


**Senate Commerce Committee Coast Guard Nominee Questionnaire
117th Congress**

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee 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 the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name: Peter Williams Gautier, "Pete"
2. Position to which nominated: Coast Guard Nominee to a position of importance and responsibility and to the grade of Vice Admiral (O-9) per 14 U.S.C. § 305
3. Date of Nomination: April 6, 2022
4. Address: 
Coast Guard Island Bldg. 51, Alameda, CA 94501 (office)
5. Date and Place of Birth: 25 September 1965; Brooklyn, New York
6. Name, position, and place of employment for my spouse:
Rosa M. Gautier, Actuary, Actuarial Research Corporation,
6928 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003

Names and ages of my children:
Andrew Joseph Gautier, 20
Natalie Mae Gautier, 19
7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended:
2009 National War College, MS, National Security Strategy
1993 University of Michigan, MS, Chemical Engineering
1987 U.S. Coast Guard Academy, BS, Marine Engineering

8. List all post-undergraduate 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 June, 1987. Please see my Coast Guard biography for detailed information.

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

My official Coast Guard biography is 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, within the last ten years.

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 within the last ten years.

Member, Tulane University Homeland Security Studies Public Advisory Board, 2012-2014.

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, 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.

Member, World Trade Center of New Orleans, 2011-2014

Board Member, Propeller Club of New Orleans, 2011-2014

Member, Southern Yacht Club, New Orleans, 2011-2015

Member, Jewish Community Center of New Orleans, 2011-2014

Parent Member, Scouts BSA, 2008-2018

Member, Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, 1987-present

Member, Military Officers Association of America, 2008-present
Member, Pacific Council, 2021-present

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? 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.

2021 Honorary Chief Petty Officer
2018 Harvard National Preparedness Leadership Initiative fellow
2017 Commissioned as a Special Assistant to the President
2008 Journal of Commerce Leadership and Excellence Honor Roll member
2007 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI fellow
2006 Council for Excellence in Government fellow
2005 World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel member
1997 Naval War College Nonresident Program graduate
1994-1996 United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods delegate

Military Awards: Defense Superior Service Medal (1), Legion of Merit (4), California State Legion of Merit (1), Meritorious Service Medal (4), Coast Guard Commendation Medal (3), 9/11 Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal (3), Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal.

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

Article: Coast Guard Regulatory Developments for the Towing and Fleeting Industry (2013, Proceedings of the 2013 Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association Seminar)

Article: Implementation of the National Incident Command for the *Deepwater Horizon* Spill (2011, International Oil Spill Conference Proceedings)

Article: Implementation of the U.S. National Response System for the *Deepwater Horizon* Spill (2011, Proceedings of the Conference of International Oil Spill Risk Management)

Article: Response Benefit Analysis: A New Method for Measuring Response Effectiveness (2001, International Oil Spill Conference Proceedings)

Article: Do Trajectories Belong in Area Plans? A New Approach in California Using the Trajectory Analysis Planner (2001, International Oil Spill Conference Proceedings)

Article: A Model Grassroots Approach for Implementation of the Incident Command System (1999, International Oil Spill Conference Proceedings)

Article: Organizational and Financial Considerations of Wildlife Operations During Two Orphan Spills Off California (1999, International Oil Spill Conference Proceedings)

Speeches: I have given a number of speeches on Coast Guard response and regulatory matters, including Captain of the Port of New Orleans and Coast Guard District 11 matters, the response to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program,

responses to hurricanes and other disasters, counterdrug operations in the Easter Pacific, and Coast Guard operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

18. 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 name of an “alias” or “handle” 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, account name Peter Gautier, dormant. No other accounts or operations on digital platforms, currently or formerly. Please note that there are a number of false Facebook accounts under my name on the web.

19. Please 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 and subject matter of each testimony: None.

20. 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 have been a commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard for the past 34 years, serving in a number of challenging leadership roles, commanding four Coast Guard units, overseeing Coast Guard operations across half of the globe, administering a number of effective maritime safety and security programs, working on the National Security Council staff and responding in senior positions to a number of internationally-significant disasters. My responsibilities in recent years have brought me into the decisionmaking process to craft service-wide strategy and address our enterprise challenges. I wish to continue to serve, fulfilling the lofty expectations of a vice admiral, and make good on three decades of the Service’s investments in me, in a role where I have the opportunity to shape the future of the Service. In particular, I would like to apply the lessons from my background to advance execution of our missions domestically while balancing our growing portfolio of activities globally that are key to our national security.

21. 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?

Wherever I am assigned, I have a fundamental responsibility to ensure that the Coast Guard is fulfilling its obligation to establish and carry out proper management and accounting controls. Preserving the Coast Guard's credibility and public confidence is a fundamental responsibility of a senior leader, and we do this by being good stewards of public resources, leaders of our own personnel, and service providers to the public. As the Coast Guard fulfills this obligation, and in particular as we work to overcome our problems with sexual assault/harassment and build on our success in meeting standards during CFO audits, I will use my authority to tackle these problems head on.

In terms of experience managing a large organization, I am currently deputy commander of all Coast Guard operations west of the Rocky Mountains to Madagascar, and from the Arctic to Antarctica, leading 13,000 active duty, reserve, auxiliary and civilian personnel in performing all Coast Guard missions. I administer a budget of \$200 million and capital assets that include 12 major cutters, 4 Coast Guard Districts, and 13 Deployable Support Forces. I've had four commands during my 34 year Coast Guard career. I've crafted policy for Coast Guard programs, internationally through International Maritime Organization and UN bodies, and for Federal and State, Local, Tribal and Territorial governments as a member of the National Security Council Staff. I have also managed multiagency emergency responses that have included thousands of personnel, considerable stakeholder engagement and millions of dollars of expenditures.

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

The Coast Guard faces challenges and opportunities in balancing our missions domestically with increasing demands for more Coast Guard engagement globally; governing the maritime domain in an increasingly complex and high risk environment; and strengthening an agile and proficient workforce for the 21st Century.

Demand for Coast Guard services is persistent, strong and growing. Our core missions that advance our marine safety, security and stewardship at home are our top priority, and these continue to increase with climate change-driven sea level rise and increased frequency and severity of natural disasters; greater useage and complexity of our Maritime Transportation System; increasing threats from transnational criminal organizations to the homeland; and greater reliance on and vulnerabilities in cyberspace. At the same time the value of the Coast Guard as a combined military, law enforcement and crisis response agency has demanded Coast Guard resources in non-traditional domestic operations such as Operation Allies Welcome, support of southern border operations, and augmentation of COVID-19 vaccination efforts. As our international rules-based order is increasingly threatened by China and others, the U.S. Coast Guard is looked to more and more from partner nations, allies, international organizations, the White House, DHS and Congress as the right agency with the right capabilities and culture to advance a free and open maritime domain across the globe.

This growing demand risks overextending the Coast Guard as we continue our crucial and historic recapitalization of ageing cutters and aircraft, building and supporting a 21st Century workforce, and strengthening and securing our IT tools through our Tech Revolution efforts. We must balance our missions and commitments, prioritizing outstanding mission execution domestically that delivers direct services to the American people to saves lives, enable commerce, provide maritime security and security, and protect our environment. Working together with DHS and Congress we can better meet our global demands to strengthen an international rules-based order that counters our adversaries and provides for our national security under a predictable, stable budget environment.

The second challenge is the Coast Guard's ability to govern the maritime domain in an increasingly complex and high risk environment. As coastal populations expand, use of the maritime transportation system grows, and maritime threats to our people, property and the environment increase, demand for Coast Guard services has never been greater. The Coast Guard must meet this demand with increasing sophistication to match the greater complexity of the environment we face. For example, the expansion of offshore wind energy, space-related operations, and future unmanned vessels has real implications for the safe, secure and equitable

use of our waterways. The Arctic has become less of a frontier, and more of an opportunity for maritime transport and resource exploitation, and a region of potential friction as international powers exert sovereignty. Our adversaries are increasingly sophisticated in their efforts to smuggle drugs, contraband and people into the U.S. To meet our charge of protecting people, property and the environment, the Coast Guard workforce has to be increasingly proficient and technologically adept; our industry standards and oversight programs modern and flexible; and our service innovative and nimble in quickly adapting in a world that is changing rapidly.

The third challenge is the need to strengthen an agile and proficient workforce that tackses the demands we face now and in the future. Successful mission execution requires a talented, diverse and flexible workforce eager to serve the nation. Our young people increasingly desire personal fulfillment, workplace flexibility and geographic stability, which can be at odds with the demands of a military career. Our military personnel system was designed in another era when service demands were simpler. Developing proficiency and mastery in a sophisticated world takes training and time, and rotation, promotion and retirement policies crafted in an earlier age are often a hindrance. More than two years of COVID-19 hampered recruiting and we now have substantial gaps in our active duty and reserve workforce. The Coast Guard's ability to apply a highly motivated workforce with general maritime competencies and address major challenges is our biggest strength, but we need to examine some of our fundamental management structures to position the service to adjust to a rapidly changing world.

Recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce is fundamental to our success. So is providing all of our members a workplace that is supportive, highly functional and free of harassment. The Coast Guard is seriously committed to both. But we need to improve. Coast Guard leadership has directed a number of efforts to understand how we can make progress and, through our Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2019-2023 and other efforts is implementing policies, structures, and capabilities to make sure that we do. It is our responsibility as senior leaders to continue to execute improvements aggressively and lead in a way that fosters the kind of culture and behaviors throughout the workforce and holds leaders throughout our ranks accountable to uphold the high standard we expect from our members.

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: 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, but should one arise I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and will 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 should one arise I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and will follow that advice.
5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None, but should one arise I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and will 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.

I served as the Coast Guard Director of Congressional and Public Affairs from August 2014 to May 2015, and again from July 2017 to July 2018.

In this role, I directed and supported Coast Guard Congressional engagement activities. These activities included, in conjunction with the Coast Guard Judge Advocate General, establishing and communicating Coast Guard positions on legislation to requisite committee staff, overseeing the coordination of briefings of Congressional members and staff on legislative matters and supporting activities to provide Coast Guard witnesses for Congressional hearings.

I served as the Senior Director and Special Assistant to the President for Response and Resilience on the National Security Council from June 2015 to June 2017. In this role, I helped draft an emergency supplemental funding request for response to the Zika outbreak.

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, an Inspector General, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? No.
2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.
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 harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age, disability, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, engagement in a protected Equal Employment Opportunity/Equal Opportunity (EEO/EO) activity, whistleblower activity, or any other basis? If so, please explain. Yes. In 2012 I was subject to an informal complaint from a Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander of discrimination on the basis of race. The Lieutenant Commander complained of low marks on his evaluation. I had not met the Lieutenant Commander (he had transferred) but had signed his departure evaluation as a reviewing officer (third and final reviewer) after my predecessor retired and was not available to sign. The Lieutenant Commander had received low marks as a result of a number of Uniform Code of Military Justice convictions for which he had been found guilty at court-martial. The complaint was dismissed as untimely.

6. If you have ever served as a general court-martial convening authority involving sexual misconduct or assault, have you ever disapproved the findings of a court-martial related to the offense(s) or reduced the sentence adjudged by a court-martial, other than in connection with a pre-trial agreement? No.

7. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. In previous Senate Questionnaires submitted for my nomination to Rear Admiral (Lower Half) (O7) and Rear Admiral (O8), I reported in Question C.5. that I was the subject of a discrimination complaint in 2006. I have since learned that I was not named as a subject in that allegation so I have not reported it in Question C.5. above. The complaint was dismissed without a finding of discrimination against the subjects.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency 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 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, in accordance with law and DHS policy and guidance.
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, in accordance with law and DHS policy and guidance.
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.



Rear Admiral Peter W. Gautier

Deputy Commander Pacific Area

U.S. Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Peter Gautier assumed the duties of Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area in July 2020. As Deputy Commander, he is responsible for all U.S. Coast Guard missions within a geographic region that spans from the Rocky Mountains west to the waters off the eastern coast of Africa.

Rear Admiral Gautier previously served as Commander, Coast Guard Eleventh District in Alameda, California from June 2018 to July 2020, where he directed all Coast Guard missions in California and the Eastern Pacific Ocean. During this assignment, he also served as Deputy Director for the Department of Homeland Security's Joint Task Force West, conducting integrated joint investigations and operations along the Southern border and approaches from Texas to California.



He previously served as the Director of Governmental and Public Affairs for the Coast Guard beginning in August 2014, where he was responsible for external engagement with Congress, the media and other intergovernmental entities. From May 2015 to July 2017 he served as the Senior Director for Response Policy on the National Security Council Staff, where he coordinated policy for all-hazards domestic incident management, national preparedness exercises, and continuity of government.

From June 2011 to July 2014 he commanded Sector New Orleans, directing all Coast Guard operations in southeast Louisiana, including the lower 300 miles of the Mississippi River. Prior to this, he served as the Chief of the Deepwater Horizon Action Office which oversaw policy resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, where he served for five months as the National Incident Command Chief of Staff. His other assignments include Chief of Operations for the Deployable Operations Group; Chief, Cargo and Facilities Division at Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington DC; and Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team, Mobile, AL, where he responded in key roles in a number of major responses including the World Trade Center attacks, the Shuttle Columbia Disaster, and Hurricane Katrina.

Rear Admiral Gautier has also served as Chief, Port Operations and Marine Environmental Response at Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco and as a U.S. Delegate to United Nations and International Maritime Organization committees governing transportation of hazardous materials. He has also served aboard two Coast Guard cutters and as Commanding Officer of Loran Station Gesashi, Japan.

Rear Admiral Gautier graduated from the U. S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor's of Science in Marine Engineering in 1987. He holds a Masters of Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Michigan and a Masters of National Security Strategy from the National War College. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (three awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards), DOT 9/11 Medal, and Coast Guard Achievement Medal (two awards).

Rear Admiral Peter Gautier

Current Assignment

Jul 20 – present Coast Guard Pacific Area, Deputy Commander, RADM

Assignment History

Jun 18 – Jul 20 Coast Guard Eleventh District, Commander, RADM
Jul 17 – Jun 18 CG-092, Governmental and Public Affairs, Director, RADM
May 15 – Jul 17 National Security Council Staff, Senior Director for Response Policy
Aug 14 – May 15 CG-092, Governmental and Public Affairs, Director, RDML
Jun 11 – Jul 14 Sector New Orleans, Commanding Officer, CAPT
Nov 10 – May 11 Deepwater Horizon Action Office, Office Chief, CAPT
May 10 – Oct 10 National Incident Command Chief of Staff, Deepwater Horizon Response, CAPT
Jan 10 – Apr 10 Deployable Operations Group, Chief of Operations, CAPT
Jul 09 – Dec 09 Deployable Operations Group, Chief, Planning and Exercises, CAPT
Aug 08 – Jun 09 Graduate School, National War College, CAPT
May 06 - Jul 08 CG-5442, Chief, Cargo and Facilities Division, CDR
Aug 05 – May 06 G-MPP-2, Assistant Chief, Domestic Assessment Division, CDR
Aug 03 – Aug 05 Gulf Strike Team, Commanding Officer, CDR
Jul 01 – Aug 03 Gulf Strike Team, Executive Officer, LCDR
Jul 20 – Jul 01 MSO San Francisco Bay, Chief, Port Operations Department, LCDR
Sep 97 – Jul 20 MSO San Francisco Bay, Chief, Marine Environmental Response Div., LCDR
Jul 93 – Sep 97 G-MSO-1, Project Engineer, Hazardous Materials Standards Branch, LT
Jun 91 – Jul 93 Graduate School, University of Michigan, LT
Jun 90 – Jun 91 Loran Station Gesashi, Okinawa, Commanding Officer, LTJG
Jul 88 – Jun 90 USCGC Valiant, Assistant Engineer Officer, LTJG
May 87 – Jul 88 USCGC Mackinaw, Student Engineer, ENS

Educational Summary

2009 National War College, Master of Science, National Security Strategy
1997 Naval War College, Certificate of Completion, Nonresident Program
1993 University of Michigan, Master of Science, Chemical Engineering
1987 U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Bachelor of Science, Marine Engineering

Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement

2010 – 2020, Legion of Merit award (four awards)
2017 – Defense Superior Service Award
2001 – 2008 Meritorious Service Medal (four awards)
1997 – 2001 Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards)
2001 - 9/11 Medal
1989 – 2002 Coast Guard Achievement Medal (three awards)
2008, Journal of Commerce Leadership and Excellence Honor Roll
2007, MIT Seminar XXI Fellow
2006, Excellence in Government Fellow
2005, Member, World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

2009 Coast Guard Certified Type 1 Incident Commander