



Captain Aja Kirksey

Commander, Sector Honolulu
Captain of the Port
United States Coast Guard



Captain Aja Kirksey assumed Command of Sector Honolulu in June 2022, and directs all Coast Guard missions in Sector Honolulu's area of responsibility, a broad expanse of the Pacific that includes 1.4 million square nautical miles of ocean.

To cover this vast and challenging area, she manages over 400 members assigned to Sector Honolulu, including 266 Active Duty and 69 Reserve Component members, 14 Civilian Employees, and 60 Auxiliarists, along with three Fast Response Cutters, three Small Boat Stations, and one Aids to Navigation Team. Additionally, she oversees three Marine Safety Teams located on Kaua'i, Maui, and the Big Island of Hawai'i as well as Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa.

Prior to joining Sector Honolulu as Deputy Sector Commander in 2021, CAPT Kirksey was Chief of the Enlisted Panels, Advancements, & Separations Branch within the Enlisted Personnel Management Division of the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center.



Her operational assignments include serving as the Enforcement Division Chief for Sector San Diego, where she oversaw all Coast Guard law enforcement operations for the greater San Diego area. She also served at Sector Hampton Roads as the Command Center Supervisor, responsible for a crew executing over 1,000 cases per year to include search and rescue, law enforcement, and environmental protection missions in Virginia and coastal Maryland, and at Sector San Francisco, where she served on the Contingency Planning staff and as Assistant Chief of the Incident Management Division. During this tour, she also served as Deputy Operations Section Chief for the M/V COSCO BUSAN pollution response. In this capacity, she managed over 1,500 response personnel and 40 surface assets during one of the most effective open water oil spill clean-up operations in Coast Guard history. Captain Kirksey's first operational assignment was as an Engineer Officer in Training aboard the USCGC JARVIS (WHEC 721), homeported in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Her previous staff assignments include serving as the Task Force Representative to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands at Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF West). A standing Joint Task Force, JIATF West is the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's executive agent for planning and conducting counter-drug strategy in an area of operations covering over 105 million square miles. She served in the Military Advisor's Office component of the Department of Homeland Security, as the Executive Assistant to the Military Advisor to the Secretary. She also served as the Assistant Gender Policy Advisor in the Office of Leadership and Diversity, Coast Guard Headquarters.

Captain Kirksey hails from New Iberia, Louisiana. She holds a Master of Quality Systems Management from the National Graduate School at New England Institute of Business and she is a 2001 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Marine Environmental Sciences.

Captain Kirksey's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, six Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps Achievement Medal, the Marine Safety Insignia, the Boat Force Operations Pewter Insignia, and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Service Badge.