



# Captain Donna L. Cottrell

## Thirteenth District Chief of Staff, U.S. Coast Guard



Captain Cottrell serves as the District Thirteen Chief of Staff where she directs Coast Guard field and staff activities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana in support of the District Commander's vision and strategy.

From 2011 to 2014, Captain Cottrell commanded Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) in Jacksonville, FL. As Commanding Officer of HITRON, Captain Cottrell oversaw the first Airborne Use of Force deployments aboard United Kingdom and Dutch Allied Vessels as well as the development and execution of the inaugural shore-based Airborne Use of Force deployments to Puerto Rico and Southern California.



Other past assignments include Commanding Officer of Air Station Savannah, Executive Officer at Air Station Detroit, Group-Air Station Atlantic City, and Air Station Chicago. Captain Cottrell was also assigned to the Navy Helicopter Training Squadron Eight at NAS Whiting Field, FL where she served as a TH-57 helicopter flight instructor. Captain Cottrell acquired over 3500 flight hours in four different models of the HH-65 and MH-65 Dolphin helicopter.

In 2004, Captain Cottrell was assigned to the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center in Elizabeth City, NC where she was Chief of the Information Systems Division and directly responsible for all Information Technology (IT) support for Coast Guard Aviation. Working closely with the Logistics Transformation Project Integration Office (LTPIO), Captain Cottrell served as the IT expert tasked with combining the systems used in naval, aeronautical, civil and C4IT programs into one common platform to manage the Coast Guard's logistics program.

In 2006 Captain Cottrell served as project manager of the Coast Guard Academy Task Force and was a key player in evaluating the governance, leadership training, and character development at the Academy.

Prior to Officer Candidate School in 1987, Captain Cottrell served as a Boatswain's Mate and Aviation Electronics Technician. After her commission, Captain Cottrell served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the USCGC STEADFAST.

A native of Wellington, Ohio, Captain Cottrell (nee Perry) graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1982; from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1997 with a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Science; from The Air Force Institute of Technology in 2004 with a Master of Science degree in Information Resource Management; and from the U. S. Naval War College in 2011 with a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Captain Cottrell's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.