

# Captain Blake Welborn

*United States Coast Guard*

District Eight

Director, Western Rivers and Waterways Management



Captain Blake Welborn reported to the Eighth District in July 2019. His duties include budgetary, operational, and maintenance oversight of 27 Coast Guard cutters maintaining more than half of the Coast Guard's aids to navigation in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Mississippi, Illinois, Red, Tennessee, and Ohio Rivers and other waterways throughout America's heartland. His other duties include working closely with several partners including US Army Corps of Engineers, American Waterways Operators, and Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association as well as seven Coast Guard Captains of the Port to ensure an efficient and operational maritime transportation system.



His most recent operational assignments include Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Houma and Executive Officer at MSU Morgan City where he oversaw Vessel Inspections, Marine Investigations, and Port Safety and Security for south central Louisiana including the Atchafalaya River Basin and the largest outer continental shelf area of responsibility in the Coast Guard. During this timeframe he also served as the Plaquemines Parish Branch Director during the Macondo Oil spill. During this period he supervised more than 4,000 personnel, three contract helicopters, six forward deployed berthing vessels housing responders, and a fleet of more than 300 small response boats. He previously served as the Executive Officer and Commercial Merchant Vessel Safety Department Head at Marine Safety Unit Galveston directing maritime safety and security efforts in the ports of Texas City, Freeport, and Galveston. His other operational tours include Marine Safety Detachment St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Marine Safety Office Port Arthur.

Captain Welborn's staff assignments include two periods at Training Center Yorktown from 1999-2003 and 2007-2010. While seeing here, he taught vessel stability, wood and fiberglass vessel construction and inspection, human factors engineering, port state control and international conventions to Coast Guard and international maritime students. Ultimately, Captain Welborn was assigned as the Marine Safety Training Branch Chief where he was responsible for the branch's three-quarter million dollar annual budget, administration of 47 personnel, and oversight of five school houses instructing more than 2,000 students from over 40 countries in 15 different courses annually. His other staff tour was as the Supervisor of the Investigations National Center of Expertise from 2014 to 2016. Captain Welborn led a deployable team of advisors and mentors to Coast Guard marine casualty investigators world-wide and the investigations program directorate at Coast Guard Headquarters. During this assignment he deployed to aid the Costa Rican Coast Guard and the Office of Judicial Inspector in determining the cause behind a passenger ship sinking and associated passenger deaths.

Captain Welborn hails from a small town near Dallas, Texas. He holds both a Bachelors and Masters degree in Science. Captain Welborn is married to the former Kelly Bolton, also of north Texas; they have two sons and a new daughter-in-law.