

Commander's Intent Base Portsmouth

Our mission is to support all Coast Guard operations within the geographic boundaries of the Fifth Coast Guard District. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our operational peers to ensure the U. S. Coast Guard delivers the most professional, responsive and cost-effective services to the American public. Know and understand the guiding principles needed for that success:

TEAMWORK

Take Care of Each Other. We spend a lot of time together. Go out of your way to welcome new crewmembers, both permanent and temporary. Humility and a sense of humor go a long way to getting along. Catch coworkers doing something right and praise them.

Speak Up. Every member of this Base should feel comfortable expressing reasonable ideas, suggestions, or concerns both up and down the chain of command. Share clear information you *know*; eliminate speculation and rumor. Bad news doesn't get better with age; tell me right away. Trust me, I can take it!

PROFESSIONALISM

Take Ownership of the Mission. The U.S. Coast Guard operates 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, year-round. Ensure your service delivery meets those demands. Your role is just as important as manning a boat, cutter or aircraft. Personally accept the sense of urgency that comes with mission ownership. Remember that an operational peer may not have "office hours"; provide access to services when they are needed.

Be the Best. I expect you to be great at your job and to get better. Keep learning, and grow your expertise. Learn everything you can about our Service and your specialty. Supervisors, train your people as your relief. Take pride in your work. Let it show in all that you do, in how you present yourself, and in how you interact with the public. Sharp personal appearance, clean workspaces, and courtesy in email and telephone communications matter.

Respect One Another. I will not tolerate offensive or demeaning behavior--it destroys the teamwork vital to our success. Ensure your speech isn't perceived as racially, ethnically, or sexually offensive. Be completely intolerant of any type of hazing.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Trust. Our on-duty time and funding belong to the American public. Use them wisely. Spend public dollars as if they were yours—they are; you pay taxes. Find ways to reduce costs. Return unneeded funds early in the year. Be equally conscious of your time and focus on activities the public expects; give the taxpayer the highest possible "return" on your salary.

Follow the Rules. Our established procedures and policies represent a wealth of "corporate" knowledge founded on decades of experience. If you think operating "by the book" is unreasonable, unsafe, or impractical, let me know—I will make the decision whether to deviate or not. Read and stay current with policy; don't *assume* you know the answer simply because "we've always done it that way".


F. J. SOMMER, CAPT