



Commander Randy Preston

United States Coast Guard

Commander Randy Preston, a native of Goldthwaite, Texas, received his commission in July 2003 through the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School at New London, Connecticut. He has over 30 years of active duty service, 14 of those years serving as an enlisted member prior to earning his commission.

Commander Preston assumed duties as the Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Unit Chicago on June 28, 2019. His previous assignment was as the Chief of the Coast Guard Investigations National Center of Expertise in New Orleans, Louisiana. In that role, he oversaw a staff of marine safety subject matter experts and investigating officers who led and supported marine casualty investigations across the globe. Commander Preston and his staff routinely worked alongside the National Transportation Safety Board and foreign governments while collaborating on the most complex and high profile marine casualty investigations.

Commander Preston is a marine safety and environmental protection professional with more than 14 years of operations ashore experience. From 2012-2015, Commander Preston served as the Supervisor at Marine Safety Detachment Lewes, Delaware. He was responsible for carrying out the maritime safety and security, marine environmental protection and response missions throughout southern Delaware and the Delaware Bay.

From 2009-2012, he served as the Prevention Department Head at Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Commander Preston oversaw commercial vessel and waterfront facility regulatory compliance, marine casualty investigations, and waterways management on 328 miles of inland rivers.

From 2005-2009, he served as a Marine Inspector and the Chief of Inspections Division at Marine Safety Unit Galveston, Texas. His responsibilities included the safety and inspection of United States and foreign-flagged vessels in the ports of Galveston, Texas City, and Freeport, Texas. His initial assignment, upon commissioning, was as the Chief of the Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection Division at Integrated Support Command Alameda, California.

His personal military awards include the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

Commander Preston is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics. He also holds a Master of Science in Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School. Commander Preston is married to the former Tina Villasenor from San Francisco, California.