

# **Commander Kyle Russell**

## **Commanding Officer U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Detroit**



CDR Russell assumed command of Air Station Detroit in June 2025. The unit consists of 120 personnel and operates five MH-65 helicopters providing search and rescue coverage to the Great Lakes region from Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Twp, MI. Additionally, the unit provides Rotary-Wing Air Intercept support protecting the President and other national strategic assets under the direction of the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Executive Officer at Air Station Traverse City, MI where he was responsible for 160 personnel, the 46-acre campus, and served on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Leelanau Christian Neighbors food pantry.

His prior assignments include Deputy Office Chief of CG-4 Business Operations, where he was the Director of the CG-4 Change Management Office and oversaw the planning, programming, and budget execution for the \$3B Engineering and Logistics Directorate Portfolio. He served in the Office of Aeronautical Engineering where he was the MH-65 Dolphin Systems Manager. He was responsible for policy and logistical sustainment for the MH-65 fleet of 98 aircraft. Prior to headquarters he served as the Assistant Aeronautical Engineering Officer at Air Station Detroit, the Support Division Aeronautical Engineering Officer and Fleet Instructor Pilot at the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL and a Search and Rescue pilot at Air Station North Bend, OR. Prior to attending Flight School in Pensacola, FL, CDR Russell was an Avionics Electrical Technician First Class at Air Station Traverse City, MI and a Seaman at Station St. Ignace, MI.

CDR Russell accumulated 3,000 flight hours in the MH-65 Aircraft and held designations as an Instructor Pilot, Aircraft Commander, and Flight Mechanic Instructor. Additionally, he was designated a Co-pilot in the MH-60T and flew 175 hours.

CDR Russell is a 2000 graduate from Coast Guard Boot Camp in Cape May, NJ and a 2005 graduate from Officer Candidate School in New London, CT. His education includes a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and a Master of Business Administration from Marylhurst University. He was designated a Coast Guard Aeronautical Engineer in 2013 and is a DHS Level II Program Manager.

CDR Russell is married to Dr. Naila Russell, formerly from Suttons Bay, Michigan. They have two boys, Elias and Kylen.