

**Senate Commerce Committee Coast Guard Nominee Questionnaire,
119th Congress**

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (the “Committee”) requests that you provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is also requested that you 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 you. 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 are active and can be clicked. Section F may be scanned for electronic submission and need not be searchable.

Incomplete questionnaires may delay the nomination process.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

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

Russell Edward Dash (Rusty)

2. Position to which nominated:

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

3. Date of Nomination:

22 October 2025

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. Date and Place of Birth:



6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) or domestic partner, and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Wife – Danielle Lynn Dash. Commander, United States Coast Guard Reserve.

Bradley Allen Dash – 26

Bryce Owen Dash – 24

Brendon Rigel Dash – 22

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.

Coast Guard Academy (1990-1994) – B.S. Mathematics and Computer Science (1994)

Naval Postgraduate School (2005-2007) – M.S. Information Systems and Technology (2007)

National Defense University, College of Information and Cyberspace (2016-2017) – M.S. Government Information Leadership (Cyber) (2017)

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 18 May 1994. 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.

American Legion Boys State of Virginia – Board Member – 2020 to present

Coast Guard Officers Association – President – 2018 to present

Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) – Washington, DC Chapter – Executive Advisory Council – 2019 to 2022, 2024 to 2025

12. List all memberships 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 (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.

- **Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association – member – 1994 to present**
- **American Legion – member – 2016 to present**
- **AFCEA – member – 2018 to present**
- **Navy League – member – 2018 to present**
- **Army and Navy Club – 2024 to present**

As indicated above, I serve as a Board Member and Counselor for American Legion Boys State (ALBS) Virginia. ALBS is a participatory program of government instruction for U.S. high school students that

allows them to become part of the operation of local, county, and state governments. While the American Legion does not restrict membership based on sex, the ALBS program is open only to high-school males. A parallel Girls State program is run by the American Legion Auxiliary.

None of the other listed organizations restricts 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.

Academic and Leadership Awards:

- 1. Honorary Chief Petty Officer (2024)**
- 2. CDR John P. Dailey Award for Outstanding Leadership and Mentoring Within the C4IT Community (2018)**
- 3. National Defense University, Distinguished Graduate (2017)**

4. Naval Postgraduate School, RADM Hopper Award (academic and leadership excellence) (2007)

Medals and Awards:

- **Legion Of Merit (2022, 2024, 2025)**
- **Meritorious Service Medal (2012, 2016, 2019, 2023)**
- **Coast Guard Commendation Medal (2001, 2003, 2005)**

17. List all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications 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.

Master's Thesis – Naval Postgraduate School – March 2007

<https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=473444>

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.

Keynote – Eastern Defense Summit, Charleston Defense Contractors Association, Charleston, SC. (08 Dec 2021) (I do not have a link or digital copy)

Panelist – “Coast Guard Breakfast”, U.S. Navy League Sea Air Space Symposium, Washington, DC. (05 April 2022) (I do not have a link or digital copy)

Keynote – Opening Session, American Legion Boys State of Virginia, Radford, VA. (18 June 2023) (I do not have a link or digital copy)

Panelist – “Coast Guard Breakfast”, U.S. Navy League Sea Air Space Symposium, Washington, DC. (10 April 2024) (I do not have a link or digital copy)

Keynote – Opening Session, American Legion Boys State of Virginia, Radford, VA. (16 June 2024) (I do not have a link or digital copy)

Speaker – “Harnessing Connectivity: The Coast Guard’s Role in Advancing JADC2 Capabilities”, C4ISR USA Summit, Bethesda, MD. (20 Nov 2024) (I do not have a link or digital copy)

Panelist – “How the USCG is aligning to be a force multiplier in the next conflict”, Eastern Defense Summit, Charleston Defense Contractors Association, Charleston, SC. (11 Dec 2024) (I do not have a link or digital copy)

Panelist – “Service CIOs”, TechNet Cyber, AFCEA, Baltimore, MD. (07 May 2025) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRSQemAh1js>

Panelist – “OT is not IT: A Guide to Navigating Between Two Worlds”, FedInsider, Webinar (14 May 2025) <https://www.fedinsider.com/ot-is-not-it/>

In addition to these external engagements, I provided numerous remarks internal to the Coast Guard, including promotion and graduation ceremonies, changes of commands, retirements, and all hands.

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and podcasts 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.

**Podcast, “The Tech Revolution.” (04 September 2021)
<https://www.dvidshub.net/audio/67264/1mc-tech-revolution>**

**Quote, “Questions About Uniforms.” (08 April 2024)
<https://www.facebook.com/MCPOCG/videos/here-with-another-follow-up-question-from-our-virtual-town-hall-we-had-several-q/744790654503208/>**

**Interview, “Coast Guard commander of the Personnel Service Center, speaks at the Sea Air and Space conference 2024.” (09 April 2024)
<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/918560/coast-guard-commander-personnel-service-center-speaks-sea-air-and-space-conference-2024>**

Interview, “Charting the Coast Guard’s Digital Future: Modernization, Interoperability, and Customer Experience” (15 June 2025)

<https://fedgovtoday.com/fedgov-blogs/charting-the-coast-guards-digital-future-modernization-interoperability-and-customer-experience>

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) – “rustydash”**
<https://www.facebook.com/rustydash>
- **X (active) – @rusty_dash**
https://x.com/rusty_dash
- **Instagram (active) – @rustydash**
<https://www.instagram.com/rustydash/>
- **LinkedIn (active) – “Rusty Dash”**
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rusty-dash-a280b58/>

21. 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, committee, 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 a Coast Guard officer with 31 years of active duty service. My career to date has two distinct phases, the first portion was operational, and the second portion has been mission support. I believe this mix of operational and mission support experience will enable me to continue to lead the Coast Guard at the executive level.

After graduating from the Coast Guard Academy in 1994, I spent my first eleven years planning and executing maritime operations, including almost eight years of sea duty in both the Atlantic and Pacific. I conducted search and rescue, counter drug, migrant interdiction, fisheries enforcement, and maritime security missions.

I spent the next 17 years (2005-2022) serving in multiple leadership positions managing the various aspects of planning, programing, budgeting, and executing the Coast Guard's information technology and cyber resources. I also have 2 years of HR experience, serving at the Personnel Service Center as the Deputy (2022-2023) and then as the Commander (2023-2024). During those two years I also led the Coast Guard's Recruiting Incident Management Team that turned around our recruiting failures and overcame the historic enlisted accession shortfalls.

Most recently I returned to the technology community in the summer of 2024 and have served as the Assistant Commandant and Program Executive Office for C5I and the Coast Guard Chief Information Officer. I also led the Technology campaign within Force Design 2028. That work resulted in the report signed by Secretary Noem that defines the vision and expectations for the Coast Guard's success today and tomorrow.

I now serve as the Great Lakes District Commander, where I have the privilege to lead the 6000 active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary men and women as we perform Coast Guard missions across eight states and 1500 nautical miles of international border. I am applying my decades of operational and mission support experience and expertise as a member of this incredible Great Lakes team.

I am humbled and honored to be nominated for promotion to rear admiral. I love the Coast Guard and have a deep commitment to our people and to our missions. The devotion to duty that our workforce displays every day inspires me to continue to serve. I am extremely proud of the tremendous value the Coast Guard provides to our country. I am eager to leverage my experience and expertise to make lasting contributions to the betterment of the organization as a Coast Guard 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?

Every member of the Coast Guard, regardless of rank or position, has a duty to be good stewards of our resources (people, financial, and operational assets). If confirmed, my responsibility as a rear admiral will be to set unambiguous expectations to follow proper management and accounting controls, clearly communicate my expectations both within the Coast Guard and to our external stakeholders and measure our performance against the appropriate standards.

I served as the Commanding Officer of the C5I Service Center (2019-2022) where I led over 2,000 people and was responsible for an annual budget that grew from approximately \$550M to over \$700M. Our personnel were stationed in 27 different locations across the country. Leading this large geographically dispersed staff taught me the importance of managing risk across competing demands for resources, repeatedly engaging and communicating with stakeholders, and providing transparency about our decision-making and performance.

I served as the Coast Guard Chief Information Officer (2024-2025) and managed approximately \$1B in the Command, Control, and Communication (CCC) Program, Project, or Activity (PPA). I was responsible for managing the Coast Guard's IT portfolio of investments, developing IT budgets, maintaining IT resources, reporting IT investments through the Capital Planning and Investment Control process, and ensuring acquisition compliance with the IT Acquisition Review (ITAR) process.

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

Three of the greatest challenges facing the Coast Guard today are: (1) recruiting, training, and retaining a much larger workforce; (2) recapitalizing our operational assets and support infrastructure to restore readiness; and (3) continuing to modernize our C5I capabilities and improving our ability to operate in the domain of cyberspace.

- 1 – Talent Management.** Force Design 2028 calls for an increase in the military workforce of 15,000. Coast Guard operational success depends on the readiness of our people and the capacity of our workforce. We require skilled, proficient, and fully supported personnel in each portion of our workforce: active duty, reserve, civilian employees, and Auxiliarists. This includes providing exceptional medical, housing, childcare and other support services for Coast Guard families. Succeeding in all of these areas, especially providing proper support to Coast Guard families in remote areas, is a major challenge that we must overcome.
- 2 – Recapitalization and Readiness.** Demands for the Coast Guard to perform our missions continue to grow, both domestically and around the globe. Properly resourcing the current and planned acquisition programs to provide the cutters, boats, aircraft, cyber, and the accompanying mission support infrastructure has proven to be a difficult challenge. The Coast Guard must work with the administration and Congress to sustain deliberate investments to ensure we have the capabilities required to operate in an increasingly complex world. This includes the need for sufficient funding to maintain the existing cutters, boats, aircraft, shore facilities, and C5I capabilities. The Coast Guard must also streamline the contracting and acquisition processes to rapidly deploy the capabilities required for mission success. The Contracting and Acquisition part of Force Design 2028 was created to address this challenge.
- 3 – The Tech Revolution and Cyberspace Operations.** Investments in Coast Guard C5I infrastructure have begun to deliver urgently needed technology and capabilities. We must remain committed to this course of action and find better ways to collaborate with industry to leverage their pace of innovation. To be successful, we must dramatically accelerate contracting and acquisition process. Nation states and non-state actors will increasingly contest the operational domain of cyberspace for the foreseeable future. The Coast Guard must be capable of conducting the full spectrum of operations in cyberspace to support our eleven statutory missions.

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.

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.

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, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:

On October 7, 2025 I was the subject of a civil complaint in Federal court. I was sued in U.S. District Court in my official capacity (along with the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard's Commandant, and another Officer) by Students for Fair Admissions requesting declaratory and injunctive relief regarding the Coast Guard's College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) program alleging that the CSPI program discriminates based upon race and ethnicity in violation of the U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment. The case is pending.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or foreign government entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

I have no new matters that weren't previously disclosed in my O7 Senate Questionnaire. The matter I previously disclosed is as follows:

On 15 October of 1992, I was cited for underaged alcohol consumption at a restaurant near the Coast Guard Academy and issued a Promise To Appear by the New London (CT) Police Department. The misdemeanor charge was later dismissed in lieu of punishment by the Coast Guard Academy cadet disciplinary system.

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 assault, sexual harassment, or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, whistleblower activity, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No.

6. 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/commission/corporation complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency/commission/corporation 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/commission/corporation 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.)

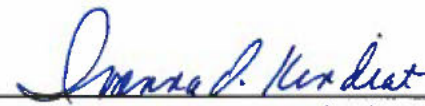
F. AFFIDAVIT

RUSSELL EDWARD DASH 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 16th day of NOV., 2025.



Notary Public IVANNA O. KINDRAT
My commission expires 5-14-2026
STATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

RDML Russell E. Dash

Current Assignment

Sep 25 – Present Commander, Great Lakes District

Assignment History

Jul 25 – Sep 25 Assistant Commandant and Program Executive Officer for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Cyber, CG-C5I. Chief Information Officer

Jun 24 – Jul 25 Assistant Commandant for C4&IT, CG-6. Chief Information Officer

May 23 – Jun 24 Commander, Personnel Service Center

May 22 – May 23 Deputy Commander, Personnel Service Center

Jun 20 – May 22 Commanding Officer, C5I Service Center

May 19 – Jun 20 Commander, C4IT Service Center

Mar 18 – May 19 Office Chief, CG-68, Office of C5I Program Management

Jun 17 – Mar 18 Implementation Lead, CG-6, C5I Program Management Office

Jun 16 – Jun 17 Duty Under Instruction, NDU College of Information and Cyberspace

Jun 13 – Jun 16 Executive Officer, C3 Engineer Center (C3CEN)

Feb 12 – Jun 13 Program Manager, DHS Chief Information Officer, Common Operational Picture

Jun 11 – Feb 12 Branch Chief, LANT-62, Atlantic Area Systems and Security

May 07 – Jun 11 Branch Chief, CG-7612, Response and Prevention Information Systems

Jun 05 – May 07 Duty Under Instruction, Naval Postgraduate School

Jun 03 – Jun 05 Commanding Officer, CGC WASHINGTON (WPB-1331)

Jul 01 – Jun 03 Operations Officer, CGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

Jul 98 – Jul 01 Operations Planner, Atlantic Area, Law Enforcement Branch

May 96 – Jul 98 Officer in Charge, Tactical Law Enforcement Team North

Jun 94 – May 96 Deck Watch Officer, CGC CAMPBELL (WMEC-909)

Educational Summary

National Defense University, M.S. Government Information Leadership (Cyber) (2016-2017)

Naval Postgraduate School, M.S. Information Systems and Technology (2005-2007)

Coast Guard Academy, B.S. Mathematics and Computer Science (1990-1994)

Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement

Honorary Chief Petty Officer (2024)

Legion Of Merit (3 awards, 2022, 2024, 2025)

Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards, 2012, 2016, 2019, 2023)

Coast Guard Commendation Medal (3 awards, 2001, 2003, 2005)

Coast Guard CDR John P. Dailey Award for leadership and mentoring in the C4IT community (2018)

National Defense University, Distinguished Graduate (2017)

Naval Postgraduate School, RADM Hopper Award for academic and leadership excellence (2007)

Command Ashore Insignia (2019)

Command Afloat Insignia (2003)

Cyberspace Insignia (2025)

Cutterman Insignia (2002)

Tactical Law Enforcement Insignia (2000)

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

Federal Chief Information Officer Competency Certificate, NDU (2017)

Joint Professional Military Education Certificate, JPME-2 (2017)

Russell E. Dash
Rear Admiral, United States Coast Guard

Rear Admiral Dash assumed duty as the Great Lakes District Commander in September 2025. He is the senior Coast Guard Commander for the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway, an area that encompasses eight states, a 1,500-mile international border, and a workforce of over 6,000 Coast Guard active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary men and women.

Prior Flag assignments include Assistant Commandant and Program Executive Officer for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology (CG-C5I) and Chief Information Officer. He was responsible for the implementation and sustainment of technology solutions for all the Service's ships, boats, aircraft and shore installations.

His first Flag assignment was as the Personnel Service Center (PSC) Commander where he was responsible for executing the Coast Guard's human resource policies by recruiting, accessing, assigning, developing careers, maintaining well-being, compensating, separating, and retiring the nearly 45,000 members of the active duty and reserve military workforces.

RDML Dash's earlier career includes operational and mission support assignments. Operationally, he served on cutters CAMPBELL and NORTHLAND and was Commanding Officer of cutter WASHINGTON. He was also Officer in Charge of Law Enforcement Detachment Five Charlie (LEDET 5C), part of the Tactical Law Enforcement Team North. RDML Dash has two decades of C5I experience serving at the Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard Headquarters, and Atlantic Area levels as well as multiple Coast Guard C5I Service Center assignments. He also served one year as the Deputy Commander for the Personnel Service Center before fleeting-up to be the Commander. During that time as PSC Deputy, he led the Coast Guard's Incident Management Team that resolved the Recruiting crisis.

RDML Dash is a 1994 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy. He earned his master's degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and the National Defense University's College of Information and Cyberspace.

RDML Dash's awards include the 2018 CDR John P. Dailey Award for Outstanding Leadership and Mentorship within the Coast Guard C4IT Community, the three Legions of Merit, four Meritorious Service Medal, as well as other personal, unit, and service awards. He is an Honorary Chief Petty Officer.

RDML Dash was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and is a native of Yorktown, Virginia. He and his wife Danielle are the parents of three adult sons, a daughter-in-law, and one lovely granddaughter. They are also proud part-owners of the Green Bay Packers, winners of 13 professional football championships.

