

**Commander William Dwyer, USCG**  
**Staff Judge Advocate/Legal Officer**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> Coast Guard District**

CDR Dwyer is currently serving at the Seventeenth District SJA, Juneau, Alaska. As an attorney, his duties include advising on operations, maritime security, military justice and international law for Coast Guard units in addition to legal assistance for thousands of military personnel and dependents throughout Alaska. Previously, he served in Office of Legal Counsel, US Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany. He provided operational legal advice on a variety of areas including piracy, maritime security and targeting. He provided legal training throughout the AFRICOM AOR. Prior to that, he served as Deputy SJA in D17. In 2009, he led the U.S. delegation to the Russian Far East to meet with the Russian Border Guard. The meetings focused on joint maritime operations and the monitoring of the Maritime Boundary Line. As an adjunct instructor for the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies, he conducted legal training in Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mauritius, the Seychelles, the Congo, Australia and New Zealand. He worked closely with the Cambodian government in developing a legal framework to establish a national committee for maritime security through the development of a Royal Decree. He led a U.S. delegation to China in 2012 to discuss military assistance to disaster response and humanitarian assistance. In 2013, he participated in the first direct military to military exchange with Burma (Myanmar) to discuss Rule of Law and human rights with the Burmese Army.

Prior operational assignments included two tours afloat aboard Coast Guard Cutters in Guam and Hawaii. CDR Dwyer graduated from U.S. Naval Diving and Salvage School and is designated a Ship's Salvage Diving Officer in 1998. He served in the response to Hurricane Katrina response in September 2005 and a follow-on assignment with the Office of Incident Management at USCG Headquarters in Washington, D.C. While at Headquarters, he served as the Coast Guard instructor for the U.S. Army North, Defense Support to Civil Authorities Course (DSCA). In this capacity he taught hundreds of DoD and Coast Guard personnel all over the country on the Coast Guard's role in DSCA. CDR Dwyer then transferred to Sector Long Island Sound and served in the Prevention Department in a special assignment as the principal command advisor on the proposed Broadwater liquefied natural gas project (LNG) for Long Island Sound. He assisted in the drafting of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as well as other regulatory and legal documents for the project.

He graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1995 with a BS in Government. He completed Naval Justice School and is designated a Judge Advocate. CDR Dwyer is a member of the New York and New Jersey Bars, respectively. CDR Dwyer received his MBA in May 2010 from St. Peter's College and will be awarded an MA from the Naval Postgraduate School's, Center for Homeland Defense and Security in September 2013.