

COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

USCGC *Joseph Gerczak* (WPC 1126)

We Take Care of Ourselves

The foundation of *Joseph Gerczak* is us. We are professional mariners and honor the great legacy of the Long Blue Line. We hold high standards for ourselves and each other. The standard we walk by is the standard we accept for our ship and our Coast Guard. We live our Core Values and expect the same of our Shipmates. We work hard each day to hone our craft. Though we know we will never be perfect, we strive to be better than yesterday. We know it will not always be easy, so we take the time to strengthen our mental, physical, and spiritual health. If we do not care for ourselves, we cannot take care of each other or accomplish the mission.

We Take Care of Our Team

We rely on each other, our families, support networks, and the larger Coast Guard to accomplish our missions. Success depends on how well we work as a team with those inside and outside the lifelines. Everyone is different, so we ask questions and get to know each other. We succeed when we truly know and trust each other. No one is an expert in everything, so we teach one another and learn from each other. No one fails alone, we succeed and grow as a team. We understand our operations involve risk, but we do not accept unnecessary risk. We work together to identify and mitigate hazards where we can. We keep each other safe and look out for one another. Each day we strive to earn the title of "Shipmate."

We Take Care of our Ship

Our ship keeps us safe, so we take care of our ship. Our ship reflects the pride we demonstrate in ourselves, our Shipmates, and our Coast Guard. We each do our part to ensure it is well maintained and ready to sail. We know casualties will happen, so we rehearse regularly to maintain proficiency and ensure we are ready to respond. Our ship is how we accomplish missions at sea. Operations we conduct are consequential not only to individual lives, but to our nation's safety, security, and prosperity.

We are Semper Paratus because we take care of ourselves, our Shipmates, and our ship. We execute our missions safely and to the best of our ability for the American people.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Caitlin E. Piker" with a small "LT" at the end.

Caitlin E. Piker
Lieutenant, U.S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer
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