

**USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)
COMMAND PHILOSOPHY**

VALIANT's reputation is forged from the collective effort of all that serve in her. Each of us has an opportunity to make our own unique mark toward building and maintaining that reputation. We make this mark each day, through the dedicated performance of our duties, while treating VALIANT, and our shipmates, with respect.

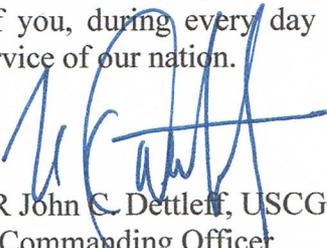
I expect the following from my VALIANT shipmates:

- *Attention to detail.* Be it preservation of the hull, small boat or helicopter operations, Damage Control drills, BECCE's, general military training or sweepers, we must always pay strict attention to the task at hand. Don't become complacent, and don't ever accept substandard work, from your shipmates or yourself.
- *Accountability.* Those who demonstrate maximum effort, while taking care off their shipmates, will earn my respect and highest commitment to your personal and professional growth. You will be rewarded for dedicated, hard work. The reverse of this principle holds equally true – a demonstrated unwillingness/inability to follow the rules, or bear your share of VALIANT's workload, will not be tolerated.
- *Act with a sense of urgency.* Whether it's manning the boat deck in preparation to launch the OTH on a go-fast chase, or troubleshooting an OOC piece of gear, your personal demeanor and conduct should reflect the importance of the task at hand.
- *Material condition, cleanliness and overall appearance are very important to me.* They tell others about us as a crew, about VALIANT as a unit. What kind of message do we want to send? As sailors, it is difficult to equal the professional sense of accomplishment, pride and esprit de corps realized when your ship ties up or operates alongside her sister cutters, and is recognized among them as best in class. Strive for this.
- *Results matter.* Make no mistake about this. That said, it is my strong belief that exemplary results will be the natural outgrowth of our collective adherence to these principles.

As VALIANT's Commanding Officer, you can expect my conduct to align with the expectations I outlined above for VALIANT shipmates. In addition, you can count on the following:

- I promise to uphold the *highest standard of ethical conduct.* It is my solemn pledge to never disappoint any of you in this respect.
- *I hold family in high esteem,* and know well the additional burden our family members must shoulder during a rigorous sea tour. We all deliver our maximum effective effort when we are personally content, and secure in the fact that our families are safe and well cared for. I will employ every resource at my disposal to provide for the well-being of VALIANT families.
- *Personal investment.* I expect to be personally invested in each VALIANT crewmember, principally because it is in my heart to do so, but also because I know of no better means of getting people to perform to their full potential.

There is nothing I take more seriously than the responsibility of commanding VALIANT, and with that my personal responsibility to each of you. Your safety, welfare, and development are my highest priority. I hope to prove this to each of you, during every day of our tour together, as we execute important Coast Guard missions in the service of our nation.


CDR John C. Dettleff, USCG
Commanding Officer
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