



## Captain Mark I. Kuperman Commander, Sector Buffalo



As Sector Commander, CAPT Kuperman serves roles as the Captain of the Port, Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection, and as Federal On-Scene Coordinator. He is responsible for 355 active duty, 114 reservists, 16 civil servants, and 800 Auxiliarists. His area of responsibility (AOR) comprises the Eastern Great Lakes, including 570 miles of shoreline from Massena, NY to Vermilion, OH, as well as a 455-mile border with Canada. This AOR comprises Lake Ontario, 80% of Lake Erie, the NY Finger Lakes region, Niagara Falls, the Erie Canal System, and covers three U.S. States. He oversees 15 Coast Guard subunits, comprising 12 Stations, 1 Aids to Navigation Team, 1 Marine Safety Unit, and 1 Marine Safety Detachment. The Sector responds to nearly 1,000 Search and Rescue (SAR) cases annually, making it the second most active USCG Sector for SAR. The Sector also performs nearly 3,000 vessel boardings a year, and supports over \$35 billion dollars in economic activity from ships passing through this gateway to all the Great Lakes. The Sector closely collaborates with a wide variety of key U.S., Canadian, Tribal, and public/private stakeholders to ensure safe, efficient, and shared use of vital lakes and waterways.



Previous assignments include Deputy Chief of Operations, PACAREA (PAC-3SF) where he supervised MSRT-West, 4 MSSTs, all USCG CG Port Security Units (8), all CG Dive Lockers (3) and W. Coast canine explosive detection teams. His portfolio comprises over 1,700 AD & Reserve personnel. He supervised PACAREA Boat Forces, to include oversight for 337 cutter, DSF, and Station boats. He was PACAREA's primary ACTSUS authority and oversaw the Area OIC certification program. Prior to PACAREA, he was the Deputy Commander and Alternate COTP/FOSC, Sector Anchorage, in the CG's largest, most remote AOR, spanning 39K miles of Western Alaska & Arctic coastline. While assigned, he oversaw establishment of the Marine Safety Task Force under Operation Arctic Shield. Prior to Alaska, he was CG Program Manager for the Maritime Force Protection Program, the service's largest reimbursable program and CG interface for nuclear weapons security. He also spearheaded the service's first Counter Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) legislation. He has served as the District 13/RCC Seattle Command Center Chief, Sector Jacksonville's Incident Management Division Chief and Station/Patrol Boat Manager, LANTAREA's PWCS-SME and as the CG Re-deployable Assistance & Inspection Detachment (RAID) Program Manager. He is a MSST 91101 (Seattle) plank-owner and is one of the service's first MSST Deployable Team Leaders. His initial officer assignment to Group/MSO Philadelphia was as a fully qualified Investigating Officer; he also led all preps for the 2000 OPSAIL-TALLSHIPS event. Prior to commission, he was an Air Station Atlantic City AST Airman, following his first tour as Station New Haven, CT BTM/boat crew.

CAPT Kuperman holds a B.A. in English from Binghamton University, an M.S. in Health Sciences (Disaster and Emergency Response) from Trident University, and an M.A. in Global Strategic Studies from Johns Hopkins University. He is a team recipient of two CDR Joel Magnusson Awards for USCG Innovation. In addition to PAC ACTSUS, he has been a District and a Sector SMC, and been qualified CDO at a Group/MSO, Sector, and a District. He is a certified Type III Incident Commander, and serves as PACAREA's Gold-Team IMAT lead.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2), Coast Guard Commendation Medal (2), Navy/USMC Commendation Medal, and Coast Guard Achievement Medal (7). He is married to Christine Kuperman; they are the proud parents of three terrific children; the family also shares their home with three very energetic dogs.