

Lieutenant Commander Justin Vanden Heuvel

LCDR Justin “Van” Vanden Heuvel is a third generation Coast Guardsmen and California native. Enlisting in the Coast Guard in 1993, he has served on eight cutters and at two assignments ashore. His prior enlisted assignments include USCGC HAMILTON, San Pedro, CA; Station Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard, CA; and USCGC POINT HOBART, Oceanside, CA. After advancing to Boatswain’s Mate First Class, he served in consecutive Executive Petty Officer assignments aboard USCGC HAWKSBILL, Monterey, CA, and USCGC HADDOCK, San Diego, CA. As part of the commissioning crews, he was instrumental in delivering these 87-foot Patrol Boats to



newly assigned homeports after their 5,000 nautical mile maiden voyages from Louisiana. Shortly after advancing to Chief Petty Officer in 2003, he assumed duties as Officer in Charge of a 65-foot ice-breaking tug boat, USCGC LINE, Bayonne, NJ, where he conducted domestic ice operations.

LCDR Vanden Heuvel earned his commission as Chief Warrant Officer BOSN in 2005 and reported as First Lieutenant to USCGC ASPEN, San Francisco, CA, where he served as lead boarding officer during ASPEN’s first ever seven week Eastern Pacific counter drug patrol. In 2007, he assumed duties as Commanding Officer of a 175-foot buoy-tender USCGC JOSHUA APPLEBY, St. Petersburg, FL, where the crew maintained 260 aids to navigation throughout six Florida ports, conducted undocumented migrant interdiction and deployed for post-hurricane

port reconstitution. Upon promotion to Lieutenant in 2009, he reported as Executive Officer aboard USCGC OAK in Charleston, SC. OAK’s operations included critical in-theatre response to the Port au Prince, Haiti earthquake disaster relief effort in 2010 as well as deployment throughout the US Gulf Coast as the first Coast Guard asset to conduct oil recovery operations during the Deepwater Horizon spill.

In 2011, LCDR Vanden Heuvel reported to the Leadership Development Center in New London, CT. where he served as the Chief of the Chief Warrant Officer Professional Development program. During this assignment he oversaw curriculum, evaluation and leadership training for nearly 800 newly-commissioned officers.

LCDR Vanden Heuvel ’s military decorations include the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and the Coast Guard 9-11 Medal. He holds a valid 1,600 gross-ton Master’s credential for steam or motor vessels with Great Lakes endorsements and a 2,000 gross-tons Mate’s license for Inland waters. LCDR Vanden Heuvel is married to the former Jennifer Rosselle of Miami, FL. Together, they have four young children: Arie, Willa, Theo and Pieter.