

## COMMAND PHILOSOPHY USCGC VIGOROUS (WMEC 627)

The following are my foundational beliefs which anchor my actions, attitudes, and expectations:

1. **Mission.** Vince Lombardi once said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." Strive for excellence in everything you do onboard VIGOROUS. Everyone must be focused and ready to get underway at all times. We must strive to maintain a high degree of readiness to execute our missions. To achieve this, we must maintain our situational awareness and never forget that safety is paramount in everything we do. As such, we will have an unconditional commitment to establishing a culture of safety onboard VIGOROUS.
2. **Communication.** One key to success is frequent and open communication both up and down the chain-of-command. Open and effective communication leads everyone to be on the same page and keeps everyone focused. VIGOROUS will be tasked to execute complex missions and I empower everyone onboard to speak up if something is not right. I am dedicated to providing an environment that helps ensure each person onboard VIGOROUS achieves their maximum potential. I encourage immediate feedback and that we do not wait to recognize outstanding effort. We will identify exceptional effort frequently through appropriate awards, well-written evaluations that are submitted ON-TIME or early (no excuses), and all other forms of recognition.
3. **Teamwork.** Being able to work productively with a team is one of the most crucial aspects of achieving success. VIGOROUS is one team. To overcome the challenges that we face at sea and ashore, we must work hard as both individuals and as a team. Set your shipmates up for success and carry your share of the load. Your shipmates depend on you. Without each Sailor, Chief or Officer, VIGOROUS could not function. **I expect that everyone will treat each other with dignity and respect.** Additionally, every crewmember and family member is important to me. The key component of personal readiness is a proper balance between our professional and personal lives. I emphasize that everyone will look out for your shipmates both while at the unit and while away from the unit.
4. **Professionalism.** Strive to be a professional. We are our nation's premier maritime agency and VIGOROUS must prove this through our actions. Professionals set the example by displaying integrity and leading by example. Being a professional is being a person who encompasses our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. This means at all times and not only when someone is watching. This is an individual responsibility and not just a responsibility expected of those in leadership positions. **Strive to be a unit that others want to join.** Each of us should be proud to be a member of this TEAM. Together we can make this the absolute premier command of the US Coast Guard.
5. **Have Fun!!!** Going out to sea is a rewarding adventure. We will meet the challenges of sea duty head on together, but we will continually pursue ways to make it enjoyable for all of us onboard VIGOROUS.

We represent a small percentage of the Coast Guardsmen that is fortunate enough to experience the rewards of conducting our missions at sea. I expect and demand your very best every day; I can assure you that I will give you the same, always. In that regard, this is 'our' ship, not 'my' ship. We are part of something larger than any of us as individuals. It is these times that will be the subject of the Sea Stories you tell your love ones. I'm here because I love to go to sea and work alongside sailors like you and to face the unique challenges of the operational Coast Guard. Semper Paratus!

**Arthur L. Ray, CDR, US Coast Guard  
Commanding Officer  
USCGC VIGOROUS (WMEC 627)**