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit.