

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



## **8<sup>TH</sup> COAST GUARD DISTRICT FORMAL HEARING**

**Explosion and fire aboard Bouchard No. 255 Tank Barge resulting in loss of 2 lives and oil spill Oct. 20, 2017, in Gulf of Mexico near Port Aransas, Texas**

### **Mr. Bruce Davies** **Lead Investigating Officer** **U.S. Coast Guard**

Mr. Bruce Davies is an attorney currently serving as the Chief, Investigations Department, at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston. He has served in this role since April 2013. In this position, Mr. Davies oversees marine casualty investigations in the Sector Houston-Galveston area of responsibility, to include deep and shallow draft vessel collisions, groundings, personnel casualties, and other incidents affecting the safe navigation of the waterways. Mr. Davies and his office work closely with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and other state and federal partners on multi-jurisdictional investigations. His office also initiates and manages personnel investigations under 46 CFR Part 5, to include representing the Coast Guard at Suspension and Revocation Hearings.

Mr. Davies has over 30 years combined experience in the Coast Guard, previously as an inspection officer and currently in his civilian role as Chief, Investigations Department. During his time in the Coast Guard, Mr. Davies has overseen the investigation of more than 12 Major Marine Casualties. Mr. Davies has presented at numerous industry training events on topics including Coast Guard Investigations, inspections, licensing, and marine casualty reporting requirements. He serves as an advisory member of the Harris County Pilot Board Investigation and Recommendation Committee.

Mr. Bruce Davies was appointed by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, to serve as the lead investigating officer to the formal investigation into the probable cause of the fire and explosion onboard the Bouchard Barge No. 255 on October 20, 2017.

Prior to working at the Coast Guard, Mr. Davies worked in private practice in Houston. His practice focused on admiralty, maritime contract and criminal law. Mr. Davies also served as an Assistant District Attorney, Harris County, Texas.

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### **CWO4 Jess W. Farmer**

**Investigator  
U.S. Coast Guard**

Chief Warrant Officer Jess Farmer currently serves as Senior Investigating Officer and Marine Inspector at Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley, in Louisville, Kentucky. Farmer possesses more than 30 years of shipboard, diving, and marine safety experience. Currently his duties encompass marine casualty investigations including causal analysis, regulatory compliance analysis, and developing safety recommendations to assist in reducing the likelihood of future accidents. As a marine inspector, Farmer has inspected more than 400 barges over the past decade ensuring proper regulatory compliance and oversight. Additionally, he is currently responsible for initiating appropriate civil penalty and Suspension and Revocation enforcement actions.

Farmer began his career with the Navy, when he enlisted in May of 1987. Upon his completion of basic training, he received orders to a Coontz Class destroyer, the USS King DDG-41, and from there he reported to EODMU-10, Ft. Story, VA as a Navy diver. In 1992, BM2 Farmer enlisted into the Coast Guard where he served on multiple Coast Guard cutters and subsequently selected to become a Recruiter In-Charge as a Coast Guard chief petty officer. In 2007, he was selected and promoted to the rank of CWO2 and received orders to Sector New Orleans where he obtained numerous marine inspection qualifications. Farmer received his Apprentice Marine Inspector designation in 2007, Journeyman Marine Inspector designation in 2012, and then received his Advanced Journeyman Marine Inspector Designation in 2015.

Farmer is a graduate of the Chief Warrant Officer Professional Development course. He also graduated from the Chief Petty Officer Academy. His marine safety schools courses include the Marine Inspector Course, Marine Casualty Investigations, Suspension and Revocation, and Navy Dive School. He is also a graduate of the Advance Tactical Operations Course as well as the Basic Tactical Operations Course.

His individual military awards include four Coast Guard Commendation Medals with the Operational Distinguishing Device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device, the Navy/Marine Corp Achievement Medal, seven Coast Guard Commandants Letter of Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device, five Coast Guard Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, and five Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device as well as numerous unit citations and pocket devices.

News releases, fact sheets and other information is available at <https://www.news.uscg.mil/bouchard/>  
For media inquiries, please contact 504-330-3087

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# **CWO2 Chrisina Jeanes**

**Investigator  
U.S. Coast Guard**

Chief Warrant Officer Chrisina Jeanes is currently an investigating officer at Sector Corpus Christi, in Corpus Christi, TX. In this position, she conducts marine casualty and suspension and revocation investigations.

Jeanes enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1997 and served for over one year as a seaman aboard Coast Guard Cutter GALLATIN (WHEC-378), in Charleston, South Carolina. She then attended Marine Science Technician A-school in Yorktown, Virginia. Upon advancement to third class petty officer in 1999, she was assigned to Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston in Galena Park, Texas. Her following units include Marine Safety Detachment Unalaska, in Dutch Harbor, Alaska; Marine Safety Unit Galveston, in Galveston, Texas; Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, in Port Arthur, Texas; and Recruiting Offices in Sacramento, California, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jeanes attended Texas A&M University-Galveston located in Galveston, Texas, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Maritime Administration in 2006.

Her individual military awards include Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal (6) with Operational Distinguishing Device, Coast Guard Letter of Commendation (2) with Operational Distinguishing Device, Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal (6), and Restricted Duty Service (2).

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### **Lt. Cmdr. Mary A. Gilday**

**Investigator/Recorder**

**U.S. Coast Guard**

Lt. Cmdr. Mary A. Gilday is currently the Chief of Investigations at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Houma in Houma, Louisiana. In this position, she manages a division of investigating officers who investigate marine casualties such as collisions, groundings, sinkings, fires, injuries, and deaths onboard vessels and oil & gas facilities in U.S. waters and the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf. The division initiates civil penalties against companies and personnel for safety violations. The investigating officers also prosecute mariners before a Federal Judge in licensing litigation hearings for misconduct, violations of law or regulation, negligence, and illegal drug & alcohol use.

Gilday enlisted into the Coast Guard Reserves in July 2002 and attended preparatory school for one year prior to attending the United States Coast Guard Academy. Upon commissioning as an ensign, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Government and was then assigned as a deck watch officer on the Coast Guard Cutter Forward. The cutter's missions included law enforcement, illegal immigrant interdiction, counterdrug, and search and rescue. In 2009, she was assigned as the Weapons Department Head for the Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin. This cutter was suited for long-range, high endurance missions. In 2012, Gilday was assigned to Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Morgan City, in Morgan City, Louisiana. During her tour in Morgan City, Gilday served as the Assistant Chief of Inspections and later Chief of Investigations. She is qualified to inspect barges, offshore supply vessels, mobile offshore drilling rigs, offshore oil & gas facilities, and small passenger vessels.

Gilday is the recipient of two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Letters of Commendation, five Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendations, and several other awards.

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# **Lt. Cmdr. Geralyn van de Krol**

**Legal Advisor  
U.S. Coast Guard**

Lt. Cmdr. Geralyn M. van de Krol serves as the legal advisor at the Coast Guard Investigations National Center of Expertise (INCOE) in New Orleans, Louisiana. In this role, van de Krol advises the INCOE, field units and district offices on complex marine casualty investigations, administrative law topics, and other prevention law related issues. She has also served as the recorder or legal advisor to marine boards of investigation and district formal investigations. Van de Krol also serves as a collateral duty military judge, presiding over special courts-martial.

From 2015-2017, she served as the Branch Chief, Trial Services in Alameda, California. In that position, she managed a staff of four attorneys and two support staff. She served as lead prosecutor on numerous complex courts-martial, including several multi-victim sexual assault cases. From 2011-2015, van de Krol served as a staff attorney at the Legal Service Command (LSC), Alameda and Coast Guard Pacific Area (PACAREA), advising shore-based support units and underway operational cutters on a range of legal matters, including ethics, administrative, military justice, and operations law. During her time at the LSC and PACAREA, she served as a District 11/PACAREA operational law duty attorney, providing advice to the District 11 commander on emergent operational law issues.

Van de Krol graduated from the University of Arizona, with a B.A. in Media Arts. After spending approximately 18 months working as a reporter at the Orange County Register, she enlisted in the Coast Guard in 2001. She served on the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw (WAGB-83) from 2002 until 2005 and advanced to the rate of Quartermaster Second Class before attending Officer Candidate School in 2005. After receiving her commission, she served at Coast Guard Sector New Orleans from May 2005 until September 2008, spending time in the Investigations Division and Command Center. She was selected for the Coast Guard's funded legal education program and received a Juris Doctor from Chicago-Kent School of Law in Chicago, Illinois in 2011. Van de Krol is a member of the Illinois Bar.

Individual military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal with the Operational Distinguishing Device and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal (2) with the Operational Distinguishing Device.