



Captain Verne Gifford

*Commander, Sector Southeastern
New England*



Captain Verne Gifford assumed the duties of the Commander, Sector Southeastern New England in June 2010. As such, he serves as the Captain of the Port and the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection for an area that includes Rhode Island, southeast Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Within this area, Captain Gifford oversees the execution of Coast Guard missions by 8 Coast Guard small boat stations, 2 aids to navigation teams, 2 marine safety detachments, and 2 Sector offices, all of which includes 462 active duty, 110 reserve, 19 civilian and 1,270 auxiliary members.



Prior to these duties, Captain Gifford served from 2008 to 2010 as the Prevention Division Chief of the Eighth Coast Guard District, where he provided operational oversight to a region of 26 states and the Gulf of Mexico on commercial and recreational vessel safety, waterways and bridge management, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Before his promotion to Captain, he served from 2007 to 2008 as the Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Valdez, Alaska, fulfilling the roles of Captain of the Port and Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection for Prince William Sound. From 2004 to 2007, Captain Gifford served as the Executive Officer at Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas, where he led 240 persons at the largest such Coast Guard command and helped direct unit responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and 12 major marine casualties. From 2002 to 2004, he served as the Chief of Port Operations at Marine Safety Office New Orleans, and, from 1999 to 2002, he served in Washington, D.C. as the Deputy Project Manager for the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement Project, a \$60 million modernization of the Coast Guard's primary operational information system.

Captain Gifford is a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He holds master's degrees in business administration and in computer science from the University of Rhode Island ('97-'99). His other tours of duty include the Coast Guard Ice Breaker POLAR STAR ('87-'89), Marine Safety Office Baltimore ('89-'93), the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans ('93-'95), and Marine Safety Office New Orleans ('95-'97). His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (6 awards), the Department of Transportation 9/11 Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation. Captain Gifford was raised in Buffalo, New York and Swampscott, Massachusetts, he is married to the former Allison Neville of New Orleans, and he has two children, Jack (8) and Stella (6)..