



Captain Kelly K. Denning Deputy Commander, Sector New Orleans



Captain Denning assumed the duties as Deputy Commander, Sector New Orleans in June 2020. In this capacity, she oversees over 1,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary Coast Guard personnel who serve over 300 miles of the Lower Mississippi River, 230 miles of the Intracoastal Waterway, and almost 4,000 miles of coastline totaling over a 100,000 square nautical mile area of responsibility.

Her previous operational tours include serving at Sector New Orleans as Response Department Head from 2015-2017 and Enforcement Division Chief from 2013-2015 where she managed Search and Rescue, Pollution Response and Law Enforcement operations. From 2005-2007, Captain Denning served as the Operations Officer onboard the 270' USCGC NORTHLAND homeported in Portsmouth, VA. Her first patrol was to the Gulf of Mexico assisting with the relief efforts following the devastating effects of both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. She also worked for the U.S. Navy Sixth Fleet nation building and training in Africa, through the Mediterranean and into the Black Sea. From 2000-2002, she was Commanding Officer of the 87' USCGC STINGRAY homeported in Mobile, AL and was also a Deck Watch Officer onboard the 210' USCGC CONFIDENCE homeported out of Cape Canaveral, FL from 1998-2000. Captain Denning took advantage of the two year temporary separation program from 2008-2010, during which time she served in the Coast Guard Reserves at both the Sector Virginia and Sector Puget Sound Command Centers.



Captain Denning's staff assignments include serving as the First District Deputy Enforcement Chief from 2019-2020 and the First District Deputy Incident Management Chief from 2017-2018 in Boston, MA where she managed search and rescue activities and fisheries enforcement throughout the Northeast in addition to working with Canada to refine the oil spill response plan for the region. From 2010-2013, she served as the Thirteenth District Operational Planner in Seattle, WA where she planned several full scale exercises with both the U.S. and Canadian Navy. From 2007-2008, she was the Assistant Search and Rescue School Chief in Yorktown, VA. Captain Denning also served as a Command Duty Officer in the Eighth Coast Guard District Command Center in New Orleans, LA from 2002-2005.

Captain Denning moved regularly while growing up as her father served in the U.S. Army. She graduated high school in San Antonio, TX. Considering this will be her third tour in New Orleans, LA, she will start calling the "Crescent City" home. She is a 1998 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and holds a Master of Science Degree in Emergency and Disaster Management from Touro University International. Additionally, she is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and also holds a 100 ton Master Merchant Mariner license.