

CAPTAIN KRISTOPHER ENSLEY, U.S. COAST GUARD



Captain Kristopher Ensley is the 31st Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Barque *Eagle*, where he leads a team that facilitates at-sea leadership and seamanship training for future Coast Guard officers onboard 'America's Tall Ship.' The *Eagle* is a 295-ft tall ship built in 1936 and has served as a dedicated afloat training command for the Service since 1946.

Prior to arriving on *Eagle*, he most recently served as a fellow with the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, providing expertise on Coast Guard and maritime matters to the Senate.

From 2023-2024, he served as the Commanding Officer of the Cutter *Dependable*, a 210-ft ship that routinely conducted law enforcement, maritime security, and search and rescue missions. In 2024, on their final patrol, the crew led five significant law enforcement cases, saved 33 lives, and then orchestrated the decommissioning of the *Dependable*.

CAPT Ensley served as the Homeporting, Patrol Boat, and *Eagle* Policy Division Chief in the Coast Guard's Office of Cutter Forces from 2020-2023, where he managed the homeporting process for all Coast Guard cutters and drove strategic policy changes to improve cutter operations. He also served on the 27th Commandant's Transition Team and led efforts to craft the 2022 U.S. Coast Guard Strategy. From 2015-2018, CAPT Ensley served as the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Commandant for Operations, Policy, and Capabilities, and concurrently in the Office of Performance Management and Assessment. He also served ashore from 2009-2012 with the Service's Office of Congressional Affairs.

From 2018-2020, CAPT Ensley commanded the Cutter *Paul Clark*. In 2019, the *Paul Clark* team was awarded the DHS Secretary's Unit Award, one of only two Coast Guard cutter crews ever so recognized, after leading fleet-wide policy changes and achieving significant law enforcement successes. He also served as the Operations Officer and Navigator onboard the *Eagle* from 2012-2014. CAPT Ensley additionally served as the Commanding Officer of the Cutter *Narwhal* in Newport Beach, CA, from 2007-2009, and as the Executive Officer of the Cutter *Aquidneck* in the Arabian Gulf from 2006-2007, leading operations in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

CAPT Ensley graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2004, has earned Masters Degrees in Business Administration, Public Administration, and Defense and Strategic Studies, and he completed the MIT Seminar XXI program in 2023. He is married to Mrs. Natalie Brand, an Emmy award-winning White House reporter with CBS News. In 2022, they took a chance and now have an amazing and energetic son, Chance Gerald Ensley.