



# USCGC TAMPA Change of Command 2011

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CGC TAMPA prepared for the Change of Command.

A severe rainstorm and heavy traffic in the midtown tunnel were unable to deter the ceremonial festivities of CGC TAMPA's recent Change of Command. At 7:20 pm on July 7, 2011, TAMPA received its 16<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer. Commander Susan Polizzotto relieved Commander Mark Gordon becoming the first woman to take command of the cutter.

The Change of Command ceremony is a time-honored tradition formally symbolizing the continuity of authority. Command is passed from one individual to another in a ceremony conducted before the assembled ship's company. The Change of Command, as traditionally practiced within the Coast Guard, is a transfer of total responsibility, authority, and accountability from one individual to another.

CDR Mark Gordon will be reporting to Atlantic Area as a Branch Chief within the Resource Management Division. TAMPA has achieved numerous accomplishments under his command. The officers and crew interdicted over 750 lbs of cocaine, intercepted 43 illegal migrants throughout the Caribbean, provided significant humanitarian aid to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, conducted 70 boardings enforcing U.S. laws and treaties, and responded to 9 search and rescue cases, ultimately saving 11 lives. Additionally, TAMPA served as the first surface Command Task Unit in the Deepwater Horizon response efforts. As the Command Tasking Unit, TAMPA provided direction to twenty-five vessels involved in the cleanup. TAMPA was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation for the two week response of the oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.

CDR Polizzotto's previous assignment was as a Senior Liaison Officer at the U.S. Department of State. While working with the Office of Counter Piracy and Maritime Security, CDR Polizzotto coordinated the State Department's response to the sailing vessel Quest. The Somali pirates apprehended in this case are now on trial in the Norfolk, VA federal court. CDR Polizzotto previously served as a Deck Watch Officer and Weapons Officer on board CGC HAMILTON and as an Executive Officer on board CGC MOHAWK.

TAMPA is in very capable hands, prepared to embark on its upcoming patrol, and fully committed to continuing its record of excellence.



CAPT Brown with CDR Polizzotto and CDR Gordon