



Commander
Zach Ballard
Executive Officer



Commander Zach Ballard is the Executive Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak, Alaska, the Coast Guard's largest and most comprehensive military installation and the primary logistics hub supporting operations throughout Alaska, the North Pacific, and the Arctic region.

He assumed the duties of Executive Officer in July 2026 after serving as Assistant Facilities Engineer at Base Kodiak from February 2025 through June 2026. In that role, he helped oversee engineering, facilities, environmental compliance, construction, and infrastructure operations supporting one of the Coast Guard's most complex shore installations while advancing major initiatives to improve mission readiness and long-term infrastructure resilience.

A career officer with operational and engineering experience, CDR Ballard previously commanded U.S. Coast Guard Cutter NEAH BAY (WTGB 105) in Cleveland, Ohio, leading the crew in the execution of domestic icebreaking, law enforcement, and search and rescue missions throughout the Great Lakes. His previous assignments include Asset Line Manager, Construction Project Manager, and Civil Engineer at Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit Providence, Rhode Island; Executive Officer aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter PENOBSCOT BAY (WTGB 107) in Bayonne, New Jersey; and Damage Control Assistant and Deck Watch Officer aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY (WMEC 39) in Kodiak, Alaska.

CDR Ballard graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He also earned a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Science in Engineering and Management through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's System Design and Management Program, where his graduate work focused on systems engineering, organizational leadership, and data-driven approaches to infrastructure management and decision-making. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of South Carolina.

CDR Ballard is a permanent Cutterman. His personal awards are a tribute to the shipmates he has had the privilege to serve alongside throughout his career.

Originally from Altoona, Iowa, CDR Ballard is the son of a Coast Guard Aviation Electronics Technician, whose service inspired his own commitment to the Coast Guard. He and his wife, the former Lindsey Watrous of Ledyard, Connecticut, have one daughter.