



Kailie J. Benson, Captain USCG
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston



Captain Kailie J. Benson oversees all Coast Guard missions from the Massachusetts/New Hampshire state border, south to Manomet Point, Plymouth, MA, and extending 200 nautical miles off shore. She is designated as Captain of the Port, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, and Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator. Captain Benson commands 1,500 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary personnel, and employs three cutters, and 22 boats across five Multi-mission Stations and an Aids to Navigation Team.



Prior to assuming Command of Sector Boston, Captain Benson served as Chief, Office of Emergency Management and Disaster Response at USCG Headquarters. In this capacity, she was responsible for the development and maintenance of strategic doctrine and policy guidance on the Coast Guards' emergency management and disaster response mandates. These policies include continuity of government, incident management, preparedness and surge readiness, exercise requirements, lessons learned and analysis. Here she led the transformation of the legacy planning program into the modern USCG Emergency Management program, which included the establishment of the inaugural USCG Emergency Management Credential. Her previous assignment was as the Liaison to Military Sealift Command (MSC) in Norfolk, VA where she was the sole representative of the Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy charged with facilitating safety and security for this organization who operates the largest single population of deep-draft U.S. flagged vessels. While assigned to MSC, she deployed to Miami to lead the Marine Transportation Recovery Unit charged with facilitating the recovery for the ports in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after the devastating 2017 hurricanes.

Captain Benson served as Prevention Department Head in Sector San Juan, Executive Officer at Marine Safety Unit Savannah, Marine Safety Detachment Supervisor in Portsmouth, NH, and a variety of junior officer positions at Marine Safety Office Boston. In Savannah, CAPT Benson led a team of container inspectors to achieve the 2012 Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Award for innovative and efficient process improvements implemented jointly with Georgia Ports Authority, the second largest container port on the eastern seaboard. During her tour in San Juan, she assisted with four National Transportation Safety Board investigations, including two major engine room fires onboard cruise ships and the tragic sinking of the M/V El Faro in 2015. In support of the 'Energy Renaissance', she led the complex environmental permitting process for five liquefied hazardous gas facilities, including a first-in-the-nation use of an offshore Very Large

Gas Carrier mooring to feed smaller carriers to supply cleaner energy products to critical power plants in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In addition to the current assignment, her other staff assignment was as the First Coast Guard District as the Regional Response Team Coordinator at D1 Marine Safety Division. Her first joint service tour included performing the roles first of Operations, then Executive Officer, and, finally, Commanding Officer of the Boston Military Entrance Processing Station in Boston. CAPT Benson reported to U.S. Coast Guard Activities Europe in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in 2007 as an International Port Security Liaison Officer. She travelled extensively throughout Europe, North, West and Central Africa in support of the US Congressional mandate to assess anti-terrorism measures implemented in the ports of our maritime trading partners with the intent to improve supply chain security.

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Captain Benson is a graduate of Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and earned a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma. She has been awarded two Meritorious service Medals, Joint Service and Coast Guard Commendation Medals, Joint Service and Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and has earned the Marine Safety Insignia. Captain Benson is married to David Benson and has two children, Samuel and Ryleigh.