



**Commander Christian T. Polyak**  
**Commanding Officer**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Detroit**



Commander Polyak assumed command of Air Station Detroit in June 2023. The unit consists of 120 personnel and operates a fleet of five MH-65 helicopters providing year-round search and rescue coverage to the Great Lakes region from Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Twp, MI and during the summer season from Air Facilities located in Muskegon, MI and Waukegon, IL. Additionally, the unit provides Rotary-Wing Air Intercept support protecting the President and other national strategic assets under the direction of the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Aeronautical Engineering Officer at Air Station Atlantic City, NJ, leading a 170-person team to ensure the airworthiness of 13 MH-65 helicopters.

A career aviator, Commander Polyak's operational assignments have included Group/Air Station Port Angeles, WA, Air Station San Francisco, CA and Air Station Atlantic City, NJ. He also served as the MH-65 Projects Officer and Airworthiness Sustainment Branch Chief at the Aviation Logistics Center in Elizabeth City, NC. He has logged more than 4,500 military flight hours in five models of the H-65, has held special mission qualifications in Airborne Use of Force and Rotary Wing Air Intercept, and is a graduate of the Coast Guard Advanced Helicopter Rescue School in Astoria, OR and the Army High Altitude Aviation Training Site in Eagle, CO.

Commander Polyak is a 2004 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was designated a Coast Guard Aeronautical Engineer in 2012 and has earned a Master of Science in Engineering and Technology Management from the Colorado School of Mines, a Master of Public Administration from the Florida Institute of Technology, and is a certified Project Management Professional and DHS Level II Program Manager. His honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three), Coast Guard Achievement Medal (two), as well as numerous service and unit awards. Additionally, he was a recipient of the 2019 Captain Niels P. Thompson Science & Technology Innovation Award.

Commander Polyak is married to the former Margaret Stultz of Charleston, WV and they are the proud parents of two wonderful boys, Owen and Grant.