



Commander Christian J. Barger
Chief, Inspections and Investigations Branch
Fifth Coast Guard District

Reporting in August 2022, CDR Barger serves as the Inspections and Investigations Branch Chief for the Fifth Coast Guard District where he is responsible for related policy management and mission oversight across a region that spans the mid-Atlantic, including North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, Delaware, and parts of eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. He provides guidance to four Sectors and three Marine Safety Detachments regarding safety and security inspections, marine casualty and enforcement investigations, and cyber security incident prevention and response across the maritime transportation system, including commercial vessels, Coast Guard-regulated shoreside facilities, and shipping containers, to safeguard the transportation of over \$235 billion of cargo each year.

CDR Barger is a 2004 graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Maritime Operations and Technology and a Merchant Mariner Credential endorsed as a Third Mate unlimited tonnage upon Oceans and Qualified Member of the Engine Department. Entering the Coast Guard through the Maritime Graduate Direct Commission Program, he was first assigned as a Marine Inspector and Investigating Officer at Sector Upper Mississippi River, St. Louis, MO from 2004 to 2008. Following that, he served as the Chief, Investigations Division at Sector St. Petersburg, FL, from 2008 to 2011, and then as the Supervisor of Marine Safety Detachment Coram, NY, from 2011 to 2014.

In 2014, CDR Barger was transferred to Training Center Yorktown where he served as an instructor and later School Chief in the Marine Inspection and Investigation School. His primary area of instruction was marine investigations, serving as lead instructor in both the basic Investigating Officer Course and the Suspension and Revocation Course. In 2016, he earned designation as a Coast Guard Master Training Specialist. During this assignment, CDR Barger completed his Master of Science in International Transportation Management from the State University of New York's Maritime College.

CDR Barger then transferred back to Sector Upper Mississippi River, where he first served as the Chief, Waterways Management Division from 2018 to 2020, then fleeting-up to serve as the Deputy Sector Commander from 2020 to 2022. In that capacity, he was responsible for Coast Guard operations in the Service's largest contiguous area of responsibility, marked by all or parts of eleven states and over 2,200 miles of commercially navigable waterways on the Upper Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois rivers and their tributaries. He led over 283 Coast Guard personnel and 1,100 Coast Guard Auxiliarists at the Sector office, five inland river tenders, one multi-mission boat station, and three Marine Safety Detachments and served as the alternates Captain of the Port, Officer-in-Charge Marine Inspection, Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, and Federal On-Scene Coordinator.

CDR Barger's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon. In May 2020, he completed his JPME Level I certification from the U.S. Naval War College. He was awarded his permanent Prevention Operations Ashore Insignia in 2008.