

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "No" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Meredith Lee Austin
Nickname: Merrie

2. Position to which nominated: **Rear Admiral, Upper Half (O8)**

3. Date of Nomination: **February 24, 2016**

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Ofc: Coast Guard Pacific Area (PAC-09)
Coast Guard Island, Bldg 51-6
Alameda, CA 94501-5100

Home: San Francisco, CA 94130 (military housing)

5. Date and Place of Birth: **1/12/1963, New York City, New York**
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage). **None.**
7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

My official Coast Guard Biography is attached.

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

My official Coast Guard Biography is attached.

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

My official Coast Guard Biography is attached.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last five years.

March 2015-Present: Designated United States Governor to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC). This is an official duty in my current position.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last five years.

None.

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religious organization, private club, or other membership organization. Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. *Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.*

1985-Present: US Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, no positions held.

1998-Present: American Board of Industrial Hygiene, registered Diplomate (ABIH is the body granting the title "Certified Industrial Hygienist").

2006-Present (intermittent): American Industrial Hygiene Association (ABIH) Incident Preparedness Response Workgroup.

2007-Present: Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, CA (CHDS) Alumni Association, no positions held.

Jan 2013-Present: Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Alumni Association, no positions held.

2012-Present: Hui Nalu Hawaiian Racing Canoe Club, no positions held.

None of these organizations restrict membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt. **No.**

14. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years. Also list all offices you have held with, and services rendered to, a state or national political party or election committee during the same period. **None.**
15. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

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16. Please list each book, article, column, or publication you have authored, individually or with others. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

2007: CHDS Master's Thesis: "Engage the Media: Coast Guard's Public Affairs Posture During the Response to Hurricane Katrina".

2008: AIHA Industrial Safety and Health Management Handbook , authored by the AIHA Incident Preparedness Response Workgroup.

2011: Proceedings from the International Oil Spill Conference, two articles on the use of the Incident Command System during the response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

2011: Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Convention, presentation on use of Incident Command System for complex incidents.

2013: Association of Pacific Ports; presentation on Maritime Security in Hawaii.

2013: PACOM Science and Technology Conference; presentation on current CG technological capabilities and gaps in Maritime Domain Awareness.

2013: American Petroleum Institute: In-Situ Burning: A Decision-Maker's Guide (draft submitted to API, not yet published as of 12/30/15).

17. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony. **None.**

18. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, maritime organization which must be agile in order to anticipate and meet its diverse and dynamic responsibilities as conditions change. I have spent most of my career conducting maritime safety and security missions, managing complex incidents including hurricane responses, response to the World Trade Center attack and Deepwater Horizon oil spill. In all of these events, I learned the value of interagency coordination with other military, federal, state and local entities, as well as private industry. During my career, I learned to leverage the strengths of each agency/entity to solve complex problems.

19. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

As stewards of public resources, all federal agencies have a duty to spend taxpayer funds responsibly and account for the money that is spent. It is imperative that DHS and the Coast Guard continue to receive a "Clean" financial audit determination. If confirmed, I will provide "intrusive leadership" to ensure units and personnel for which I am responsible fulfill our obligation to accurately account for dollars spent, maintain accurate inventories, complete all required audits in a timely manner and spend funds in accordance with applicable law, regulations and policies. I have experience managing large, multi-million dollar organizations, both while serving as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard units, as well as while serving as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator prosecuting oil and hazardous materials clean up operations all over the country.

20. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

1. **Recruitment and Retention-As demographics in the US shift to a more diverse workforce, the Coast Guard must be able to attract more people from underrepresented minority groups and women who in the past have not shown a propensity to serve in the Coast Guard. While some progress has been made on this issue, it is not uniform across all enlisted job ratings. Additionally, we recognize service attrition rates are higher for underrepresented minorities and women vs. their white male counterparts and the Coast Guard is working on ways to make continued service more attractive, enabling these groups to serve at higher paygrades. The steps we need to take to make continued service by**

underrepresented minorities and women more attractive will also appeal to Millennials and those coming behind them, to ensure the health of our workforce into the future.

- 2. Climate Change-as temperatures rise around the globe, it creates new challenges for the Coast Guard. A melting Arctic means vast areas of previously ice covered seas are opening for shipping which will require a more persistent presence in an environmentally challenging part of the world. The frequency and intensity of tropical storms means the Coast Guard will be required to respond to these types of incidents more often. Finally, as pressures on developing countries increase due to rising sea levels and loss of natural resources and food, the Coast Guard must be prepared for increased alien migration as well as increased patrolling of critical fishing stocks within US Exclusive Economic Zones.**
- 3. Cyber- Coast Guard must have the capability and capacity to evaluate and ensure all elements of the Marine Transportation System are protected against and can respond to cyber attacks.**

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

Please see my nominee PFDR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. **None.**
3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. **None.**
4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. **None.**
5. Describe any activity during the past ten years in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy. **None.**
6. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics by, or been the subject of a complaint to any court, administrative agency, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain. **No.**
2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. **No.**
3. Have you or any business of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding or civil litigation? If so, please explain. **No.**
4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. **No.**
5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. **No.**
6. If you ever served as a general court-martial convening authority involving an offense involving sexual misconduct or assault, have you ever disapproved the findings of a court-martial related to the offense(s) or reduced the sentence adjudged by a court-martial, other than in connection with a pre-trial agreement? **No.**
7. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. **None.**

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees? **Yes.**
2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? **Yes.**
3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? **Yes.**
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? **Yes.**

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

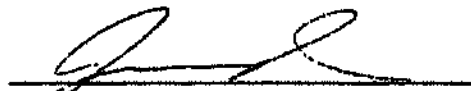
F. Affidavit

Rommel Meredith Astor being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.



Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of MARCH, 2016.



Notary Public

J.M. Greenwood

LEDR, O-4, USCG

NOTARY PUBLIC PURSUANT TO 10 USC 1044A

INDEFINITE



Rear Admiral Meredith L. Austin
United States Coast Guard

Deputy Commander, Pacific Area
United States Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Meredith Austin assumed the duties of the Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area (PACAREA) in June 2015. Prior to this assignment she served as Commander, Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (PSC). PSC supports mission execution by recruiting, accessing, assigning and developing careers, maintaining well-being, compensating, separating and retiring all enlisted, officer, Active Duty and Reserve Coast Guard personnel.

Previously she served as the Chief of Staff for the Fourteenth Coast Guard District in Honolulu, Hawaii. The District spans over 12.2 million square miles and includes the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, American Samoa and activities in Saipan, Singapore and Japan.

Rear Admiral Austin has held several commands including Sector Delaware Bay, executing the Coast Guard's eleven statutory missions along the coasts of New Jersey, Delaware and

Pennsylvania; the Pacific Strike Team; and the National Strike Force, responding to oil and hazardous substance spills and threats from Weapons of Mass Destruction in support of Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Defense Federal On-Scene Coordinators throughout the United States, its territories and other nations. She worked closely with port and response partners from local, state and federal agencies, foreign governments, as well as private industry and non-governmental organizations.

Rear Admiral Austin has responded to many of the major incidents which have occurred since 2001 including the World Trade Center disaster, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, supported the Capitol anthrax and ricin incidents and in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Rear Admiral Austin served first as Deputy Incident Commander, then as the Incident Commander for the state of Louisiana, directing the activities of over 19,000 responders.

Rear Admiral Austin is a 1985 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy with a degree in Marine Science. She earned a Master of Science in Public Health in Industrial Hygiene from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1994 and a Master of Arts in Homeland Security from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California in 2007. Rear Admiral Austin is a NIMS certified Type I Incident Commander, and has earned the designations of Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Emergency Manager.

Rear Admiral Austin's personal awards include two Legion of Merit Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the DOT 9-11 Medal, three Achievement Medals, two Commandant's Letter of Commendation and the Marine Safety Designation.