Justin L. Westmiller, PEM

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Professional Summary

Retired U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander and maritime search and rescue professional with more than 20 years of operational, command center, policy, training, and incident-management experience. Former Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Coast Guard National Search and Rescue School and former director of two 24-hour Sector Command Centers. Experience includes oversight of thousands of SAR cases, instruction in domestic and international SAR doctrine, mission coordination, search planning, marine communications, risk management, hazardous materials response, oil spill response, emergency response, homeland security response, interagency coordination, and evaluation of time-sensitive operational decisions. Current county homeland security and emergency management director in a Great Lakes international-border jurisdiction.

Areas of Expert Analysis

SAR Policy and Standard of Care Applicable Coast Guard doctrine, accepted SAR practice, reasonable mission coordination, escalation, supervision, and documentation.	**Search Planning** Datum, drift and uncertainty, search areas, patterns, coverage, probability concepts, asset selection, urgency, suspension, and reactivation.
Command Center Operations Watchstander duties, supervisory oversight, information flow, case chronology, workload, fatigue, communications, and command-and-control.	**Operational Decision Making** What responders knew or reasonably should have known, competing hazards, uncertainty, resource limits, and time-critical judgment.
Marine Communications Distress alerting, VHF/UHF systems, Rescue 21, communications quality, call handling, coordination, and operational use of information.	**Interagency Operations** Federal, state, local, Canadian, military, law-enforcement, fire, EMS, commercial, and volunteer coordination.
Maritime Incidents SAR, collisions, allisions, pollution response, ice rescue, severe weather, marine transportation, and international-border operations.	**Training and Performance** Qualification systems, policy instruction, watchstander training, exercises, evaluation, incident command, and organizational readiness.
Hazardous Materials Response Response planning, notification, escalation, protective-action decisions, resource coordination, and incident management for hazardous materials incidents.	**Oil Spill Response** Spill notification, response organization, operational priorities, waterway response, OSRO operations, and interagency coordination.
Emergency Response Emergency planning, incident command, EOC operations, warning, public information, resource allocation, and multiagency coordination.	**Homeland Security Response** Threat and incident coordination, critical infrastructure protection, maritime and border security, public warning, continuity, and interagency response.

Expert Witness and Consulting Services

- Case screening and preliminary merit assessment
- Review of case files, logs, recordings, dispatch and command-center records, policies, manuals, plans, charts, weather, and vessel or asset information
- Chronology reconstruction and identification of decision points
- Standard-of-care and operational-reasonableness analysis
- Written opinions, reports, affidavits, declarations, deposition preparation, and testimony
- Technical consultation, opposing-expert analysis, and demonstrative support

Professional Experience

St. Clair County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Michigan
Director | *January 2019 - Present*

- Direct countywide emergency management and homeland security programs, including planning, preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, EOC operations, warning, continuity, exercises, training, and multiagency coordination in a Great Lakes international-border county.
- Advise elected officials, public-safety executives, department heads, municipal leaders, and partner organizations on operational risk, emergency authorities, policy, resource coordination, communications, and incident command.
- Coordinate local, state, federal, maritime, healthcare, infrastructure, private-sector, and nongovernmental partners during complex incidents and preparedness initiatives.
- Administer and coordinate emergency-management and homeland-security grant programs exceeding $5 million.

Independent Maritime SAR Consulting
Maritime Search and Rescue Expert Witness and Consultant | *Current*

- Review maritime SAR timelines, policies, records, communications, search planning, resource decisions, and mission coordination for legal matters.
- Assess actions against the information reasonably available at the time, applicable policy and training, and accepted SAR practice.
- Translate technical maritime operations, search theory, command-center processes, and decision-making into clear explanations for counsel and nontechnical audiences.

Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Sterling Heights, Michigan
General Manager | January 2018 - February 2019

- Managed a 24-person branch providing 24/7 all-hazards environmental, emergency-response, field-service, waterway-response, and oil-spill-removal support across Michigan and portions of Ohio and Indiana.
- Directed a $5.5 million annual profit-and-loss portfolio and led Great Lakes technical specialists supporting waterway emergencies and OSRO operations.
- Maintained operational readiness, regulatory compliance, personnel performance, equipment capability, and customer response across a multistate territory.

Emergency Management Services International, Culpeper, Virginia
Contract Instructor | March 2017 - Present

- Instructed NIMS and ICS courses, including ICS 100, 200, 300, 410, and 430.
- Supported incident-management team functions as an Incident Commander, Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, Liaison Officer, Public Information Officer, Agency Representative, and federal SAR planner.

B F Goodrich and Michelin North America, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Environmental Health and Safety Director | *October 2016 - March 2017*

- Directed environmental, health, safety, compliance, audit, injury-analysis, ergonomic, reporting, and regulatory-coordination programs for a manufacturing plant with more than 1,300 employees.
- Served on the plant senior management team and led coordination with OSHA, Alabama environmental regulators, and corporate compliance functions.

United States Coast Guard Experience

U.S. Coast Guard National Search and Rescue School, Yorktown, Virginia
Deputy Administrator | *July 2013 - July 2016*

- Managed daily operations for seven resident and nonresident courses and 21 military and civilian personnel, providing training to more than 2,000 domestic and international students annually.
- Served as a leading instructor in Coast Guard SAR policy and procedures for operational watchstanders, planners, coordinators, supervisors, and leaders.
- Taught maritime search planning, mission coordination, search theory, risk management, NIMS and ICS, emergency management, law enforcement, and domestic and international SAR frameworks.
- Created an international training program focused on SAR policy, procedures, international engagement, and law-of-the-sea considerations.
- Served as a Coast Guard Deployable Incident Management Team Public Information Officer for more than three years and as a former Federal Search and Rescue Coordinator.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Detroit, Detroit, Michigan
Director, Sector Command Center and Public Affairs Officer | *October 2010 - July 2013*

- Led a 33-member command center responsible for all 11 congressionally mandated Coast Guard mission areas, including SAR, law enforcement, marine environmental response, maritime safety, ports waterways and coastal security, ice rescue, and national defense.
- Oversaw the full operational response cycle: initial notification, distress assessment, information gathering, risk evaluation, search planning, resource coordination, execution, documentation, public information, and command briefing.
- Oversaw implementation of Rescue 21 VHF/UHF communications and guided watchstanders in its operational use for SAR planning, voice and data communications, and mission response.
- Coordinated with FBI, CBP, ICE, CGIS, Canadian agencies, media, Coast Guard units, and other partners along the international maritime border.
- Managed public and governmental communications during the Tug ARTHUR J sinking and diesel spill, including a binational information strategy and three weeks of sustained media activity.
- Responded to numerous Type II and III incidents involving SAR, collisions, allisions, pollution, marine transportation, Deepwater Horizon, and Haiti earthquake operations.

U.S. Coast Guard National Incident Command, Gulf Coast Region
Special Assistant to the National Incident Commander, Deepwater Horizon | *May 2010 - October 2010*

- Coordinated logistics, security, movement planning, and execution for National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen during the Spill of National Significance.
- Supported White House advance teams and presidential, vice-presidential, and cabinet-level movements throughout the Gulf region.
- Prepared senior staff and media representatives for daily national and international briefings.

U.S. Coast Guard Personnel Command, Washington, District of Columbia
Central Assignments Coordinator | *July 2007 - May 2010*

- Managed assignments affecting 7,653 enlisted personnel across four occupational ratings and balanced service, unit, position, pay-grade, and member requirements.
- Served as a policy analyst during creation of the Maritime Enforcement Specialist rating.
- Deployed to Miami for Haiti earthquake operations and directed command-center incident-management activities supporting response, recovery, and activation of DHS Homeland Security Task Force Southeast.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Carolina, Morehead City, North Carolina
Director, Sector Command Center and Public Affairs Officer | *April 2005 - July 2007*

- Led a 36-member, 24-hour command center managing Coast Guard and multiagency operations throughout North Carolina.
- Oversaw response to more than 2,000 SAR cases and more than 1,500 marine environmental protection and prevention cases during the assignment.
- Qualified as Command Duty Officer, Operations Unit Controller, and Situation Unit Controller, with responsibility for SAR, law enforcement, waterways operations, incident documentation, partner coordination, and public communication.
- Created the Virtual Command Center vessel-monitoring program, which received the Coast Guard Commandant's Innovation Award in 2006.
- Managed public information for Hurricane Ophelia, military out-load operations, maritime incidents, and SAR cases.

U.S. Coast Guard Group Cape Hatteras, Buxton, North Carolina
Operations Officer, Public Affairs Officer and Incident Manager | *July 2004 - April 2005*

- Directed Coast Guard SAR and law-enforcement operations for northern coastal North Carolina.
- Served as primary incident manager for Hurricane Alex and managed public communications for SAR, environmental, and storm response and recovery operations.

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration, University of Phoenix, 2007; GPA 3.79

Professional Credentials and Qualifications

- Professional Emergency Manager PEM
- Retired Lieutenant Commander, United States Coast Guard; more than 20 years of service
- Former Federal Search and Rescue Coordinator
- Nationally accredited adult-education instructor
- Command Duty Officer; Operations Unit Controller; Situation Unit Controller
- NIMS Type III: Incident Commander, Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, Public Information Officer, and Agency Representative
- 40-hour HAZWOPER; DOT, RCRA, FMCSA, and defensive-driving training

Instructional Experience

- Coast Guard domestic and international SAR policy and procedure
- Maritime search planning, mission coordination, search theory, risk management, and law-of-the-sea considerations
- NIMS and ICS 100, 200, 300, 410, and 430
- Emergency management, law enforcement, public information, and incident-management team functions
- Training delivery to more than 2,000 domestic and international students annually at the National Search and Rescue School

Representative Major Incidents and Operational Environments

Deepwater Horizon Spill of National Significance; Haiti earthquake response and DHS Homeland Security Task Force Southeast activation; Hurricane Alex; Hurricane Ophelia; Tug ARTHUR J sinking and international pollution response; Detroit River Readiness 2011; AMSTEP cross-border exercise; Great Lakes and East Coast SAR; collisions and allisions; pollution and marine environmental response; ice rescue; marine transportation; ports waterways and coastal security; and international-border operations.

Awards and Recognition

- U.S. Coast Guard Commandant's Innovation Award, 2006, for the Virtual Command Center vessel-monitoring program

Speaking and Professional Engagement

- Selected presenter, Michigan Counties Annual Conference, Disaster Response in a Volatile 21st Century, addressing severe weather, ice storms, flooding, emergency-management practice, and public-safety partnerships

Professional Leadership

Legislative Liaison, Michigan Emergency Management Association. Monitors and analyzes state and federal legislation affecting emergency management and advocates for preparedness, infrastructure resilience, and sustainable emergency management funding.

References and Case Information

Professional references, engagement-specific case information, fee schedule, and testimony history are available upon request, subject to confidentiality obligations.