

Operations Specialist

“A” School

Graduation

Class 15-24



United States Coast Guard

Training Center Petaluma

27 September 2024

Presiding Official

CDR Blake Leedy

Master of Ceremonies

OS1 Frank Gamboa

Invocation

LCDR Abraham Jiregna (Chaplain)

School Chief

OSMC Bob Egbert

Benediction

LCDR Abraham Jiregna (Chaplain)

Order of Events

National Anthem

Invocation

Master of Ceremonies

School Chief Remarks

Reading of Awards, Advancement,
and Certificates

Benediction

OS Class 15-24 Disband

CAPT Matt Chong

Commanding Officer



Captain Matt Chong assumed his current duties as Commanding Officer of Training Center Petaluma in June 2022. Prior to this assignment he served in a one year special assignment as the **Team Lead for the Coast Guard's Personnel Readiness Task Force.**

Originally from Hawaii, Captain Chong is a 2000 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He later earned a Masters of Arts degree in Educational Technology from San Diego State University in 2010 and became a Certified Performance Technologist through the International Society for Performance Improvement in 2015.



Captain Chong is a career Cutterman with nearly 12 years of service at sea, including duties as Commanding Officer of the Patrol Forces Southwest Asia Relief Patrol Boat Crew where he commanded USCGCs BARANOF, AQUIDNECK, WRANGELL, MONOMOY, and MAUI in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. His other command assignments include Commanding Officer of USCGC KISKA in Hilo, Hawaii, and Commanding Officer of USCGC VENTUROUS in St. Petersburg, Florida.

History of Operations Specialist School

The Operation Specialist (OS) rating was formed on the first of July, 2003, by order of the Commandant. The OS rating stood up as a rating that would set the ground work for the future Coast Guard. Prior to that time, the Coast Guard had two separate ratings that possessed the main skill set that formed the OS rating. They were the Telecommunications Specialist (TC) and Radarman (RD). A few personnel from other ratings, such as Quartermaster (QM) and Boatswain's mate (BM), were also chosen to join the newly formed rating.

Operations Specialist "A" School was established in Petaluma, California, in 2003, by integrating the existing TC and RD ratings instruction under a unified OS banner. Combining these two diverse "A" School curricula was a significant challenge that was achieved through the hard work of experts from each of the legacy ratings. TC "A" School had been taught at Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, California, since 1971 (at that time they were the Radioman (RM) rating). RD "A" School had been housed in Yorktown, Virginia, since 1988, and moved in 2003 to Petaluma, California, along with the equipment and instructors needed to stand-up the combined OS rating "A" School.

While diverse in many ways, the TC and RD ratings have always been the eyes, ears, and voice of the United States Coast Guard. Now as the OS rating, we hold true to our roots, performing functions ranging from vessel traffic control, to search and rescue, to law enforcement case execution, to intelligence operations. OS's operate the most advanced tactical computer systems in the Coast Guard, incorporating satellite communications, GPS navigation, electronic charting systems, real-time information sharing, and tracking and identification—utilizing a vast array of technologies.

Two seemingly different ratings form what is now one of the largest and fastest growing ratings in the Armed Services. With new and exciting advances in technology happening every day, the OS rating will continue to be on the cutting edge of things to come—while remembering the rich histories of those that have led the way for us.

OS "A" School Class 15-24



OS1 Hlinka, Jonathan
Class Advisor



OS1 Gamboa, Frank
Class Advisor



OS3 Fields, Christopher
Sector Detroit
Detroit, MI



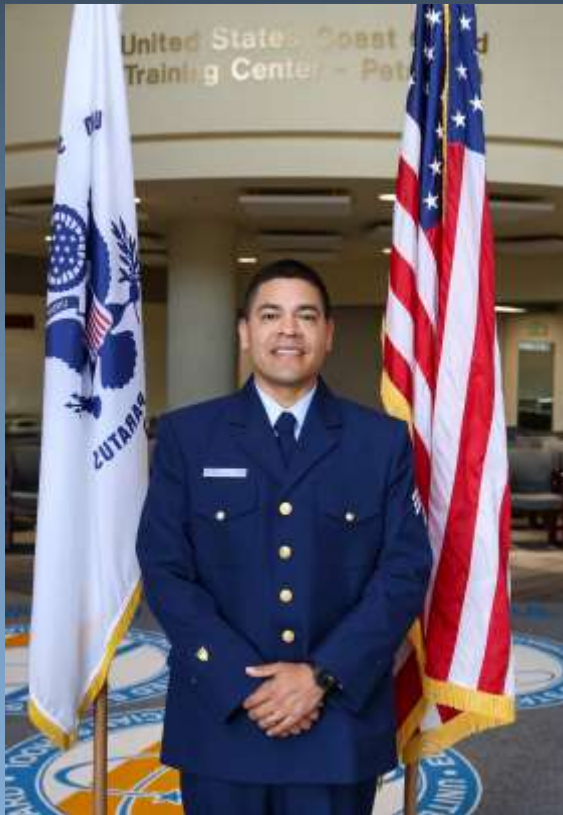
OS3 Richardson, Norwood
CGC Spencer
Portsmouth, VA
Graduated 13SEP24



OS3 Ketron, Nathaniel
Sector Guam
Santa Rita, Guam



OS3 Lopez, Joshua
Sector Virginia
Portsmouth, VA
(Reservist)



OS3 Sarabia, Miriam
USCGC Seneca
Portsmouth, VA
Graduated 13SEP24



OS3 Persons, Anna
Honor Graduate
Sector Mobile
Mobile, AL



OS3 Vogt, Anthony
Sector SE New England
Woods Hole, MA



OS3 Del Bianco, Kyle
Sector N New England
South Portland, ME



OS3 Berrian, Tyler
MSU Morgan City VTS
Morgan City, LA
Graduated 30AUG24



OS3 Hagenbucher, Elizabeth
COMMCOM Operations Dept
Chesapeake, VA
Graduated 30AUG24



OS3 Harrington, Vincent
Sector Key West
Key West, FL



OS3 Fontana, Garrett
Sector Lake Michigan
Milwaukee, WI



OS3 Harrison, Kile
Fitness Award Recipient
Sector Nola
New Orleans, LA



OS3 Hernandez Jusino, Gerardo
Sector W AK & Artic
Jber, AK



OS3 Alexander, Joshua
*Maritime Security Response Team West
San Diego, CA*



OS3 McGee, Khaleel
*Vessel Trafficking Service Houston
Houston, TX*



OS3 Orchison, Landon
COMMCOM Operations Dept
Chesapeake, VA



OS3 Cabaong, Mikayla
COMMCOM Operations Dept
Chesapeake, VA



OS3 Scott Jr., Roderick
MSU Morgan City VTS
Morgan City, LA



Semper Paratus (Always Ready)

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First Verse:

From Aztec Shore to Arctic Zone,
To Europe and Far East,
The Flag is carried by our ships
In times of war and peace;
And never have we struck it yet
In spite of foemen's might,
Who cheered our crews and cheered again
For showing how to fight.

Chorus:

We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through surf and storm and howling gale,
High shall our purpose be.
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,
Our fame, our glory too.
To fight to save or fight and die,
Aye! Coast Guard we are for you!