



**LCDR PRIDE SANDERS  
U.S. COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Sanders graduated from South Carolina State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. While attending SCSU, he was selected for the Minority Officer Recruitment Effort Program (M.O.R.E). In 1998, he was commissioned as an Ensign after graduating from Officer Candidate School (OCS) in New London, Connecticut. He reported to USCGC FORWARD (WMEC-911) in Portsmouth, Virginia; where he served as Deck Watch Officer (DWO), Assistant Navigator (ANAV) and First Lieutenant (1LT). In 2001, LCDR Sanders was assigned as the Executive Officer (XO) aboard USCGC KODIAK ISLAND (WPB-1341), homeported in Saint Petersburg, Florida. Upon completion of that tour in 2003, he attended post-graduate school at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)/U.S. Naval Academy (LEAD Program) in Annapolis, Maryland. He was the first Coastguardsman to receive a Masters Degree in Leadership and Human Resource Development through that program. Following graduate school, LCDR Sanders was assigned to the Coast Guard Academy's Commandant of Cadets Staff where he served as the Alfa Company Officer from June 2004 to May 2007.

In 2007, LCDR Sanders reported to SECTOR MIAMI in Miami, Florida in support of District Seven High Tempo High Maintenance (HTHM) multi-crew operations. During that tour, he commanded USCGC SITKINAK NORTH (WPB-1329), USCGC NANTUCKET NORTH (WPB-1316) and USCGC DRUMMOND PORT (WPB-1323) crews. Following this assignment, he served as a Coast Guard liaison to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Western Hemisphere Branch Directorate responsible for Counterdrug/Counter Narco-Terrorism and Mass Migration Strategic Planning and Policy. His follow on tour was as the Executive Officer (XO) of USCGC BEAR (WMEC-901), homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia. LCDR Sanders is currently assigned to the Governmental & Public Affairs Directorate (CG-092) where he serves as the Coast Guard liaison officer to the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation and Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Office.

LCDR Sanders personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and three Coast Guard Achievement Medals. Lieutenant Commander Sanders is authorized to wear the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff insignia and earned the permanent Cutterman's Insignia in 2008.

He is married to the former Vonetta Darlene Waits from Decatur, Georgia who is a high school counselor in Charles County, Maryland. They currently reside in Accokeek, Maryland with their two children Christopher (8) and Christa (5).