



# Commander Matthew J. Press

## United States Coast Guard



Commander (CDR) Matthew J. Press assumed command of U.S. Base San Juan in July of 2021 having just completed his tour as Executive Officer of Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) *Hamilton*, homeported in Charleston, South Carolina.

CDR Press' undergraduate studies include Military Science, Theology, and Mechanical Engineering. CDR Press earned a Master of Science in Astronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and a Master of Military Arts and Science from the Army's Command and General Staff College. CDR Press is a licensed pilot, certified diver, and a top graduate of the U.S. Air Force's Squadron Officer School.

Prior to joining the Coast Guard, Matthew taught English in Papua New Guinea, worked for Raytheon's Chemical Weapon Demilitarization program at Johnston Atoll, designed products for U.S. Filter Blastrac in Oklahoma City, and served as a missionary in Australia. As a Government Service employee for the U. S. Air Force, Matthew specialized in satellite mission design, led test & acquisition programs for ejection seat aircraft, and was a member of the Joint Strike Fighter acquisition team.

CDR Press' Coast Guard experience includes service as an engineer, boarding officer, deck watch officer, search and rescue controller, pollution responder, and command duty officer. CDR Press served onboard CGC *Bertholf* as the Assistant Engineer Officer during the construction and initial voyage, then subsequently as the Assistant Operations Officer coordinating weapons and helicopter testing and as the navigator during the first two operational deployments. As CG Sector Guam's Commanding Officer of Military Personnel and Logistics Department Head, CDR Press oversaw the evacuation of Coast Guard members and dependents during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. CDR Press served as the Engineer Officer of CGC *Dauntless* leading two major dry docks, seven dockside availabilities, and nine deployments. As the Executive Assistant to the Coast Guard's Senior Reserve Officer, CDR Press helped guide policy for six thousand reservists. CDR Press' last staff assignment was in Washington D.C. where he led the Coast Guard's Joint Staff team responsible for advising the Commandant on Department of Defense operations.

Matthew Press is happily married to the former Ginger L. Pruitt of San Antonio, TX with three children.