



# **Welcome Aboard Package**

**U.S. Coast Guard  
Marine Safety Unit Duluth**

# CO MSU DULUTH

Congratulations on your orders to MSU Duluth, MN. Duluth is the hidden gem of middle America, and affectionately referred to as the “Crown Jewel of the Great Lakes”. If this is your first time serving on the Great Lakes – this will be both a challenging and rewarding tour as you integrate, assimilate, and appreciate what this region has to offer. If you are returning for another tour – Welcome Home! Our AOR includes the northernmost point in the continental U.S. and covers the tri-state region of MN, WI, and MI bordering Canada; our area is large, but we manage well with good folks like you on the team. We have an exceptional unit with a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and hobbies; this has allowed us to develop lasting relationships with our port partners and stakeholders.

The tri-state area has much to offer, and the community is very friendly. Duluth is well known for hosting many events throughout the year (the more prominent events are listed toward the end of this package). The people around here absolutely love the adventure summer brings; you will be surprised at the quantity/quality of hiking, biking, and camping options. Trails and parks are plentiful throughout the region, and you are highly encouraged to explore and enjoy. The winters are long and can be challenging for some folks, but there are plenty of wintery activities to experience - from Nordic & downhill skiing, snow mobiling, ice fishing, hockey, and more. You have four seasons of world-class beauty at your fingertips! If you are more of an indoor enthusiast, the area has many things that will keep you busy as well, from food to ice skating and curling to museums (check out the WILLIAM A. IRVIN in Canal Park – their Halloween haunted ship is amazing). Get out and explore, you will see.

I highly encourage you to leverage the local knowledge of your sponsor; let him/her know of any special circumstances that may influence where you live or impact your work – rest assured that we are eager to help you get settled in. Best of luck with your move, we are all looking forward to you joining our team!

Best regards,

J.P. Botti  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard



## Commander J.P. Botti

### Commanding Officer United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Duluth



Commander J.P. Botti is the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Duluth where he is the Captain of the Port, Officer-in-Charge of Marine Inspection, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, and Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the western Lake Superior tristate area and inland waters of Northern Minnesota including the international border. In this capacity, Commander Botti leads all marine safety, security, waters ways management & pollution response operations. Furthermore, he oversees the Coast Guard's Regional Support Team 9A and all mission critical procurement for the region.



A 2009 Officer Candidate School Graduate, Commander Botti's first assignment was serving aboard the USCG DALLAS (WHEC-716) as a Deck Watch Officer and the cutter's Navigation Division Officer and Boarding Officer. Transitioning to become a Coast Guard Prevention Officer, he reported to Sector New Orleans serving an extended tour as an Apprentice Marine Inspector and then Marine Casualty Investigator. In 2018 Commander Botti was assigned as Supervisor, Marine Safety Team Maui where he was responsible for leading all Coast Guard prevention operations within the county of Maui, to include the islands of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai.

Staff assignments include the Coast Guard's International Port Security Program, where he assessed the effectiveness of antiterrorism measures implemented by U.S trading partners in foreign ports and within the Eleventh Coast Guard District's Investigations and Inspections Branch where he executed prevention program management and direction of Eleventh District subordinate units from the northern border of California to San Diego, specifically overseeing marine casualty investigations, credentialed mariner investigations, and the branch's analysis functions.

A native of Beach Haven, NJ, Commander Botti graduated from Lafayette College in Easton Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Economics & Business and a bachelor's degree in Geology. Post graduate degrees include a Master's of Military Operational Art and Science with a concentration in Joint Warfare from the U.S. Air Force's Air Command and Staff College.

Commander Botti is the Coast Guard's 2022 Male Elite Athlete of the Year and 2017 recipient of the Coast Guard's Captain Domenic A Calicchio Award.

# U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Duluth

## Command Philosophy



The Maritime Transportation System of the Western Great Lakes is our responsibility. With a bias for action, we will execute our missions of preventing the loss of lives and property, protecting the marine environment, ensuring our national security, and providing mission-critical procurement services to our supported District Nine units. Do this in accordance with our core values and guided by my three principles of **People First, Mission Always, Ego Never.**

### **People First**

Take care of your people. The mission begins and ends with you, our greatest asset. Look out for each other, be outspoken on safety issues and never compromise on the safety, security, or well-being of you or your team. Create a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment, one free from bullying, discrimination, harassment, and prejudice. Invest in the personal and professional growth for yourself and those you serve. Don't neglect personal resiliency and work life balance. Pay due focus to your physical, mental, and emotional health along with the social relationships that sustain us, especially our families, friends, and co-workers.

### **Mission Always**

Always remember what a difference you can make in the lives of others. Make it a goal to be the best at what you do and continually look for opportunities to hone your skills. Build strong partnerships within and around our maritime community to improve mission effectiveness, efficiencies, and performance. Although your decisions should always be grounded in policy, you are encouraged to challenge habitual patterns in operations in lieu of better, more innovative approaches to the mission and its ever-evolving demands. Avoid perfecting the Coast Guard of the past; instead, I want you to create the Coast Guard of the future.

### **Ego Never**

One team, one fight. Place the interests of those that you serve before your own. Support those around you, share credit, and establish an environment built upon trust and our core values. Continually seek out ways to help and work as one team towards the common goal. You are never alone. Don't be afraid to ask for help and always be willing to listen to and provide council. Be accountable and transparent. Our job involves tough decisions and taking measured risks. Honest mistakes will happen and that's okay. Own and communicate them, use them as teachable moments, and move on. Remember, whatever we accomplish, we accomplish together.

Lastly, **HAVE FUN!** This is your unit, and I want you to enjoy your time here. We will not always control our schedule, mission, or circumstances, but we can always control our attitudes and effort. Stay positive, stay flexible, and always look for ways to incorporate humor and moral into the workday. We have one of the greatest jobs in the world; let's enjoy doing it!

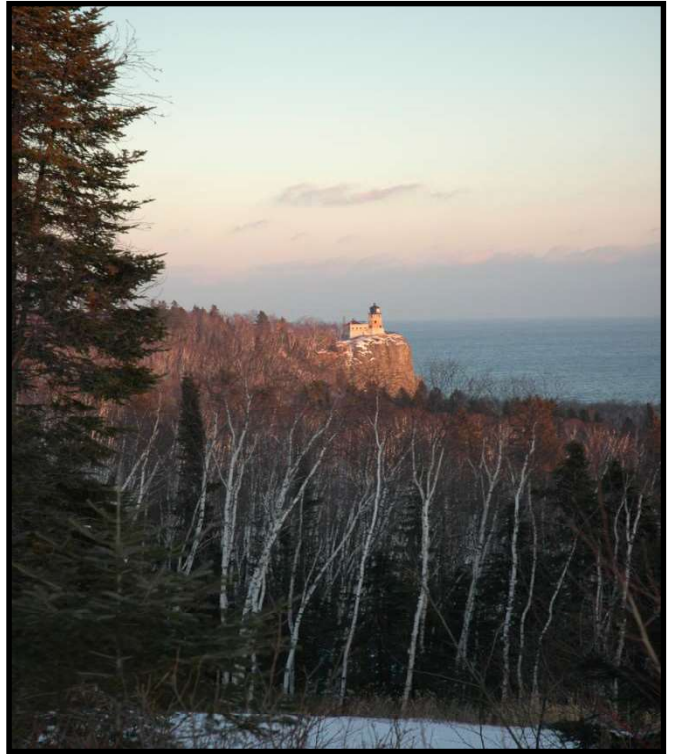
J.P. Botti

Commanding Officer

Marine Safety Unit Duluth



**View of Duluth's Aerial Lift Bridge spanning the Main Entrance into Duluth Harbor**



**Northwestern Shore of Lake Superior**



**View of Duluth's Bayfront Festival Park**



**Duluth Harbor Entrance at sunrise**

## MSU Duluth Overview

Welcome aboard and congratulations on your assignment to MSU Duluth! Our team is fully committed to ensuring that your transfer goes smoothly and that you have all the necessary resources to get settled efficiently. We hope you find this welcome aboard package insightful and helpful.

MSU Duluth is located on the first floor of the Federal Building in downtown Duluth, Minnesota. Duluth is positioned at the western end of Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world. Surrounding communities offer an outstanding quality of life and recreational outdoor activities enjoyed by over 150,000 residents. Duluth is truly a unique place to serve and raise a family while taking advantage of some of the best outdoor opportunities in the world. Duluth has a solid reputation with top ranked schools and universities, a thriving downtown with waterfront businesses and a military friendly community.

Duluth is located 2.5 hours from both Minneapolis/St. Paul and the Canadian border. Duluth is also the farthest inland port in the world at 2,342 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The Port of Duluth-Superior is the largest/busiest Great Lakes port and is ranked #1 for overall cargo tonnage (top 25 on the national level). MSU Duluth oversees a tri-state AOR that includes northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and the western half of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Major industries include shipping, health care, education, aviation, technology and tourism.

Duluth is considered a four-season outdoor mecca where members are encouraged to take advantage of the many activities, which are uniquely accessible from the heart of the city, ranging from the pristine shores of Lake Superior to 6,834 acres of city parkland and 178 miles of wooded trails. The North Shore runs to the Canadian border and offers countless smaller lakes and an expansive network of hiking, snowmobiling and ATV trails. Activities include canoeing (check out the legendary Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA)), kayaking, sailing/boating, fishing/hunting, Alpine and Nordic skiing and even surfing. Duluth also attracts large crowds to see ships pass by the popular Canal Park area, port events (e.g., Tall Ships), Grandmas Marathon and outdoor music and festival events (e.g., Bentleyville's huge holiday lighting display, July 4th fireworks).



**Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building**

MSU Duluth is one of the six MSU's that retain Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge Marine Inspection, Federal on Scene Coordinator, and Federal Maritime Security Coordinator responsibilities. The unit is staffed with 1 CDR, 1 LCDR, 3 LTs, 3 CWOs, 3 CPO, 1 PO1, 5 PO2s, 6 PO3s, 3 Civilians, and 2 Reservists. MSU Duluth conducts all the traditional marine safety missions including port state control, facility and vessel inspections,

pollution response, waterways management, and contingency planning. Several of the large, deep draft “lakers” (some exceeding 1000 feet) are in Duluth’s fleet of responsibility. The Command is very supportive of professional development and consistently looks for unique training opportunities to help members achieve their potential (i.e., sending members to other units for supplemental training and/or qualification).

### Inspections/Investigations:

- 120+ vessel inspection activities
- 50 Marine Casualties
  
- 6 ships lay-up in port for winter dry-dock & hull/machinery work
  
- Attainable Qualifications:
  - Hull & Dry-Dock
  - Machinery Diesel & Steam
  - T-boat
  - Freight (Port State Control)
  - Marine Casualty Investigator



ROGER BLOUGH - Inspected by MSU Duluth

## *Snapshot of Missions*



MSU Duluth participating in oil under the ice exercise

- Tri-state AOR (northern MN, WI & MI)
  
- 29 Facility Inspections  
20 Pollution Responses
  
- Attainable Qualifications:
  - Facility Inspector
  - Pollution Responder
  - WWM Representative
  - Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative
  - Maritime Enforcement Investigator

## **Reporting Aboard**

Prior to arrival, all personnel are expected to coordinate the following with their sponsor: arrival date, report time, parking, uniform, and all other final details/arrangements. Most importantly, take advantage of the good opportunity to reach out anytime and ask questions.

## **Uniform**

We welcome you to arrive in trops. Our uniform of the day is the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU).

## **Parking**

You will have a reserved parking space provided on the day you report for duty. There is no parking available for privately owned vehicles at the Federal Building; however, there are nearby residential streets (e.g., 3<sup>rd</sup> St. has free curbside parking) – be aware of alternate parking laws for some curbside parking areas. In addition, there are several parking meters adjacent to the building and along the streets that run about \$4 a day (3-hour time limit), and outdoor parking lots and garage options that vary in price (most offer monthly parking rates in the \$40-\$60 range). The Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) is 0.4 miles from the office and offers free parking during the winter months.

## **Unit Address:**

Commanding Officer  
USCG Marine Safety Unit Duluth  
515 West First Street (Rm. 145)  
Duluth, MN 55802-2352

## **Unit Phone Numbers:**

Main Office: (218) 725-3800  
24 Hours: (218) 522-0708  
Medical\*: (218) 529-3109

\*Located at Station Duluth



**Grand Marais, Minnesota**

## **Administrative**

Upon reporting aboard, be prepared to provide the Administration Division with your orders so that your “PCS Reporting Worksheet” can be completed as soon as possible (this will ensure your pay, entitlements, and travel claim are processed). The admin team will provide other assistance, such as updating DEERS and personal contact information in Direct Access.

## **Temporary Lodging**

There are numerous options in Duluth, MN and Superior, WI ranging from hotels to resorts with some offering extended lodging deals. Check out the Visit Duluth website for more information: <http://www.visitduluth.com>. Summer brings steady tourism and large-scale events, like Grandmas Marathon, drawing thousands to Duluth; therefore, lodging along the Canal Park waterfront area is



typically more expensive and booked months in advance. Other lodging options might be found near the mall area. There is no MWR type lodging in Duluth.

### **Housing**

MSU Duluth Members live entirely on the economy. Most enjoy short commutes and live in Duluth, MN (5 minutes away), Superior, WI (15 minutes away) or Hermantown, MN (20 minutes away). Surrounding towns, like Cloquet, MN and Two Harbors, MN, are smaller with more rural settings yet still offer decent shopping and other amenities (30 to 40 minutes away). Should you have any questions about housing or are planning to have a commute that will exceed the normal 1-hour response timeframe, please contact your sponsor or division chief to discuss details. Remember that weather may delay your commuting time in winter months.



**Split Rock Light House  
Two Harbors, MN**

Due to several universities and hospitals in the area, rental units and homes tend to be more limited than what most members are used to and can be even more difficult to come by when summer/fall classes/internships resume. Incoming members are strongly encouraged to begin looking early online and making calls to rental or real estate companies to increase options. To highlight, we have members eager to assist, so do not hesitate to ask your sponsor to scope out apartments or homes that you are interested in, plus there are word of mouth rental options that become available from time-to-time.

### **Child Care Providers**

Due to limited places that provide childcare, members are strongly encouraged to begin looking early and making calls to childcare providers.

### **Education**

When looking for a place to reside, parents are encouraged to research school quality. For the State of Minnesota, the following website contains information which will help you assess schools: <http://rc.education.mn.gov>

For Wisconsin, similar information may be obtained at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/>

For those members, spouses, and significant others pursuing continued education, there is an abundance of colleges and universities in the surrounding area. These institutions include the University of Minnesota (Duluth Campus), the College of Saint Scholastica (Duluth), Duluth Business University, Lake Superior College (Duluth), the University of Wisconsin (Superior Campus) and there are also local community colleges. Additionally, Minnesota offers Early

Childhood Family Education programs for young children and parent participation. Additional information can be found at <http://ecfe.info>.

### **Medical / Dental**

Medical/dental support is provided by an HS assigned to Station Duluth. STA Duluth is located on Park Point which is approximately 7 minutes from the MSU Duluth office. The HS can be contacted at (218) 529-3109.

Routine medical is contracted and supported by local hospitals and clinics as part of the Tricare Remote program with Tricare West for Minnesota and Tricare North serving Wisconsin residents. For additional information regarding available healthcare in the Twin Ports area, please contact your sponsor or the local Station Duluth HS at (218) 529-3109 to discuss medical and dental options.

### **Transportation**

Duluth International Airport (DLH) is a small airport with a limited number of carriers and flight options. Members regularly find the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP) more cost effective for travel (MSP is located 2.5 hours south of Duluth). A daily shuttle van runs from Duluth to MSP at approximately \$69 round trip and offers the flexibility to park your POV at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) free of charge. The shuttle's website is located at: <http://www.skylineshuttle.com/>

The Duluth Transit Authority is Duluth's public transportation system that offers steady bus service and a multitude of routes. More information can be found at: <http://www.duluthtransit.com>.



**WILLIAM A. IRVIN - Museum Ship (Duluth, MN)**

## Further Questions

Should you have any questions, please contact your sponsor anytime who will gladly assist. Upon checking-in, we can put you in touch with other information/resources that cover the full spectrum of city attractions, entertainment opportunities, childcare providers, and other local as well as Ninth District family resources. Another excellent resource is the Unit OMBUDSMAN; your sponsor will pass along his/her phone and email information so you can reach out anytime.

## Local Events:

### SPRING

[Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra](#)  
[Minnesota Ballet](#)  
[The Duluth Playhouse](#)  
[Annual Duluth Boat, Sports, and Travel Show](#)  
Lake Superior Family Fun Fest  
[Annual Arrowhead Home & Builders Show](#)  
[Annual Homegrown Music Festival](#)  
[Duluth Dylan Fest](#)

### SUMMER

[The Duluth Superior Film Festival](#)  
[Grandma's Marathon](#)  
[Annual Lincoln Park District Walleye Open](#)  
[Duluth Fourth Fest](#)  
[Annual Park Point Art Fair](#)  
[The Duluth Playhouse](#)  
[Downtown Duluth Sidewalk Days](#)  
[Annual Bayfront Reggae and World Music Festival](#)  
[All Pints North Summer Brew Fest](#)  
Twin Ports Bridge Festival  
[Spirit Valley Days](#)  
[Annual Brewhouse Triathlon](#)  
[Annual Bayfront Blues Festival](#)  
[Art in Bayfront Park Art Fair](#)  
[Kraus-Anderson Bike Duluth Festival](#)  
[Duluth Triathlon](#)  
[The Tribute Fest](#)  
[Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival](#)  
[Duluth Air & Aviation Expo](#)  
[Annual Duluth-Superior Pride Festival](#)

### FALL

[Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra](#)  
[Minnesota Ballet](#)  
[The Duluth Playhouse](#)  
[KIA of Duluth Time Trials & Car Show](#)  
[Engwalls Corn Maze](#)  
[Duluth Lakewalk Festival](#)  
[Hawk Weekend Festival](#)  
[NorthShore Inline Marathon](#)  
[Annual Fall Festival at Chester Bowl](#)  
[Oktoberfest Duluth](#)  
[Burrito Union 5 and 10-hr Triathlon](#)  
[William A. Irvin "Haunted Ship Tours"](#)  
[Boo at the Zoo](#)  
[Gales of November](#)

### WINTER

[Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra](#)  
[Minnesota Ballet](#)  
[The Duluth Playhouse](#)  
[Festival of Trees-Junior League of Duluth](#)  
[Christmas City of the North Parade](#)  
[Annual AMSOIL Duluth National Snocross](#)  
[Annual "Gobble Gallop Race"](#)  
[Bentleyville "Tour of Lights"](#)  
[The Christmas City Express](#)  
[The Train to Bentleyville "Tour of Lights"](#)  
[Arrowhead Ice Fishing and Winter Show](#)  
[Boulder Lake Ski Race](#)  
Duluth's Big Jig Ice Fishing Contest & Festival



**Spectators gather along the harbor entrance to welcome during Great Lakes Tall Ships Event**

**Duluth Outdoor Recreation:**  
<http://duluthoutdoors.com/>

**YMCA (2 blocks from MSU Duluth):**  
<http://www.duluthymca.org/>

**Destination Duluth**  
<https://www.facebook.com/DestinationDuluth>

**Outside Magazine**  
[www.outsideonline.com](http://www.outsideonline.com) (search Duluth)

**University of Minnesota-Duluth Sports:**  
<http://www.d.umn.edu/sportrec/>

**Concerts, Sports & Special Events:**  
<http://www.decc.org/entertainment/concerts-events.html>

**Shipping Information**  
<http://duluthshippingnews.com/>

**Duluth Tourism**  
<http://www.visitduluth.com/home.php>

**Additional Items:**

- The unit has a small gym in the federal building and Active Duty have free access to the YMCA (in Duluth and Hermantown).
- Consider stocking up on cold weather gear prior to your arrival – ask your sponsor if you are unsure as to what to purchase.
- Consider installing a corrosion prevention coating on your vehicle(s) before winter – these coatings will inhibit rust due to road salts.



**Nearby Family Camping (Indian Lake, MN)**



**Excellent fishing for all species, especially Walleye, Northern Pike & Musky (St. Louis Bay (Duluth, MN))**



**MSU & Station Participating in annual Dragon Boat race.**