

CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. MEES

Chief of Staff
U.S. Coast Guard Northwest District



CAPT Billy Mees assumed the duties of Chief of Staff for the Coast Guard Northwest District in Seattle, WA, in July 2025, where he is directly responsible to the District Commander for all Coast Guard operations throughout the Pacific Northwest which encompasses the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana and includes more than 4,400 miles of coastline, 600 miles of inland waterways and a 125 nautical mile international border with Canada. Previously, he commanded Coast Guard Cutter BERTHOLF from June 2023 to June 2025. Prior to reporting to BERTHOLF, he served as the USCG Pacific Area Chief of Maritime Forces where he was charged with providing mission ready cutters and aircraft to the Coast Guard and US Combatant Commanders to support national strategic priorities.

CAPT Mees enlisted in the Coast Guard from Richmond, Virginia in 1993. His enlisted assignments include Coast Guard Cutters VENTUROUS, STEADFAST, VIGOROUS, POINT BROWER, and FARALLON, and he advanced to the rate of Quartermaster 1st Class. After graduating from Officer Candidate School, he served in USCGC RESOLUTE as 1st LT; USCGCs MATAGORDA, MAUI and SITKINAK as Executive Officer; and USCGC EDISTO and PETREL as Commanding Officer. He also completed a tour afloat in USCGC JOHN MIDGETT as Executive Officer.

Ashore, CAPT Mees completed tours as a Command Duty Officer planning and directing search and rescue and law enforcement cases at Coast Guard District 7 in Miami, Florida and as a Program Analyst for the Deputy Commandant for Operations Resource Management Directorate at CG Headquarters in Washington, DC. He was assigned to the CG Office of Maritime Law Enforcement as Maritime Advisor to the US Ambassador, CG Liaison and Drug Interdiction Specialist at the US Embassy, Republic of Panama, as well as at the Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Requirements Council.

CAPT Mees holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Excelsior College, a Master of Public Administration from the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University and is a member of Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. He completed a yearlong Senior Fellowship at the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute.