



**Captain Martha J. LaGuardia**  
**Senior Reserve Officer**  
**Ninth Coast Guard District**  
**United States Coast Guard**



Captain Martha J. LaGuardia is the Senior Reserve Officer for the Coast Guard's Ninth District based in Cleveland, Ohio and extends across the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway, an eight state region with 1,500 miles of international border.

She previously served as Senior Reserve Officer for the Emerging Policy Staff for the Deputy Commandant of Operations supporting strategic initiatives and policy development in Washington, D.C. As the First District Emergency Preparedness Liaison Coordinator for FEMA Regions I and II, during Hurricane Sandy she mobilized to serve in the Regional Response Coordination Center supporting FEMA in New York and New Jersey. As Acting Senior EPLO for Coast Guard Headquarters' Office of Contingency Planning and Exercise Policy, she developed and implemented policy, training competencies, staffing enhancements and all hazards management of EPLOs across 10 FEMA regions while also engaging with agencies, joint partners and NORTHCOM.



From June 2009 to 2012 she served as Senior Reserve Officer for Sector Mobile directing over 200 reserve members across three Gulf Coast states and in 2010 was the Commandant of the Coast Guard's Press Secretary during the Haitian Earthquake, Deepwater Horizon Spill and as the National Incident Commander's Public Information Officer in D.C. before mobilizing as a liaison for the Unified Command in Florida.

During her 10 years on active duty, Captain LaGuardia had two tours at sea, aboard CGC RESOLUTE and executive officer, USCGC PADRE, 110-foot patrol boat. Assignments include law enforcement, joint operations and contingency planning for Group Key West, Sector New York and in the Pacific Northwest as Thirteenth District Public Affairs Officer. Transitioning to the reserves in 1999, she served as Sector New York's Enforcement and Governmental Affairs Officer and a contingency planner after 9-11.

An award winning author of five books and journalist, she has published with the Boston Globe, magazines and US Naval Institute Press. As a speaker she addressed the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium, corporations, clubs and schools and keynoted a Coast Guard Academy Introduction Mission graduation and Colorado military ball. A Coast Guard Academy admissions partner, she is also a Sea Service Leadership Association board member. Other memberships include the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association, National Press Club and Author's Guild.

Captain LaGuardia holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Government from the Coast Guard Academy and Master of Liberal Arts degree in journalism from Harvard University. Her personal awards include six Commendation Medals, among others, and dual certifications as NIMS ICS Type I Public Information and Type I Liaison Officer.