



Command Philosophy

USCGC ALDER (WLB 216)



I am honored to serve as your Commanding Officer onboard USCGC ALDER. In my role, I will seek to complete the mission effectively, mitigating risk where possible to maintain the safety of ship and crew. ALDER sailors safeguard commerce by maintaining a vital network of navigable waterway systems along California's coast. We routinely work in demanding environments, often shrouded in fog. In all phases of operations whether buoy-tending, enforcing U.S. laws, or conducting rescues, we make mission decisions using risk management and our shared Core Values to aid the collective success of the unit. Take ownership of your work and pride in the mission of the ship.

TRAIN

Proficiency in both watch standing and casualty response is critical to our performance as a team. Proficiency is achieved through training, and I ask you to continually review and hone your skills as professional engineers, mariners, and Coast Guardsmen. As a team, we will prioritize productive and challenging training both inport and underway.

COMMUNICATE

Our ability to operate at the highest levels hinges on our ability to communicate early, often, and clearly. Think and plan well enough in advance that the ship's operations are transparent and understood. Establish a shared mental model of the operational picture and check in with each other to ensure that it is maintained. Promote an environment which encourages feedback through regular mentoring and command interactions and fosters risk management at all levels.

RESPECT

We will succeed in our missions by building and sustaining a healthy collaborative environment. On ALDER we will create an inclusive culture, treat each other with mutual respect and understand the values, ideas, and diverse backgrounds each person brings to the team. Be humble in your work and open to the input of others. Do not be a bystander if you see others mistreated or struggling. Pick each other up, be positive and courageous, and seek to make the team better than the individual.

OWNERSHIP

This is your ship, and you play a vital role in the success of the unit. Become experts in your primary roles and collaterals, each have an important purpose to the ship's operation. Ensure we are following policy and strive to improve the programs on board. Take pride in what you own and do it to the best of your ability.

Drew M. Stafford, LCDR
Commanding Officer, USCGC ALDER (WLB 216)