



**CDR Michael R. Gesele
Commanding Officer
USCGC VENTUROUS (WMEC 625)**



Commander Gesele assumed command of VENTUROUS in July 2015. His previous assignment was aboard USCGC SHERMAN (WHEC 720) homeported in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he served as the Executive Officer. Before cross-decking to SHERMAN, he served as the Executive Officer of USCGC RUSH (WHEC 723), also homeported in Honolulu, from June 2013 until her decommissioning in February 2015. Prior to returning to sea, CDR Gesele was assigned to the Seventh District Legal Office in Miami, Florida, where he served three years as Chief, Response Law Branch.

Previous afloat assignments included USCGC DAUNTLESS, homeported in Galveston, Texas, where he served as the Assistant Operations Officer from 1996-1998. In 1998, CDR Gesele was assigned as a Navy Exchange Officer and served as the First Lieutenant aboard USS DEYO, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2003, he assumed command of USCGC MANITOU, a 110' patrol boat homeported in Miami Beach, Florida. In 2004, CDR Gesele was selected to assume command of USCGC MAUI, a 110' patrol boat forward deployed to Manama, Bahrain, and the Arabian Gulf, in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

CDR Gesele's other ashore assignments included serving as a Command Duty Officer at the Coast Guard District Seven Command Center in Miami, Florida, from 2000-2003. In 2005, CDR Gesele transferred to Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he served as the budget officer for the Coast Guard Judge Advocate General.

CDR Gesele graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in May 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. In 2007, he began his legal studies at the University of Miami School of Law earning his Juris Doctorate degree, *cum laude*, in May 2010. He then graduated from the Basic Lawyer Course at Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island, with honors.

CDR Gesele has been awarded two Meritorious Service Medals (with "O" device), two Coast Guard Commendation Medals (with "O" device), two Coast Guard Achievement Medals (with "O" device), the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon (with "O" device), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, and various other service awards and ribbons. He is designated a permanent Cutterman and Surface Warfare Officer.