

Senate Commerce Committee Coast Guard Nominee Questionnaire
119th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (the “Committee”) 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 “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to the nominee. Begin each section (i.e., “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper. Electronically submit your completed questionnaire to the Committee in PDF format and ensure that sections A through E of the completed questionnaire are in a text searchable and that any hyperlinks can be clicked. Section F may be scanned for electronic submission and need not be searchable.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

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

Robert Carlton Compher

Nickname - Tex

2. Position to which nominated:

Rear Admiral (lower half), U.S. Coast Guard

3. Date of Nomination:

07 November 2025

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. Date and Place of Birth:

[REDACTED]

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).

Katy O'Bannon Compher (spouse); Employment – School of the Incarnation, Gambrills, MD (teacher)



7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

Aug 2018-June 2019: Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, Master of Science – National Resource Strategy, 13 June 2019

Aug 2012-June 2013: U.S. Naval War College, Master of Arts – National Security and Strategic Studies, 21 June 2013

Jun 2003-Apr 2005: University of Michigan, Master of Science in Engineering – Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, 28 Apr 2005. Master of Science in Engineering – Industrial and Operations Engineering, 28 Apr 2005

Aug 2001-May 2003: Regis University (distance education), Master of Business Administration, May 2003

Jul 1993-May 1997: U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Bachelor of Science – Civil Engineering, 21 May 1997

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

I have served as a Coast Guard officer since May of 1997. Please see my official Coast Guard biography and chronology of work history for detailed information.

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

My official Coast Guard biography and chronology of work history are 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 after 18 years of age.

None

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.

None

12. Please list each membership you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution). 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 disability.

Society of American Military Engineers, Dec 2015-Dec 2020

Crofton Country Club, social member; May 2019-present

Bowie Elks Lodge No. 2309; Apr 2025 – present

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association; May 1997-present

These organizations do not restrict membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

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. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

None

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.

None

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
CG Meritorious Service Medal (4)
CG Commendation Medal (3)
Joint Service Achievement Medal
CG Achievement Medal (2)

17. List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

Coast Guard Journal of Safety & Security at Sea Proceedings (Spring 2022, Vol. 79 No.1) – “Uncharted Waters; Navigating the Integration of Autonomous Vessels”, Issue Champion

[The Coast Guard Journal of Safety and Security at Sea Proceedings](#)

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been

nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

Remarks at North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) Safety at Sea Seminar and AMVER Awards, Washington, DC (May 22nd, 2025) (attached)

Panelist “Innovative Approaches for Emerging Security, Safety, and Resiliency,” Transportation Research Board Conference. Washington, DC (June 24, 2025) (attached)

Remarks at American Salvage Association Annual Meeting, “CG Marine Safety Center Update”. Virtual (November 30, 2023) (attached)

Panelist, “Testbed Development for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships,” Transportation Research Board. Washington, DC (January 12, 2020) (attached)

Other than the above, I routinely provide remarks at various functions internal to the Coast Guard including training courses (Journeyman Marine Inspector Course, Chief of Inspections Division Course, Sector Commander Course) and conferences (Chief of Inspections/investigations Conference, Prevention Department Head Conference, and Sector Commander Conference). At each, I provide an update on Prevention program activities and initiatives. (I do not have a link or digital copies of these presentations)

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

Quote: “Coast Guard – Fewest boating fatalities in more than 50 years in latest statistics” (July 1, 2025)

[Coast Guard: Fewest boating fatalities in more than 50 years in latest statistics](#)

[Coast Guard reports fewest boating deaths in more than 50 years - UPI.com](#)

[U.S. Coast Guard: Fewest recreational boating fatalities reported in more than 50 years : Big Island Now](#)

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an “alias” or “handle,” including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

LinkedIn (dormant): Robert Compher

(<https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-compher-26029a7>)

21. 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

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the Coast Guard, 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?

I am honored to have recently been selected for service as a flag officer in the Coast Guard. I have devoted the last 28 years of my career to the people and teams that deliver the important missions we provide, and am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve. The majority of my service has been dedicated to the Coast Guard’s marine safety community, where I have held leadership roles including command of the Marine Safety Center, a Marine Safety Unit, and multiple operational tours carrying out authorities as an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspections, Captain of the Port, and Federal Maritime Security Coordinator. These field and command assignments, coupled with staff experience leading the marine safety engineering program, the Traveling Inspections Staff, and my current role as Director of Inspections and Compliance have provided a strong foundation of field level execution, program management, and international and domestic regulation, policy, and standards development to help guide the service through future challenges and maintain its global reputation as the premier maritime service for safety, security, and environmental protection.

In these positions, I have led through significant crises and often continual change, managing complex organizational systems and operational teams with extensive stakeholder engagement. I have always prioritized development of human capital, building strong and productive teams, and caring for the well-being of Coast Guard members and their families. I have had the opportunity to partner across international, state, and local governments, and other military services to provide the American public exceptional return on its investment in the Coast Guard. I am excited about the future of the service and am honored to be in a position to lead as a flag officer.

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

If confirmed, my responsibility will be to remain an exceptional steward of the Coast Guard's financial, physical, and personnel resources. In my recent roles as a Coast Guard Headquarters Director, Office Chief, and Commanding Officer, I have managed several hundred people, multi-million dollar budgets, and programs that directly impact the commercial maritime sector and the U.S.'s \$5.4 trillion marine transportation system. These experiences, along with the many other leadership positions I have held throughout my career, will guide my future decision-making and assist in evaluating and optimizing risk and resource-trade-offs, when necessary, to ensure the best possible stewardship of the resources provided by Congress.

The Coast Guard is currently in an exceptional position, with historic levels of funding provided this year that will be transformative for the service. With this opportunity comes great responsibility to ensure accountability and strict adherence to financial management requirements and budget controls as we proceed forward with major acquisitions, aligning our service to future mission needs. As a model agency of trusted public stewardship, I pledge to continuously strengthen the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to administer the American taxpayer's dollars efficiently, with transparency, and in accordance with financial accounting rules.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the Coast Guard, and why?

(1) Changing mission demands: The Coast Guard prides itself on its adaptability, always ready to shift resources and focus as needed to meet new

demands or other contingency operations to ensure the safety and security of our waterways for the American public. The marine transportation system is evolving. It is increasing in capacity, with more recreational and commercial users, divergent applications such as deepwater ports and space rocket launch/landing platforms, and more facilities lining our waterways competing for space with other public and private infrastructure. And, it is becoming more complex, with digitization and automation driving new systems and platforms, the opening of new fronts in the Arctic, and advances in maritime technology moving at a pace never previously witnessed. With this evolution comes new threats, including cybersecurity and malign state and non-state actors that wish to do our nation harm. Overlaying this new landscape on the Coast Guard's traditional mission demands for search and rescue, law enforcement, maritime safety, and contingency response, among others, the task of maintaining safety and security seems daunting. While new assets and growth in personnel numbers will greatly assist us in meeting these challenges, prioritization and optimization of these resources will be essential. As we tackle this challenge, we must continue to leverage interagency and international partnerships to improve service delivery and maximize effects to advance our U.S. maritime interests around the globe.

(2) Restoring U.S. commercial maritime superiority: With renewed focus from Congress and the Administration on strengthening the commercial maritime sector, there is a tremendous challenge, and opportunity, for the Coast Guard to help lead whole-of-government efforts to increase tonnage in the U.S. flag fleet, grow the maritime workforce, and restore American shipbuilding and the maritime industrial base. For many decades, the U.S. has witnessed gradual decline in its international trading fleet alongside a restructuring of global commercial fleets and industrial capabilities from foreign competitors. A strong U.S. commercial fleet is essential for both national and economic security. The Coast Guard has a significant role to play as the flag administration in facilitating this growth through regulatory development, management of mariner licensing and training programs, vessel inspections, and construction oversight. Additionally, we must work across the international and domestic forums to ensure the U.S. maintains a leadership position in shipbuilding and capitalizing on new technology to expand markets, while maintaining a safe and secure marine transportation system.

(3) Maintaining pace with new technology: Novel technologies such as nuclear, autonomous systems, alternative fuels and batteries, and many

others, provide an excellent opportunity for United States maritime to gain a competitive advantage and leadership position in the global industry, but can introduce significant risk if not implemented safely. Developments in maritime technology aim to improve efficiency and reduce costs, improve safety and security, and exploit new economic opportunities in how we design and employ vessels. However, the development and implementation of these new technologies must be proactively managed to ensure continued safety, the resiliency of the U.S. merchant marine, and the global marine transportation system upon which the U.S. economy relies. This includes developing Coast Guard personnel expertise in these new technologies. Moreover, we must ensure that regulations, policy, and standards maintain pace with new vessel and system designs which must be introduced at the vessel design phase, with adequate oversight during installation and as vessels enter into, and carry out, operations. Safe and secure marine transportation is vital to U.S. national security and economic prosperity. The Coast Guard plays an essential role in enabling safe use of novel technologies on board U.S. vessels as well as ensuring their secure integration into the marine transportation system.

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, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

Please see my nominee PFDR.

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.

No.

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. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None, please see my nominee PFDR. If any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest arise, I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

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. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None, but if any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest arises, I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None, but if any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest arises, I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, 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

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, an Inspector General, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:
 - a. Provide the name of court, agency, association, committee, or group;
 - b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
 - c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
 - d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

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.

On April 28, 2001, I was cited for speeding and arrested by the by National Parks Service Police for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) in Yorktown, Virginia. At the NPS station, I voluntarily submitted to a breathalyzer test, which registered well below the legal limit. Subsequently, the Government dismissed the DUI charge and I paid speeding citation.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal 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 race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age, disability,

genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, engagement in a protected Equal Employment Opportunity/Equal Opportunity (EEO/EO) activity, whistleblower activity, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No

6. If you have ever served as a general court-martial convening authority 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, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers 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.

5. Do you agree, if confirmed, to keep this Committee, its subcommittees, other appropriate Committees of Congress, and their respective staffs apprised of new information that materially impacts the accuracy of testimony, briefings, reports, records—including documents and electronic communications, and other information you or your organization previously provided?

Yes.

6. Do you agree, if confirmed, and on request, to provide this Committee and its subcommittees with records and other information within their oversight jurisdiction, even absent a formal Committee request?

Yes.

7. Do you agree, if confirmed, to ensure that you and other members of your organization protect from retaliation any military member, federal employee, or contractor employee who testifies before, or communicates with this Committee, its subcommittees, and any other appropriate committee of Congress?

Yes.

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

F. AFFIDAVIT

ROBERT COMPTON 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.

Kyle

Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 10th day of December, 2025.

R. Sumitria White

Notary Public

District of Columbia
Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me
on 12-10-25 by Robert Compton
Date Name(s) of individual(s) making Statement
R. Sumitria White
Signature of Notarial Officer
Notary Public
Title of Office
My commission expires: 01-31-2028



CAPTAIN ROBERT C. COMPHER
DIRECTOR OF INSPECTIONS & COMPLIANCE (CG-5PC)
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Captain Compher assumed duties as Director of Inspections and Compliance at Coast Guard Headquarters in April 2025. In this position, he develops and maintains policy, standards, and program alignment for all prevention activities associated with the safe operation of vessels and facilities. The CG-5PC Directorate manages policy development and program oversight for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, recreational boating safety, foreign and domestic commercial vessel compliance, international and domestic ports and facilities safety and security, vessel documentation, and marine casualty investigations.

Captain Compher previously served as the Coast Guard's Chief Traveler, where he led a specialized staff of senior marine inspectors in providing professional commercial vessel knowledge, experience, and training to field commanders and commercial vessel inspectors to ensure safe, consistent application of requirements and to expand technical expertise throughout the Prevention program. Captain Compher's previous staff assignments include Marine Safety Center Commanding Officer and Chief of the Office of Design and Engineering Standards (CG-ENG). He also served under U.S. Northern Command where he led contingency planning and exercises for Department of Defense Joint and Interagency Arctic, Homeland Defense, Support to Civil Authorities, and Theater Security Cooperation missions.



Captain Compher's first assignment was aboard the Cutter DAUNTLESS in 1997. His operational tours include service as a Marine Inspector, Port Operations Officer, and Senior Investigating Officer at Marine Safety Unit Galveston. From 2009 to 2012, he served Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, leading the Coast Guard's marine safety missions in the nation's 11th largest port, and providing response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for the parishes in Southwest Louisiana. He was assigned as Chief of Prevention at Coast Guard Sector Mobile from 2015 to 2018, where he was the Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections and oversaw commercial vessel inspections, investigations, waterways management, and aids to navigation in Mississippi, Alabama, and Northwest Florida.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Master of Science degrees from the University of Michigan in Naval Architecture and Industrial Engineering, and graduate degrees from the Naval War College and Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. Captain Compher is a licensed Professional Engineer.

Captain Compher is the recipient of the Defense and Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Joint Service and Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and numerous other personal, unit, and service awards.

Captain Compher is a native of Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife Katy live in Maryland with their two children, Luke and Charlie.

CAPT Robert C. Compher

Current Assignment

USCG HQ; Director, Inspections and Compliance (CG-5PC), Apr 25 - Present

Assignment History

Jun 24 - Apr 25	USCG HQ; Chief, Traveling Inspections Staff, CAPT
Apr 21 – Jun 24	Marine Safety Center, Commanding Officer, CAPT
Jun 19 – Apr 21	USCG HQ, Office Chief, Design & Engineering Standards, CAPT
Jul 18 – Jun 19	Senior Service School, Eisenhower School for National Security & Resource Strategy, CDR
Jun 15 – Jul 18	Sector Mobile, Prevention Department Head, CDR
Jul 13 – Jun 15	NORAD/USNORTHCOM, J7 Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) Training & Exercise Branch Chief, CDR
Aug 12 – Jun 13	Naval War College, Command & Staff School, DUINS, LCDR
Jun 09 – Jul 12	Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles, Commanding Officer, LCDR
Jun 05 – May 09	Marine Safety Center, Hull Division Staff Engineer & Small Vessel Branch Chief, LT/LCDR
Jun 03 – May 05	University of Michigan, Duty Under Instruction, LT
Jun 99 – May 03	Marine Safety Unit Galveston, Senior Investigating Officer, Vessel Inspector, & Pollution Branch Chief, LTjg/LT
May 97 – Jun 99	USCGC DAUNTLESS, Student Engineer, ENS/LTjg

Education Summary

2019	National Defense University (Eisenhower School), Masters of Science in National Resource Strategy
2013	Naval War College Command & Staff School, Masters of Arts in National Security & Strategic Studies
2005	University of Michigan, Masters of Science in Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering
2005	University of Michigan, Masters of Science in Industrial & Operations Engineering
2003	Regis University, Masters of Business Administration
1997	USCGA, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

Military Personal Awards and Significant Recognition or Achievement

Defense Meritorious Service Medal, CG Meritorious Service Medal (4)
CG Commendation Medal (3), Joint Service & CG Achievement Medals (2)

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

Professional Engineer License (Naval Architecture), State of Virginia
Marine Safety Professional Pin, 2003
CG Proceedings, Spring 2022 Issue Champion – “Navigating Integration of Autonomous Vsls”
Incident Commander, Type II Hurricane Nate Response, Mobile, AL, Oct 2017
Deputy IC, Type I Hurricane Harvey Response, Beaumont/Port Arthur, TX Aug/Sep 2017