



## **CAPT Meredith Austin**

*United States Coast Guard*

Chief of Staff

Fourteenth Coast Guard District



CAPT Austin assumed the duties of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District Chief of Staff in June 2012 in Honolulu, HI. Prior to this position, she has executed and/or supported the Coast Guard's eleven mission areas at a variety of Coast Guard units including the icebreaker USCGC POLAR SEA, Marine Safety Offices in Louisville, Kentucky and Galveston, Texas, the Eleventh Coast Guard District in Long Beach, California, Training Center Yorktown, Virginia and the Deployable Operations Group in Arlington, Virginia.

In July 2001, she assumed command of the Pacific Strike Team, with responsibilities to respond to oil and hazardous materials discharges for the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency for the Western United States, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories. In June 2004 she assumed command of the National Strike Force (NSF), consisting of the three regional Strike Teams, the Public Information and Assist Team and the National Strike Force Coordination Center. Noteworthy responses include the World Trade Center disaster, The Capitol Anthrax and Ricin incidents and the massive NSF response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In 2009 CAPT Austin assumed command of Sector Delaware Bay, encompassing the southern half of New Jersey, eastern two thirds of Pennsylvania and all of Delaware and directed the execution and support of missions performed by six Search and Rescue Stations, five cutters, two Aids to Navigation Teams, a Marine Safety Detachment, Sector Field Office as well as the Sector itself. She worked closely with port partners from local, state and federal agencies, as well as private industry and non-governmental organizations. In response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, CAPT Austin served first as Deputy Incident Commander, then as the Incident Commander for the state of Louisiana, directing the activities of over 19,000 responders.

CAPT Austin is a 1985 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy with a degree in Marine Science. She earned a Master of Science in Public Health in Industrial Hygiene from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1994 and a Master of Arts in Homeland Security from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California in 2007. CAPT Austin is a NIMS certified Type I Incident Commander and has earned the designations of Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Emergency Manager. CAPT Austin's awards include the Legion of Merit, CG Meritorious Service Medal (with Operational Device, 4 awards), CG Commendation Medal (with Operational Device, 2 awards), DOT 9-11 Medal, CG Achievement Medal (with Operational Device, 3 awards) Commandant's Letter of Commendation (with Operational Device, 2 awards) and the Marine Safety Designation.