



## USCGC SITKINAK COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

*Take care of yourself so you can take care of your shipmates; take care of your shipmates so they can take care of the ship; take care of the ship so we can accomplish the missions that brought us together on the Mighty Cutter SITKINAK.*

### Taking Care of Yourself :

Your family has to be prepared to face hardship without your presence. **I will do everything in my power to make sure that SITKINAK's families are taken care of**, but I need you to plan ahead and engage in those honest and difficult discussions at home so your family knows what to expect and is ready for the difficulties that come with your service. Work hard to make sure that you and your loved ones are emotionally and financially prepared for the squalls of life. Inform your chain of command when you need help and I will address my personal attention to your concerns to help you weather the storm.

Work vigorously to become proficient in all assigned watch stations and then strive to complete a higher level of qualification. Perform all tasks with focus on the highest levels of quality, efficiency, and enthusiasm. Qualifications, proficiency, and high performance lead to promotions and advancement. If you are working hard towards advancement, I will work hard at giving you the tools you need to advance. Training is a priority for me and I endeavor to provide you with quality training. We will **train beyond competency to build proficiency.**

### Taking Care of Each Other :

Always look out for the safety of your shipmates during operations/evolutions AND during liberty. Train one another to help each other qualify, advance, or become more proficient. We each have key talents that will help our shipmates succeed. Embrace SITKINAK's diversity and observe our core values of HONOR, RESPECT, and DEVOTION TO DUTY. **Divisive/prejudicial behaviors, inappropriate relationships, hazing, and disrespect will NOT be tolerated.** Taking care of each other is easy when we are aware of the impact our actions have on our shipmates, realize the importance each person has within the team, and always follow Coast Guard standards.

### Taking Care of the Ship:

SITKINAK is our ship, she is our home at sea, and we all have ownership in her maintenance, survivability, habitability, and ability to meet the mission. Inspect the ship with a critical eye and then complete the work that will improve her state and the life of the people onboard. Question, investigate, and report when things don't work as they should. Don't accept the answer of "That's how it's always been." **SITKINAK should always have a smart, professional, and military appearance** that you would be proud to have your parents, spouses, children, family, and friends see on the news. Equipment that does not work as specified in technical pubs/documents is unsatisfactory. The appearance and performance of the ship is a direct reflection of the crew. Always remember that the ship must be prepared to accomplish the tasks assigned; make her ready to serve her country honorably.

### Accomplishing the mission:

The ship would not exist if there was no mission to accomplish and without a ship there would be no need for a crew. We are employed here to accomplish the missions assigned to us and they are all relevant to furthering the needs of our service and country...no matter how small the assignment. We will continuously strive to achieve the highest levels of professionalism and proficiency. We will make mistakes, but we should do our best to use each mistake as a point of growth and avoid making the same mistake twice; whenever possible we should also learn from the mistakes of others.

I love being in the Coast Guard and I enjoy going out to accomplish our missions. We have one of the BEST jobs in the world and I will do my best to help you see that at every opportunity. I will be upfront and honest about the difficulties or the less glamorous aspects of our missions, but we should all strive to remember how our work benefits our families at home and the country we serve. Together we can accomplish the mission, make the ship better, make each other better, and make ourselves better while taking care of our families. I challenge you to **perform all tasks and assignments with pride, professionalism, and proficiency!**

LT Nkosi R Thomas  
Commanding Officer  
USCGC SITKINAK