



CAPTAIN BRUCE C. JONES, USCG

CAPT Jones is Commander, Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan and Captain of the Port for Lake Michigan and adjoining ports and waterways. The Sector is the operational and support command for 22 Coast Guard units on Lake Michigan and is headquartered in Milwaukee, WI. With a force of over 500 Active Duty, 200 Reserve and 1200 Auxiliary personnel, Sector Lake Michigan conducts Search and Rescue, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Aids to Navigation, Marine Safety, Environmental Protection and many other missions on inland waterways and coastal Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

A native of Newport News, VA, CAPT Jones graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1982, Coast Guard OCS in 1984, and Naval Flight Training in 1985. His first assignment was as an Aircraft Commander flying the HH-52A helicopter at USCG Air Station Houston, TX.

From 1989-92, he served as a TH-57B/C flight instructor and Assistant Operations Officer at Helicopter Training Squadron 18 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, FL. CAPT Jones was selected as both the squadron's Flight Instructor of the Year, and the Naval Helicopter Association's Pilot of the Year (Gulf Coast Region) in 1991.

From 1992-96, CAPT Jones served as an HH-60J Instructor Pilot at USCG Air Station Elizabeth City, NC. Commanding numerous challenging Search and Rescue missions, he and his aircrews earned "Aircrew of the Year" recognition from the American Helicopter Society, Helicopter Association International, Association of Naval Aviation and Naval Helicopter Association.

CAPT Jones completed a Master's degree in Public Administration at Syracuse University (1997), then reported to Coast Guard Headquarters (G-CPP) from 1997-2001. There, he led the development and publication of the Coast Guard's first-ever Strategic Plan (1999), and oversaw completion of the Coast Guard's Performance Plan and Report, Agency Capital Plan, and Business Plan.

From 2001-2004, CAPT Jones served as Executive Officer of USCG Air Station Traverse City, MI, where he oversaw aviation support to all Coast Guard missions in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, and served as an HH-65B Aircraft Commander. In 2002, he was temporarily assigned to CGHQ as part of the Department of Homeland Security Transition Team.

As Commanding Officer of USCG Air Station New Orleans, LA from 2004-06 and during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, CAPT Jones led the massive air rescue operation over New Orleans and surrounding areas in which Coast Guard helicopters rescued over 7,100 survivors from devastating conditions in one week. CAPT Jones personally led the first wave of rescue helicopters to return to New Orleans just hours after landfall and commenced hoisting flood victims to safety in tropical storm winds. Overcoming severe damage to his facility, with no electricity, running water or adequate berthing for crews, and limited communications ability, he oversaw the rapid expansion of his base to support and execute around the clock rescue operations in extremely hazardous conditions. For this, the Commandant awarded him the Legion of Merit. CAPT Jones assumed command of Sector Lake Michigan in July 2006 after serving temporarily at CG Headquarters on the transition team for new Commandant Admiral Thad Allen.

CAPT Jones has logged over 5,300 flight hours as a Coast Guard aviator. His other military awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Air Medal (3), and the Navy Commendation Medal.