

Captain Darran McLenon, USCG

Commanding Officer USCGC Mellon (WHEC 717)

Hailing from Monroe, Michigan, Captain Darran McLenon graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management.

Upon commissioning, McLenon was assigned to U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Alert out of Cape May, N.J., where he served as Deck Watch Officer and Weapons Officer. He crossed over to the USCGC Vigorous in 1992 and assumed the duties of First Lieutenant. Additional afloat tours include Executive Officer aboard USCGC Chincoteague, out of Mobile, Alabama, Commanding Officer of USCGC Block Island, out of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, Executive Officer of USCGC Dauntless out of Galveston, Texas, and Commanding Officer of USCGC Active, out of Port Angeles, Washington. He has served over 10 years at sea with exceptional crews, sailing throughout the Northern Atlantic, Florida Straits, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Bering Sea, and Eastern Pacific. He recently served as Pacific Area's Chief of Cutter Forces providing coastal and offshore tactical and strategic support to Pacific Area's Districts, Department of Defenses, and suite of Maritime Patrol Forces.

McLenon's experience ashore includes a tour in the Eight Guard District at the Houston/Galveston Vessel Traffic Service as Operations Officer. Responsible for the safe passage of maritime traffic within the Houston Ship Channel, Galveston Bay and Intracoastal Waterway, he liaised with local pilot, tug and barge associations, shipping agencies and myriad commercial entities on a daily basis. From 2001 to 2005 he served at Coast Guard Headquarters as Assistance Branch Chief, within the Office of Budget Execution for the Operations Directorate. In this position, he assisted with the formulation and execution of the Coast Guard's operational budget. He also served as Chief, Comptroller and Personnel Support at Training Center Yorktown, responsible for the unit's Budget and Accounting, Logistics and Supply and Morale, Well-Being and Recreation Sections, in addition to the Personnel Support Branch – all support entities for the Coast Guard's largest Training Center.

McLenon earned his Master's Degree from the University of Baltimore in Business Administration. His personal awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and three Coast Guard Achievement Medals.