

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

Lieutenant Michael P. Comerford

Marine Board of Investigation Technical Advisor

U.S. Coast Guard

Lieutenant Comerford has served as a staff engineer at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center since July 2015. As a unit chemical engineer, he is responsible for reviewing vessel plans for their ability to carry flammable, combustible, hazardous or noxious liquid cargoes.

Lt. Comerford was selected for the Coast Guard's Funded Marine Engineering Program in 2013 and attended the University of Washington receiving a Masters of Science in chemical engineering in 2015.

Lt. Comerford previously served as the executive officer for the Coast Guard Cutter CUSHING (WPB 1321), a 110 foot patrol boat stationed in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The primary mission of the CUSHING was to protect America's maritime borders from illicit trafficking of narcotics, interdiction of migrants illegally attempting to enter the United States and search-and-rescue operations. The CUSHING's primary area of operations was over 75,000 square nautical miles. As the executive officer, he was responsible for the day to day operations and administration of the unit from 2011 to 2013.

Lt. Comerford was commissioned as an ensign after graduating from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in marine and environmental science with high Honors. He then served as a deck watch officer on the Coast Guard Cutter WALNUT (WLB 205) from 2009 to 2011, a 225 foot buoy tender stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii. The primary mission of the WALNUT is maintaining the aids to navigation which mark navigable waterways, search-and-rescue, fisheries and narcotics law enforcement, international relations in the South Pacific and marine and environmental protection. While onboard the WALNUT, he served as the communications officer and subsequently the assistant navigation officer. In 2010, Lt. Comerford was deployed with the WALNUT to the Gulf of Mexico to skim oil in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.