



USCGC BLOCK ISLAND (WPB-1344)  
Command Philosophy



As Coast Guardsmen, we are expected to live up to the ideas and beliefs of our Service's Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion Duty. Additionally, we are further guided by the Creed of the Coast Guardsman and the Coast Guard Ethos. These principles are what I use to set my barometer in both my professional and personal life, and I expect the same from you.

Additionally, as a career Coast Guardsman and sea-going officer, I have developed four watch words over the years that have helped me set my priorities. These watch words are *Safety*, *Teamwork*, *Pride*, and *Professionalism*.

**Safety:** There are many threats to us whether we are underway, inport, or off-duty. Safety must be paramount at all times! There may be times that we must put ourselves in harm's way in order to carry out our duties. I will ensure all hands have the right equipment/tools, as well as proper training, knowledge, and information to safely conduct their mission. Furthermore, we will continuously use organization risk management tools to mitigate and reduce risk so that we may effectively execute missions. Lastly, Safety knows no rank. All Hands have a duty to say *Avast!* when they observe anything unsafe or not going as planned/discussed. You know I will point out any unsafe practices. I need everyone to have the moral courage to do the same, regardless of their rank, on board or out in town on liberty.

**Teamwork:** BLOCK ISLAND is made up of a crew that requires teams and teamwork to effectively execute operations as a patrol boat. It takes all hands for us to do this successfully. All jobs on board are important, from messcooking, going on boardings, standing the watch and launching the smallboat. Learn your job, and do it well. Then learn your shipmates' job and be prepared to step in when needed. Also, don't forget our family is part of our team. It is important that we all find the time to balance both work and home responsibilities.

**Pride:** As Coast Guardsmen, we belong to a world renowned organization with a rich history that dates itself to very beginnings of our Nation. Take pride in knowing that you are continuing that long line of men and women before us who served in the Revenue Cutter Service, Lifesaving Service, and Lighthouse Service. We can do this through a number of daily actions: wearing the uniform properly, learning our history, expanding our technical knowledge of our specialty skills, and improving our readiness so that we can meet any challenges. Additionally, take pride in your shipmates. These men and women are our comrades-in-arm whom we spend a lot of time with. Celebrate their successes, motivate them to do better, and be there for each other.

**Professionalism:** Man has been going to sea for thousands of year. As mariners, we rely on our professionalism in order to accomplish our duties and day-to-day activities safely and competently. We should never allow complacency or accept sub-par performance. The moment we do, you can guarantee we will have a bad day that may result in people getting hurt or even much worse. We can also demonstrate our professionalism when we interact with our brothers and sisters of the other Armed Services, the men and women you serve in the Public Safety field, and our Community Partners. Ensure that you are leaving a lasting and positive experience while representing the Coast Guard.

Lastly, as the Commanding Officer, I take your professional development very seriously. Within our ranks, I see future petty officers, senior enlisted leaders, commissioned officers, and unit command cadre. I will strive to provide you opportunities to gain the experience, knowledge, and skills necessary to prepare you for greater responsibility. I cannot think of a better platform to learn and practice. Do not be afraid to get out of your comfort zone!

Semper Paratus!

LT D. Flusche  
Commanding Officer

