

CAPTAIN JAMES B. MCPHERSON, USCG
Chief of Staff, First Coast Guard District, Boston, MA



Captain James B. McPherson assumed duty as Chief of Staff, First Coast Guard District, in June 2011. The First Coast Guard District includes 10,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary personnel from the Canadian Border to New Jersey. He previously served as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Northern New England, where he exercised operational control of Coast Guard assets and mission execution in the Maine and New Hampshire areas of responsibility. He commanded 21 field units and over 1100 personnel. Prior to this command, he served as Chief, Office of Public Affairs at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC where he was responsible for directing the Coast Guard's service-wide public affairs program. Other assignments include the Commanding Officer of USCGC ESCANABA homeported in Boston from 2003 – 2005. He is a cutterman with his first assignment aboard USCGC EVERGREEN homeported in New London, CT. Other seagoing duties include Executive Officer aboard the USCGC SENECA in Boston, MA in 1998, and Commanding Officer of two patrol boats - USCGC POINT KNOLL in New London, CT in 1985 and USCGC MAUI in Miami Beach, FL in 1989.

Captain McPherson, a native of Bradley Beach, New Jersey, graduated from the U. S. Coast Guard Academy and he later received a Master of Science Degree in Mass Communications from Florida International University.

Captain McPherson's most recent public affairs duties included assignment as Senior Public Affairs Officer, Gulf Oil Spill in New Orleans and JTF Haiti for earthquake relief operations. Captain McPherson's past public affairs deployments include assignment as Secretary to the Principal Federal Official in charge of federal recovery efforts in the Gulf Region following Hurricane Katrina. As a public affairs officer, he was lead spokesman for the Coast Guard response to the crash of TWA FLT 800 off New York in 1996. He was also the Coast Guard Representative to the U. S. National Joint Information Bureau, Operation Joint Endeavor, in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. He assisted Coast Guard Group Woods Hole in the federal response to the 1999 plane crash off Martha's Vineyard carrying JFK Jr. At Coast Guard Headquarters, Captain McPherson was Chief of Coast Guard Public Affairs & official spokesperson for the service. During Operation Iraqi Freedom he established the CG Public Affairs Detachment at the Pentagon.

Captain McPherson's decorations include Legion of Merit, seven Meritorious Service Medals, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and two Coast Guard Achievement Medals.

Captain McPherson is married to Molly Baker McPherson, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota. They have four children; Rory (9), Kathleen (8) and 6 year old twins, Conor & Quinn.

