

# USCGC DECISIVE COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

## Proficiency, Professionalism, Pride

We are a diverse work force of people with unique backgrounds, beliefs, and talents. We must work together to succeed: operationally, professionally, and in our personal goals. Excellence requires that we become an even stronger team built on a foundation of trust and mutual respect through our daily interactions and routine. Three key characteristics will define us as a Semper Paratus crew:

**PROFICIENCY:** Each of us wants to feel good at the end of the day for giving our best towards a “JOB WELL DONE!” We are on a journey together to both learn and teach our trade. Junior or senior, experienced or inexperienced, remember: it is okay to learn; it is okay to make mistakes; and each of us must teach! I also want you to ask or speak up when you are uncertain or believe that something is unsafe. Through this, we will strengthen our craft and understand how each of us best contributes to the team and mission!

**PROFESSIONALISM:** Cutterman professionalism embodies seamanship knowledge, technical skills, and the confidence to solve problems and face the challenges of duty at sea. As we continue to grow in proficiency, we will find ourselves more confident in our abilities and in the abilities of those around us. That confidence will allow us to trust our lives to one another! Remember: our shipmates are professionals striving to grow, learn, and achieve. Though not always easy, I ask that you be patient, take time to teach, and be willing to listen and learn from each other. Above all, I expect you to care about each other, personally and professionally. In these things, we will find tolerance, acceptance, and, most importantly, the camaraderie of being cuttermen!

**PRIDE:** Everybody wants to be proud of their unit. But pride is not easily obtained or earned. It grows from within. It comes from the satisfaction of knowing that you have completed a “JOB WELL DONE!” It comes when I or any shipmate recognizes your hard work and achievements. And it comes with knowing that you and our team are true professionals! Once felt, pride becomes the energy to go the extra mile, and to do a job right the first time. It’s the nagging voice in the back of your head that says “this doesn’t look right, let me ask.” It’s the reason you enjoy teaching others, and why you want to learn! Pride in our cutter and crew is great, and it will lift us: individually and together as a team. Always know, I am very proud to know and sail with each and every one of you! I hope that you too share that pride in each other.

Throughout our tour, I hope that we continue to learn and teach our craft, grow in trust and respect, and continue to build a unit that allows us to be proud of ourselves, our shipmates, and USCGC DECISIVE.

Finally, I am accountable to you for the Command Climate. I am committed to a culture in which we all may thrive. I challenge you to make the most of the good times that we will undoubtedly have and enjoy together.

  
CDR Wendy M. Tomko