



Captain Kristi L. Bernstein

Sector Commander
Coast Guard Sector Lower Mississippi River



Captain Kristi Bernstein serves at the Sector Commander for Coast Guard Sector Lower Mississippi River in Memphis, TN. In this capacity, she provides daily oversight for all Coast Guard operations in a six state area. This includes over 2,200 miles of commercially navigable waterways on the Lower Mississippi, Arkansas Ouachita, and Red Rivers with seven commercial ports and three high density population areas. She leads 200 Active Duty, Reserve, and civilian personnel and over 248 Auxiliary members. She oversees six River Buoy Tenders, a Marine Safety Detachment, a Marine Safety Detached Duty Office, small boat Station, and an Aids to Navigation Team.

Prior to her arrival in Memphis, Captain Bernstein served as Deputy Commander for U.S. Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles Long Beach where she coordinated operations in an area of responsibility stretching more than 350 miles along the California coast and included the nation's largest port complex. She oversaw eight patrol boats, three multi-mission small boat stations, a marine safety detachment, a vessel traffic system and an aids-to-navigation team.

Captain Bernstein is a Response Operations specialist and Cutterman with a focus on Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security, and Marine and Environmental Response Operations and has over 25 years of experience. With six years at sea, she served onboard the Medium Endurance Cutter, VIGOROUS and served as both the Executive Officer of CGC KEY LARGO and Commanding Officer of CGC FARALLON, two 110-foot Patrol Boats.

Captain Bernstein's career has also encompassed diverse staff tours. She served as a Command Duty Officer in the District Seven Command Center in Miami, Florida, Deputy Commandant for Operations' staff at Coast Guard Headquarters, Chief of Enforcement at Sector Corpus Christi, Texas and Chief of Response Operations at Sector Delaware Bay.

A native of Miami, Florida, Captain Bernstein graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine and Environmental Science in 1998. She is also a graduate of the University of Maryland and holds Master of Science degrees in Environmental Management, Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, Cyber Security Policy, and a Master of Business Administration.