

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):

Benjamin Michael Golightly

2. Position to which nominated:

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

3. Date of Nomination:

16 March 2026

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).

Spouse:

Lisa Joanne Golightly (nee Taylor): Massage Therapist, Commonwealth Chiropractic and Massage Therapy

Children:

Shannon Michelle Golightly (22 yrs old)

Meghan Elizabeth Golightly (20 yrs old)

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.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy, 1994-1998, Bachelor of Science in Government, May 1998

Joint Military Intelligence College, 2002-2003, Master of Science of Strategic, August 2003

U.S. Air Force Air University (online), 2011-2016, Joint Professional Military Education Phase 1, January 2016.

National Intelligence University, Center for Strategic Intelligence Research, 2017-2018, Research Fellowship.

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 1998. 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.

Kodiak Community Health Center Board of Directors: 2020-2021.

Ducks Unlimited Virginia Beach Chapter Committee Member: 2023-present.

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.

Black Cat Hunt Club: 2024-Present

Ducks Unlimited: 2023-Present

Surface Navy Association: 2017-2019

Coast Guard Cutterman Association: 2008-2014

National Rifle Association: 2006-2011

Coast Guard Alumni Association: May 1998-Present

American Legion: July 1994-Present

None of these organizations restricted membership on the basis of race, sex, 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.

National Intelligence University Center for Strategic Intelligence Senior Research Fellow: 2017-2018.

Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal (3 Awards – 2012, 2019, 2021)

Coast Guard Commendation Medal (3 Awards – 2006, 2008, 2014)

Coast Guard Achievement Medal

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Global War on Terror Service Medal

National Defense Service Medal (2 Awards – 1995, 2002)

Coast Guard CG-210 Large Intelligence Unit award (2015, 2023, 2025)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Distinguished Service Award: 2023

DHS Intelligence Leadership Award: 2011

**Military Order of World Wars - Outstanding Thesis on National Security
Topic: August 2003.**

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.

“Countering Transnational Organized Crime: Developing a Better Measure of Success,” National Intelligence Research Short (June 12, 2018) (classified and published on JWICS only).

“Don’t Ignore Cocaine – or Colombia,” National Intelligence Research Short (April 3, 2018) (classified and published on JWICS only).

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.

Briefing to SOUTHCOM J2 Senior Intelligence Officer Conference, Doral, Florida. (March 19-20, 2024) (Classified brief - I do not have a link or digital copy).

Panelist, “Exploring the Foundations of Warning Workshop,” National Intelligence University, Bethesda, MD. (February 21, 2024) (Briefing attached).

Briefing to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Commanders Conference, Nashville, Tennessee. (January 23, 2024) (Talking Points attached).

Briefing to National Intelligence Managers, “Operation Tequilla Sunset”, ODNI Liberty Crossing, Reston, VA. (May 18, 2018) (Classified brief - I do not have a link or digital copy).

Briefing to The Interdiction Committee Principals Meeting, Doral, Florida. (November 12, 2014) (I do not have a link or digital copy).

In addition to the above speeches, which were external to the Coast Guard, as a Coast Guard senior officer, I have routinely been called upon to provide

remarks internal to the Coast Guard for events such as promotions, advancements, retirements or changes of command.

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.
- 10APR15: [JBSA leaders sign Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention Month proclamation](#)
 - Relating to signing the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month proclamation.
 - 07APR17: [SAAPM SIGNING - Joint Base San Antonio](#)
 - Signing the proclamation marking Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
 - AUG-OCT 20: [Bulldog Newsletter 2020.pdf](#)
 - Remarks relating to outstanding performance of the crew of the USCGC ALEX HALEY.
 - 19MAY20: [Alex Haley returns to Kodiak - KMXT](#)
 - Remarks relating to performance of Coast Guard mission during pandemic and great work of the crew of USCGC ALEX HALEY.
 - 06JUL20: Television appearance, “Gathering Storm - Super Typhoon Terror.” National Geographic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oq-3hb7u0CI>
 - 04NOV20: [Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley Returns from Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea Deployment - HSToday](#)
 - Remarks relating to performance of Coast Guard missions and excellent work performed by the crew of USCGC ALEX HALEY.
 - 07NOV20: [Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley returns to Kodiak | The Cordova Times](#)
 - Remarks praising perseverance of the crew of USCGC ALEX HALEY while performing Coast Guard missions during pandemic.

- MAY-JUN 21: [Bulldog Newsletter 40..pdf](#)
 - (Page 6) Description of the Change of Command.
 - (Page 19) Per his late father's wishes, CAPT Benjamin Golightly renders a final salute during a traditional burial at sea.
- 10JUN21: [Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley conducts change of command ceremony in Dutch Harbor](#)
 - News relating to Change of Command Ceremony and new assignment as Chief of Staff, SE District.
- 16SEP21: DVIDS - [DVIDS - Video - Don't take to the sea PSA](#)
 - Public Service Announcement discouraging attempted migrant journeys to the United States.
- 05OCT21: [Number of Haitians trying to reach the U.S. by boat surges - Spectrum News - Bay News 9](#)
 - News feature on Coast Guard presence in waters around Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas and legal authority conduct law enforcement and to protect life at sea.
 - News discouraging attempted migration to the United States via dangerous sea routes.
- 22JAN22: [PHOTOS AVAILABLE: Coast Guard, partner agency intercept 88 Haitians near Bahamas](#)
 - News release relating to Coast Guard patrols, migrant interdictions, and repatriation resulting from patrols around Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.
 - Reiterating that traveling the Mona Passages in overloaded and less than seaworthy passages is extremely dangerous and can result in loss of life.
- 24JAN22: [U.S. Coast Guard Jayhawk Helicopter Crew, Partner Agency Intercept 88 Haitians Near the Bahamas - Space Coast Daily](#)
 - News relating danger associated with traveling the Florida Straits, Mona and Windward Passage in overloaded unseaworthy vessels and that doing so will result in interdiction and repatriation.

- 25JAN22: [1 body recovered after boat carrying 40 migrants capsizes off Florida – WPLG-TV](#)
 - “We understand these countries have various political and economic challenges, but choosing to illegally and unsafely migrate to the United States is not the best option,” said Capt. Benjamin Golightly, U.S. Coast Guard Dist. 7.
- 26JAN22: [Bahamas: 88 Haitian boat-people intercepted near Great Inagua](#)
 - News on interdiction and warning that traveling in unseaworthy vessels to the United States is dangerous and will result in interdiction and repatriation.
- 27JAN22: [Frontline Focus: Coast Guard, partner agency intercept 88 Haitians near Great Inagua, Bahamas, and more. > United States Coast Guard > My Coast Guard News](#)
 - News on interdiction and warning that traveling in unseaworthy vessels to the United States is dangerous and will result in interdiction and repatriation.
- 11MAR22: [Arrival of Haiti boats to Florida’s shores shows new pattern | Miami Herald](#)
- [What's Up Little Haiti](#) – shared above article
 - News article on new migrant patterns, including the use of modern technologies, and Coast Guard response.
 - Importance of early intervention to stop dangerous voyages and to prevent loss of life at sea.
 - Migrant smugglers have increased efforts to persuade people to make the dangerous journey.
- 11MAR22: [Arrival of Haiti boats to Florida’s shores shows new pattern | Bradenton Herald](#)
 - Same as above broadcast in a separate news source.
- 23JUN22: [U.S. Coast Guard returns 190 migrants to Haiti and Cuba | FL Keys News](#)
 - Coast Guard report of two migrant deaths at sea and a total of 39 deaths since October of 2021.

- 23JUN22: [U.S. Coast Guard returns 190 migrants to Haiti and Cuba | Miami Herald](#)
 - Same as the above, different news source.
- 27JUN22: [About three thousand Cuban rafters intercepted by U.S. Coast Guard - Ciber Cuba](#)
 - Similar to above, discusses migrant interdictions and loss of migrants at sea due to dangerous voyage.
- 27JUN22: [U.S. Coast Guard repatriates 106 Cuban rafters; some had been shipwrecked - Ciber Cuba](#)
 - Quoted on loss of life at sea since October 2021 (39 deaths)
- 25JUL22: [PHOTOS AVAILABLE: Coast Guard repatriates 163 Haitians](#)
 - Quote expressing appreciation to federal, state, and local partner agencies for their cooperations and emphasizing that voyages are dangerous and often deadly. Those attempting to enter the U.S. illegally by sea will be interdicted and repatriated.
- 04AUG22: [VST 310 SOCIALS SMUGGLERS \(VICE Interview with Paola Ramos\)](#)
 - Quote on the nature of law enforcement against criminal networks.
- 05AUG22: [Instagram - Past Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands - @oncegovernortci](#)
 - Instagram reel on the cooperative “Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos.”
- 21OCT22: [A Tiny Tourist Island Off the Coast of Florida Is a Human Smuggling Hub](#)
 - Quote on how smugglers are able to blend in with weekend boating traffic.
- 27JAN23: [DVIDS - News - Operation Vigilant Sentry: Stopping illegal migration at sea](#)
 - Quote on how sea voyages in unseaworthy, old, and rustic vessels are unsafe and encouraging lawful, vice illegal, migration.

- 29JAN23: [U.S. Coast Guard Responds to Deadly Surge in Migration at Sea - The Maritime Executive](#)
 - Quote on “Operation Vigilant Sentry” and discouraging illegal migration.
- 29JAN23: [U.S. Coast Guard Responds to Deadly Surge in Migration at Sea | World Ports Organization](#)
 - Quote on “Operation Vigilant Sentry” and discouraging illegal migration.
- 28APR23: [Coast Guard repatriates 82 people to Cuba > United States Coast Guard News > Press Releases](#)
 - Quote announcing change to Cuban and Haitian Parole Processes and clarifying that those interdicted at sea after 27 April 2023 will be ineligible for Parole.
- 29APR23: [82 Cuban nationals repatriated by US Coast Guard - Our Today](#)
 - Quote on change to Cuban and Haitian Parole process effective after 27 April 2023.
- 30APR23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 82 Cuban migrants - Barbados Today](#)
 - Quote on change to Cuban and Haitian Parole process effective after 27 April 2023.
- 30APR23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 82 Cuban migrants - Jamaica Observer](#)
 - Quote on change to Cuban and Haitian Parole process effective after 27 April 2023.
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- 01MAY23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 82 Cuban migrants - CNW Network](#)
 - Quote on change to Cuban and Haitian Parole process effective after 27 April 2023.
- 01MAY23: [US Coast Guard Repatriates 82 Cuban Migrants - The St Kitts Nevis Observer](#)
 - Quote on change to Cuban and Haitian Parole process effective after 27 April 2023.

- 17MAY23: [Coast Guard repatriated, transferred 169 people to Cuba, Bahamas over 5 days > United States Coast Guard News > Press Releases](#)
 - Quote relating to borders are closed for illegal maritime migration and that those attempting it will be disqualified for the legal Cuba and Haiti parole process.
 - Please share with family members and loved ones that the journey is too dangerous to attempt, could result in loss of life and those interdicted will be repatriated.
- 18MAY23: [Coast Guard deports 169 people to Cuba and the Bahamas: maritime borders and closed – Latin American News](#)
 - Same as above.
- 18MAY23: [Mexico rescues 49 migrants, including a Cuban, who were kidnapped – Latin American News](#)
 - Quote relating to interdiction and repatriation of 169 people to Cuba and the Bahamas and announcing that U.S. maritime borders are closed to illegal maritime migration.
- 18MAY23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 169 rafters to Cuba and Bahamas in just five days – Latin American News](#)
 - Quote relating to importance of family and friends share information with their loved ones in Cuba, Haiti, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. The journey is dangerous and you could lose your life.
- 19MAY23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 27 Cuban migrants, including two children - Latin American News](#)
 - Quote warning that attempted illegal entry by sea will result in disqualification for the humanitarian parole program including those relating to citizens of Cuba and Haiti
- 19MAY23: [“Our maritime borders are closed,” the US insists - Latin American News](#)
 - Quote encouraging family members to share this with their “loved ones in Cuba, Haiti, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. The journey is dangerous and you could lose your life.”

- 21MAY23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 169 migrants to Cuba, Bahamas - Barbados Today](#)
 - Quote relating to maritime borders being closed, those attempting will be repatriated, family members should share information discouraging attempted illegal migration, and that those interdicted will become ineligible for legal parole processes.
- 21MAY23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 169 migrants to Cuba, Bahamas - Jamaica Observer](#)

- and

[US Coast Guard repatriates 169 migrants to Cuba, Bahamas | Caribbean | Jamaica Gleaner](#)

- Quote relating to maritime borders being closed, those attempting will be repatriated, family members should share information discouraging attempted illegal migration, and that those interdicted will become ineligible for legal parole processes.
- 22MAY23: [US Coast Guard repatriates 169 migrants to Cuba, Bahamas – Our Today](#)
 - Quote relating to maritime borders being closed, those attempting will be repatriated, family members should share information discouraging attempted illegal migration, and that those interdicted will become ineligible for legal parole processes.
- 24MAY23: [Chinese, Cubans, Ecuadorians, Haitians, Dominicans continue to land off Florida Coast | Florida | thecentersquare.com](#)
 - Quote relating to maritime borders being closed, encouraging family members to discourage migration, and reminding migrants that voyage is dangerous and life threatening.
- 26MAY23: [Chinese, Cubans, Ecuadorians, Haitians, Dominicans continue to land off Florida Coast | News | southdadenewsleader.com](#)
 - Quote relating to maritime borders being closed, encouraging family members to discourage migration, and reminding migrants that voyage is dangerous and life threatening.

- 26MAY23: [Chinese, Cubans, Ecuadorians, Haitians, Dominicans Continue to Land Off Florida Coast - Tennessee Star](#)
 - Quote relating to maritime borders being closed, encouraging family members to discourage migration, and reminding migrants that voyage is dangerous and life threatening.
- 16JUN23: [The United States returns 10 Cuban migrants intercepted at sea](#)
 - Quote reminding those attempting illegal migration by sea that they will become ineligible for parole following interdiction.
- 26OCT23: [Florida Highway Patrol Captures 20 Illegal Immigrants Trying to Enter Keys by Boat | The Epoch Times](#)
 - Quote encouraging safe legal migration instead of dangerous illegal migration and warning those intending to attempt maritime migration that the Coast Guard and task force partners have coordinated air and surface assets to interdict illegal migrants throughout the Caribbean corridor.
- 16SEP25: [MAOC \(N\) Hosts Delegation from MIFCLANT – MAOC \(N \)](#)
 - News report relating to my membership in a Coast Guard delegation to the Maritime Analysis and Operations Center (North) based in Lisbon, Portugal

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.

Facebook (active): Benjamin Golightly
<https://www.facebook.com/share/186bbisZix/?mibextid=wwXIfr>)

LinkedIn (active): Benjamin Golightly (https://www.linkedin.com/in/benjamin-golightly-224804367?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app)

Instagram (dormant): benjamingolightly

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 extremely honored to have this opportunity and to be considered for confirmation to the rank of Flag Officer. I have balanced my career between operations afloat on cutters and within the Coast Guard Intelligence program. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to influence change and improve our processes as a service and our engagement with partners to achieve national objectives. I believe my professional experiences, demonstrated leadership, and ability to transform strategic objectives to operational outcomes have prepared me to move into a position of even greater responsibility as a Flag Officer. I have led my teams with an emphasis on whole-of-government approaches to challenges. No one person, department, or agency has the full picture; therefore, effective communication is key to creating shared situational awareness. To operate successfully, I have worked to build cohesive relationships within the service, among our partners, and with the communities we serve.

I have had the opportunity to lead Coast Guard and interagency personnel through complex contingencies, developing strategies to meet national objectives. In those missions, I have led with an ability to muster scarce resources to achieve success. A thorough understanding of national intent enabled me to guide teams toward operational and tactical design that incorporated joint and interagency partners from Federal, state, and local governments, the private sector, and with allies and foreign governments.

In my current role, I have transformed the way in which the Coast Guard understands and leverages Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance resources in support of operational missions. I have led my teams to align with Department of War and Department of Homeland Security counterparts

to galvanize efforts in sealing the Southern border and maritime approaches to the U.S. We have developed updated doctrine and are influencing future acquisitions and employment of systems that will lead the Coast Guard into the next 20 years of operations.

If confirmed by the Senate, I have an intent and desire to continue to advance the Coast Guard in alignment with the goals of Force Design 2028 and through the historic \$24.59 billion investment to restore our capabilities as an agile, capable, and responsive instrument of national power. As a Flag Officer, I will help lead the Coast Guard through a dynamic period in our Service's history and set the environment for the leaders that will inherit the Coast Guard of the future.

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?

As a Coast Guard officer, I am a steward of public trust and taxpayer resources. If confirmed, my responsibility will be to remain an exceptional guardian of the Coast Guard's human capital, financial, and physical resources. I will seek ways to execute the mission better, faster, and smarter but never at the expense of safe or ethical conduct.

In my role as Commanding Officer of a cutter operating in the Bering Sea, my unit was often the only U.S. military maritime presence in the far northern reaches of our nation. In that role, we safeguarded the \$13 billion fishing industry, protected our maritime boundary line, and provided strategic deterrence against Russian and Chinese incursions into the region. I was responsible for the safety of my entire crew as we worked in one of the most harsh and unforgiving environments in the world. I assessed and balanced the risk to available resources against the dynamic environment and expectations of the public and national leadership regarding where and how we operated the cutter.

More recently, as the Chief of Response in Miami, I was charged with coordinating and managing the resources of the U.S. Coast Guard and our partner agencies to execute search and rescue, intelligence, and law enforcement missions across a vast operating area. I directed the employment of a significant number of capital assets, several thousand Coast Guard personnel, and oversaw operations across Southeast maritime approaches to

the U.S. and throughout the Caribbean to protect our maritime borders and advance our national objectives throughout the region.

In my current role as Commanding Officer at Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center Atlantic, I provide guidance and oversight for the efficient and effective use of over \$3.4 million dollars in budget and property resources. As a cornerstone of our daily work, I direct the use of the nation's most exquisite intelligence information to provide mission support to operations throughout the world.

These recent experiences, along with many others throughout my career, will help guide my decision-making, enable me to make the challenging resource trade-offs, when necessary, and be the best steward possible of the resources appropriated by Congress.

If I am confirmed, I will remain accountable, maintaining public trust and upholding my oath of office.

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

The top three challenges facing the Coast Guard are centered on the workforce, asset capabilities and resources, and adapting to future mission needs.

1. Rebuilding trust while increasing the size and capabilities of our workforce: There is a need to rebuild trust with the workforce following the uncertainty and challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, government shutdowns, the Fouled Anchor investigation, and workforce restructuring. There has been significant stress placed on all elements of the workforce, exacerbated by new challenges with Permanent Change of Station moves, insufficient medical care, and the reduction of certain family services and benefits. These impacts are felt by our current workforce; the same team we are relying on to recruit new accessions and retain existing members.

Simultaneously, the expectations and missions of the Coast Guard are rapidly evolving in the face of new threats. The pace of change has increased exponentially through Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technologies and there is a need to grow the Coast Guard workforce by at least 15,000 by 2028 to meet anticipated mission demands. However, the

expertise required in several of the burgeoning fields takes many years to develop. The Coast Guard is simultaneously competing with the other branches of service and the civilian sector for the same talent.

2. Implementing modernization efforts through Force Design 2028: Through the Force Design 2028 construct, we are poised to modernize our talent management processes including recruiting, training, assignments, and promotion/advancements. We must fully embrace the adoption and adaptation of technology and processes from the civilian sector to rapidly fill and train our ranks. In addition, we must update how we assign personnel to balance the needs of the service and subject matter expertise with the expectations of service and civilian members who have other career options available. Promotions and advancements should have greater emphasis on demonstrated proficiency and expertise in addition to time and experience to incentivize merit-focused performance. I look forward to collaborating on policy, resource, and training initiatives that will enhance the readiness of our entire service.

The historic \$24.59 billion investment in the Coast Guard was critical to closing maintenance and operational gaps that were creating unreasonable degrees of risk for our personnel as they lived and worked in the service of the nation. There is a continued need to balance the support to legacy systems and assets against the acquisition of new capabilities. The Coast Guard must work with Congress to carefully determine the right level of funding necessary to operate as the world's premier maritime service and avoid future deficits that endanger the security of the nation. Rapid adaptability and contracting mechanisms will be vitally important to meet the demands of future missions as the Coast Guard will continue to integrate with the Department of War as a military branch and with our Department of Homeland Security partners as a law enforcement agency. We must continue to develop internal budget realignment processes to meet emerging priorities. We must also foster strategic investment to ensure the Coast Guard is well-positioned to meet unforeseen challenges and opportunities in the future.

3. Maintaining operational excellence in legacy mission sets while aligning future mission execution to Force Design 2028 priorities: The vision of Force Design 2028 is to set the environment for the Coast Guard of the future. For most of our existence, the Coast Guard has been the Swiss Army knife of the U.S. government. Our strength has been our adaptability to execute whatever mission we were called to, often on short notice with ambiguous information.

On any given day, the Coast Guard stands ready to respond to oil spills, natural disasters, counter drug operations, search and rescue, ice patrol, embargo enforcement, port security, maintenance of the Maritime Transportation System, vessel inspections, border enforcement, etc. The future of Coast Guard operations will remain aligned with the resource allocations provided and the missions directed by Congress. However, to meet the growing and adapting threats of the future, there will necessarily be significant shifts to the manner and type of missions that we conduct.

We will continue to prioritize missions that align to the Commandant's Lines of Effort to a) achieve complete operational control of the U.S. borders and maritime approaches; b) facilitate commerce vital to economic prosperity and restore U.S. maritime dominance; and c) respond to a crisis or contingency that may come with little or no warning by sustained readiness. The emphasis on border security may require some to think differently. Internally, we must manage a cultural shift within the service for how our members see themselves and their roles. In addition, we must remain responsive to what the American people expect of the Coast Guard and clearly message if and why changes in priority may occur. In the event of changing roles and responsibilities, there must be a well-constructed and communicated plan for any shift in accountability to ensure the safety and security of the nation is not compromised.

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.

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. 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.

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:

No.

- 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.
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 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.

Yes.

(1) I was sued as a responsible party following a vehicle accident involving my (then minor) daughter as the driver/sole occupant. The matter was resolved through a settlement by the insurance companies in March 2025 prior to going to trial.

(2) My wife and I initiated Small Claims Action against our previous landlord over the withholding of a security deposit. The matter was resolved through settlement in February 2024 before proceeding to small claims court.

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.

Yes. A subordinate at a prior command filed a military equal opportunity (MEO) complaint in 2015 alleging that his evaluation was negatively impacted by an ongoing medical issue. The issue was resolved through Command-Level Resolution to the member's satisfaction.

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.

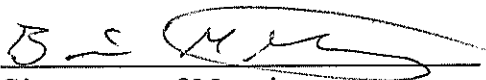
7. Do you agree, if confirmed, to ensure that you and other members of your organization protect from retaliation any military member, federal employee, or contractor employee who testifies before, or communicates with this Committee, its subcommittees, and any other appropriate committee of Congress?

Yes.

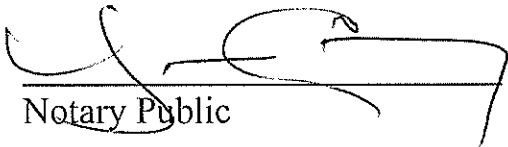
(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

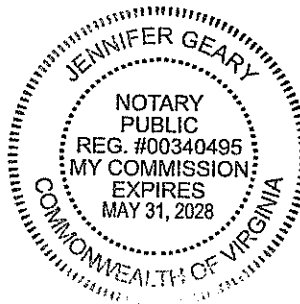
F. AFFIDAVIT

BENJAMIN GOLIGHTLY 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 23 day of Mar, 2026.


Notary Public



CAPTAIN BENJAMIN M. GOLIGHTLY



CAPT Golightly reported to Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center – Atlantic (MIFC LANT) following his assignment as USCG District Southeast Chief of Response. He has balanced his career between operations afloat and intelligence billets. During his most recent afloat tour, he served as Commanding Officer, USCGC ALEX HALEY (WMEC 39) in Kodiak, AK. He has had previous afloat tours on a variety of platforms including USCGC TAMPA (WMEC 902), homeported in Portsmouth, VA, as a Deck Watch Officer. He served as Executive Officer aboard USCGC CHANDELEUR (WPB 1319) in Miami Beach, FL; Operations Officer in USCGC GALLATIN (WHEC 721), homeported in Charleston, SC; and Executive Officer aboard USCGC DILIGENCE (WMEC 616) in Wilmington, NC.

While not serving aboard cutters, CAPT Golightly has held multiple positions within Coast Guard Intelligence. In August 2003, CAPT Golightly graduated from the Joint Military Intelligence College (now National Intelligence University) at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C. where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Intelligence. For his follow-on tour, he was assigned to MIFC LANT as an Intelligence Watch Officer and then a Counter Terrorism Analyst. He was also assigned as Chief of Intelligence for the Coast Guard's District Oceania (dri) in Honolulu, HI and Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Texas in San Antonio, TX. In 2018, CAPT Golightly completed a year-long, senior fellowship at NIU's Center for Strategic Intelligence Research and then served a follow-on assignment as the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commandant for Intelligence (CG-2).

He has earned the Permanent Cutterman and Intelligence Professional Insignias and has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and many other unit, team, and service awards. He is also a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College Distance Learning Program earning his certificate for Joint Professional Military Education Phase 1.

A native of Mayville, NY, CAPT Golightly graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1998 with a degree in Government. He and his wife Lisa, have two adult daughters, Shannon and Meghan.

CAPT Benjamin M. Golightly

Current Assignment

Sep 23 – present Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center LANT, Commanding Officer

Assignment History

Jun 21 – Aug 23	USCG SOUTHEAST District, Response Division Chief
Jul 19 – May 21	USCGC ALEX HALEY, Commanding Officer
Jun 18 – Jun 19	CG-2, Executive Assistant
Jul 17 – Jun 18	Center for Strategic Intel Research, Senior Fellow
Jul 14 – Jul 17	CGCU Texas, Commanding Officer
Jul 12 – Jun 14	USCGC DILIGENCE, Executive Officer
Jun 08 – Jun 12	USCG OCEANIA District, Intelligence Branch Chief
Jul 06 – May 08	USCGC GALLATIN, Operations Officer
Oct 05 – Jul 06	Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center LANT, Terrorism Analyst
Aug 03 – Oct 05	Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center LANT, Intel Watch Officer
Jul 02 – Aug 03	Joint Military Intelligence College, Duty Under Instruction
May 00 – Jun 02	USCGC CHANDELEUR, Executive Officer
Jun 98 – May 00	USCGC TAMPA, Deck Watch Officer

Educational Summary

2018 National Intelligence University, Center for Strategic Intelligence Research Fellow
2016 Air University (online), JPME 1 Certificate
2003 Joint Military Intelligence College, Master of Science of Strategic Intelligence
1998 USCG Academy, B.S., Government

Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement

LOM, DMSM, MSM (3), COM (3), ACH, MOVSM
2012, DHS Intelligence Leadership Award
2003, Military Order of World Wars outstanding thesis award

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

Functional Manager for USCG Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, February 2025
Area Commander for Operation Vigilant Sentry Phase 1b, August 2022-August 2023
Incident Commander for Haiti Earthquake response, August 2021
Published, “Don’t Ignore Cocaine...or Colombia,” NIU Research Short, January 2018
Quadrilateral Defense Cooperation Group, USCG Delegation lead, March 2012
North Pacific Coast Guard Forum, Information Sharing Work Group representative, 2008-2011