

CDR Meridena Kauffman U.S. Coast Guard

CDR Kauffman is currently assigned as the Deputy Sector Commander, Sector Detroit, Michigan. Sector Detroit and its eleven subordinate units are responsible for conducting and overseeing all Coast Guard missions in a complex area of responsibility with a continuous 427-mile international border with Canada through Lakes Erie, St. Clair and Huron and along the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers.

Raised in Washington, D.C., CDR Kauffman graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Natural Science, and then joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1999. Later, she received a Masters Degree in Leadership from Georgetown University in 2010.



After 20 years of active duty service, CDR Kauffman has had a variety of experience in the complex and rapidly changing marine safety and environmental management field. Previous experience includes development of international maritime safety, security, and environmental protection standards at Coast Guard Headquarters; Chief of Waterways Management at Sector Puget Sound, WA; Interagency and Industry Coordination Officer at the American Petroleum Institute in Washington D.C; International Affairs Coordinator for the Coast Guard's National Incident Command during the 2010 Gulf oil spill. She was awarded the Congressman James Sener Award for exceptional marine casualty investigations in 2008, and she received the International Society for Performance Improvement Award of Excellence in Outstanding Human Performance Intervention in 2016 for work to establish a Waterways Management Performance System. CDR Kauffman is also an Excellence in Government Senior Fellow at the Partnership for Public Service in Washington, D.C. and a member of the Great Lakes Region Chapter of the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association and works to enhance visibility of the Coast Guard and marine safety.