DR. AMY DONAHUE
Provost and Chief Academic Officer
United States Coast Guard Academy



Dr. Amy Donahue is Provost and Chief Academic Officer at the United States Coast Guard Academy, the Department of Homeland Security's institution of higher learning. Dr. Donahue leads the faculty and all academic affairs at the Academy and is responsible for the quality and effectiveness of the Academy's academic enterprise in support of its core mission to educate leaders of character who serve as officers in the Coast Guard. She sets academic priorities and policy, oversees the curriculum, promotes faculty scholarship, and fosters intellectual engagement in support of the Service.

Dr. Donahue currently serves on NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, advising the NASA Administrator and Congress on safety and risk management. She is a Commissioner of the New England Commission for Higher Education and a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Dr. Donahue is also professor emeritus of public policy at the University of Connecticut. As a social scientist, her research has focused on executive leadership, homeland security, and disaster preparedness.

From 2011-2018, Dr. Donahue served as the University of Connecticut's Vice Provost for Academic Operations and Chief of Staff to the Provost. She was responsible for operational decision-making, policy development, strategic workforce management, labor-management relations, financial resource oversight, crisis planning and response, capital planning, faculty and staff professional development, and compliance management for an academic enterprise of fourteen schools and colleges and five regional campuses. As part of a small team of executive leaders, she was a key partner in developing the $1.7 billion Next Generation Connecticut program, crafting the University's academic vision, guiding program development to support excellence in teaching and learning, preparing the University for reaccreditation, and building a new regional campus.

Previously, Dr. Donahue headed UConn's Department of Public Policy for five years, leading a department that included a nationally respected Master of Public Administration program, top-ranked in public finance. She served on Connecticut's Police Officer Standards and training Council for sixteen years, helping design Connecticut's new policy and curriculum for police use of force. She advised the Chancellor of Louisiana State University immediately following Hurricane Katrina and was the founding director of LSU's Stephenson Disaster Management

Institute, a research institute focused on the challenges of managing large disaster responses. She was principal investigator on research funded by the Department of Homeland Security as part of the Center of Excellence for the Study of Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management.

From 2002-2004, Dr. Donahue was Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Homeland Security at NASA. She was the agency's liaison to the Department of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council and was responsible for identifying opportunities for NASA to contribute to homeland security efforts across government. In 2003, she had a major leadership role in the field response to the crash of space shuttle Columbia. From 2004-2007, Dr. Donahue served on the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel.

As the Distinguished Military Graduate of Princeton's Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1989, she began her career serving in the U.S. Army on active duty in the 6th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Her military assignments included serving as Officer in Charge of a Forward Surgical Team, as the Training and Operations Officer (S3) for the 706th Main Support Battalion, and as Chief of Mobilization, Education, Training, and Security for Bassett Army Hospital. She moved on to manage a 911 communications center, and to volunteer and work part-time as a firefighter and medic in Fairbanks, Alaska and upstate New York.

Dr. Donahue holds her Ph.D. in Public Administration and her M.P.A. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Geological and Geophysical Sciences from Princeton University. She is certified as a Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician. When she and her husband Tim are not on board the Coast Guard Academy, they may be found at their home in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.