



COMMANDER MARK L. LAY

United States Coast Guard

CDR Lay began his military career as a medium lift helicopter repair specialist with the U.S. Army in 1992. He was assigned to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA in 1993 and soon thereafter attended flight training and assigned to Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii in 1995 as an aero-scout pilot flying the OH58A/C. He transitioned to the UH60A while in Hawaii flying Air Assault missions and in 1997, moved with his family to Ft. Lewis, Washington.

From 1997 to 2000, CDR Lay flew Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions throughout the Pacific Northwest performing high altitude mountainous rescues as well as coastal missions primarily supporting Military Assistance to State and Traffic as well as military exercises. During this time frame, CDR Lay deployed twice to Kuwait in support of joint military operations on the border with Iraq.

Following the tour in Washington, CDR Lay assigned to Chuncheon, Korea as a MEDEVAC Instructor Pilot teaching and performing mountainous rescues as well as navigation and operations along with de-militarized zone separating North and South Korea. This was his last assignment with the U.S. Army and he left after 8 years of service to join the U.S. Coast Guard in order to continue flying rescue missions.

CDR Lay joined the Coast Guard in May 2001 and assigned to Air Station Clearwater, Florida where he served as Instructor Pilot, Flight Scheduler, and Aviation Engineering Student, completing the Aeronautical Engineering syllabus in 2006. Notable operational experiences in this tour include extensive hurricane support/rescue missions including Hurricane Katrina.

CDR Lay reported to the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center (ATC) in Mobile, Alabama as the MH60 Engineering Officer in 2006. In this role, he was charged with supporting the integration of the newly developed MH60T aircraft along with simultaneously supporting all pilot training in both the MH60T and the legacy MH60J. CDR Lay was one of the first aviators selected for MH60T qualification and was the first aircraft to return survivors of the Deepwater Horizon explosion to shore based care facilities. In 2010, CDR Lay transitioned to the MH65 and reported to Air Station Houston as the Engineering Officer. In this assignment he supported both Search and Rescue operations as well as Airborne Use of Force missions covering national significant ports and strategic petroleum reserves as well as offshore industry. From 2013-2015, he attended the University of Houston where he earned a Master's of Science in Technology Project Management.

CDR Lay comes to Detroit from the Coast Guard Aviation Logistics Center (ALC), where he led the Medium Range Recovery (MRR) Product Line. In this role, he led 225 members charged with logistical support of all the Coast Guard MH60T along with integration of a \$445M service life extension program involving conversion of U.S. Navy H60s along with procurement of new airframes to sustain the MRR capability to 2050. Assigned to the ALC since 2015, he also served in the ALC's Business Operations Division where he led production modernization efforts for all the ALC to prioritize industrial work flows and increase visibility.

CDR Lay has been married to his wife Lisa for over 28 years and they are blessed with 2 children, Preston (26) and Adrien (23) and expecting their first grandchild in August.