

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 (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Donna Lea Cottrell (Former married name: McGowen, Maiden name: Perry)

2. Position to which nominated: Rear Admiral

3. Date of Nomination: 30 January 2019

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

[REDACTED]

Office Address: Joint Interagency Task Force, Nimitz-MacArthur Pacific Command Center, Box 64033, Camp H. M. Smith, HI 96819-4033

5. Date and Place of Birth: 03/17/1959, Cleveland, Ohio

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Scott Jeffrey Cottrell, retired CWO3 from USCG in 1995
Rebecca Cottrell Burns, age 38, stepdaughter, Realtor - Sotheby's International Realty

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

2011	Master of Arts, U.S. Naval War College
2004	Master of Science, Air Force Institute of Technology
1998	Masters Degree, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
1982	Bachelors Degree, Education, Ohio University

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.

2017 – Present: Director, Joint Interagency Task Force - West
2016 – 2017: Deputy to Coast Guard Assistant Commandant of Capabilities
2014 – 2016: Chief of Staff, Coast Guard District 13
2011 – 2014: Commanding Officer, USCG Helicopter Interdiction Squadron
2010 – 2011: Naval War College - Student
2008 – 2010: Commanding Officer, USCG Air Station Savannah
2006 – 2008: Executive Officer, USCG Air Station Detroit
2006 – 2007: Project Executive, Coast Guard Academy Task Force
2005 – 2006: Project Officer, Maintenance Management Working Group
2004 – 2005: Logistics Management Transformation Office Integrated Project Team
2004 – 2006: Chief, Information Systems Division, CG Aircraft Logistics Center
2002 - 2004: Air Force Institute of Technology - Student
1998 - 2002: Group – Air Station Atlantic City, NJ - Admin Officer/Air Operations Officer
1995 - 1998: Navy Helicopter Squadron Eight Whiting Field, FL - Flight Instructor
1991 - 1995: Air Station Chicago, Administration Officer - Public Works Officer
1989 - 1991: Naval Flight Training, Whiting Field, FL - Flight Student
1987 - 1989: Coast Guard Cutter STEADFAST, St. Petersburg, FL - Deck Watch Officer
1987: Officer Candidate School, Yorktown, VA – Officer Candidate
1986 – 1987: Air Station Houston, TX – Avionics Technician
1986 – Aviation Technical Training Center, Elizabeth City, NC – Avionics Technician Training
1984-1986: Aids to Navigation Team Port Huron, OH – Seaman
1983: Coast Guard Station Marblehead, OH – Boatswain Mate, Boat Crewman
1983: Coast Guard Recruit Training, Cape May, NJ - Recruit
1982-1983: Substitute Teacher, Wellington Exempted School District, Wellington, OH

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 five 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 five years.

Officer Christian Fellowship Council Member – Oct 2017-Present

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 religious organization, private club, or other membership organization. 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 handicap.

Coast Guard Aviation Association - Ancient Order of the Pterodactyls – 1995-Present

Project Management Institute – 2005-2012

Women in Aviation International – 2008-2012

None of these organizations restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Officers' Christian Fellowship –

2015-2017 (Member)

2017-Present (Council Member)

Officers' Christian Fellowship does restrict membership based on religion. It is an organization of Christian Military Officers.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No.

14. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years. Also list all offices you have held with, and services rendered to, a state or national political party or election committee during the same period.

None.

15. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

2013 Honorary Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer

2010 Coast Guard winner of Federally Employed Women Recognition Award

Coast Guard Legion of Merit (3)

Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal (2)

Coast Guard Commendation Medal (3)
Navy Achievement Medal
Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation

16. Please list each book, article, column, or publication you have authored, individually or with others. 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.

Speeches - "Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron 101" – various civic organizations in FL – 2011-2014
Published, "Accelerate Your Experience," Women in Aviation Magazine - 2010
Speech – "Followership" – Liberty University Leadership Symposium 2010
Published, "The Coast Guard Promotes Dynamic Leadership," Naval Institute Proceedings – April 2009

17. 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.

18. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, 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?

Since enlisting in the Coast Guard in 1983, I have 35 years of diverse assignments from operating small boats conducting Search and Rescue on the Great Lakes to flying Helicopters in the Caribbean interdicting drug smugglers. I have embraced the Coast Guard's core values of Respect, Honor and Devotion to Duty. The Coast Guard has given me incredible opportunities to grow as a person and a leader. I consider myself truly blessed to serve my country as a Coast Guard Officer.

As an enlisted member, I learned the value of followership and going the extra mile to earn the trust of those senior to me. I also gained an appreciation for the sacrifice and hardship that our junior members make. My time performing search and rescue on the Great Lakes and servicing Aids to Navigation facilities such as lighthouses and buoys gave me an appreciation for the extreme and harsh environment our operators work in on a daily basis. If confirmed, this experience will help me to remember that the most important decisions aren't just about budget and policy but affect real people with real families.

Although I served one tour aboard a Coast Guard cutter following Officer Candidate School, the majority of my time as an operator was as a Coast Guard Aviator. I have

logged over 3000 rotary-wing hours performing almost all of the Coast Guard's 11 statutory missions.

As a senior officer, I was Executive Officer at a small Air Station and served two separate tours as a Commanding Officer at both small and large Air Stations. As such, I successfully exercised the authorities and responsibilities inherent in these positions. My leadership and executive management skills have been tested and proven under a variety of challenging circumstances. As the Chief of Staff of District Thirteen in Seattle, Washington, I worked for a flag officer responsible for the Pacific-Northwest where I gained valuable executive leadership and decision-making experience and learned the importance of working with a variety of governmental stakeholders across the region. In my current position as the Director of the Joint Interagency Task Force – West (JIATF-W) in Honolulu, HI, I have broadened my knowledge of the threats to our Homeland in the form of both state and non-state actors and the value of USG, our allies, and partners working together toward a common goal.

I'm honored and excited about the opportunity to continue to serve our nation and the men and women of the Coast Guard. I will draw on my diverse background and experiences to better inform the complex decisions I will face to shape future strategy for the Coast Guard and our country.

19. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

Embedded within our Core Values is a call to stewardship. As such, every member of the Coast Guard has a duty to be responsible with our nation's finite resources. Not only in managing the funds allotted to us but also in taking care of the young men and women who sign up to serve their country. They are the sons and daughters entrusted to us by the people of this nation.

Throughout my career, I have managed and provided oversight to hundreds of people, capital resources, and Coast Guard missions. These have included tactical missions such as search and rescue as well as developing Coast Guard policy on a variety of issues. As the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron Jacksonville, the nation's only Airborne Use of Force squadron, I partnered and worked alongside other Federal Agencies, including DEA, CPB, and Joint Interagency Task Force – South, to combat the transit of illicit drugs into the United States. This, as well as my Chief of Staff experience, allowed me to lead missions that were broad in scope in terms of geography, complexity, and partnerships. I learned that strong partnerships are necessary to successfully accomplish extensive, complex missions and that these partnerships do not just happen; they must be sought out and maintained *before* something bad happens. As the Director of JIATF-West, I

have managed an annual \$30M DoD counter-narcotics budget ensuring that these funds are spent as efficiently and effectively as possible within existing authorities.

I will set a high standard of integrity, stewardship, and transparency in all my affairs and will set clear expectations that those I work with do the same. I will work to strengthen partnerships across the government and civilian agencies to positively influence the strategic direction of the Coast Guard.

20. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

The three greatest challenges facing the Coast Guard today are recapitalizing our assets and infrastructure; recruiting and retaining a skilled and motivated workforce, and maintaining the readiness the American public expects from the Coast Guard.

As the Coast Guard works to recapitalize our surface fleet of cutters and some of our aviation platforms, we face the concurrent challenge of aging shore and C4IT infrastructure; many of our facilities are well past their service life and at risk of failure. The Coast Guard has provided an incredible value to our nation by keeping these facilities working and functional even though outdated. Unfortunately, the challenging budget environment of the past few years has required painful trade-offs that have put us into triage-mode when it comes to the care of these facilities. These budget shortfalls coupled with on-going continuing resolutions severely hamper any effort to modernize or properly maintain our assets and infrastructure. And the longer we delay in procuring new assets and updating our infrastructure, the more expensive it becomes to do so.

The demographics of our country have changed dramatically since I enlisted over 30 years ago. Whether its cyber experts or aviators, we are competing with industry for the same talented people. Combined with the new blended-retirement options available to new members and better job prospects in the civilian sector, the Coast Guard will be challenged to recruit and retain the best and brightest. Our people have always been and will remain our greatest resource; without them even the most sophisticated platform is useless. They are the ones who perform the dangerous work inherent in our missions. As our world becomes more complex and the ships, aircraft, and boats that we operate more sophisticated, it imperative that we recruit and retain the best in order to continue to accomplish the wide variety of complex and dangerous missions we do on a daily basis. As our assets and infrastructure continue to age, it will become more difficult to retain the best and brightest. If confirmed, I would focus on ensuring that we provide those who serve with capable boats, ships, and aircraft to do their jobs and proper facilities in which to work. I will also strive to ensure they have proper medical care, housing, and other support services to keep them and their families healthy and resilient.

The readiness of the Coast Guard is at risk. We cannot continue to respond effectively to the various natural disasters as we have done in the past without proper assets to perform these missions. Our people are ready and willing but they cannot overcome broken ships and aircraft and respond safely and effectively. Whether it's more traffic on the Western rivers, the next major hurricane, or more activity in the Arctic, there is an ever-increasing need for a persistent and capable Coast Guard with modern assets and the right people to operate them.

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 Public Financial Disclosure Report.

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.

None.

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.

None.

5. Describe any activity during the past ten years 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.

None.

6. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics by, or been the subject of a complaint to any court, administrative agency, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain.

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 of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency 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 sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

Yes, as Executive Officer of Air Station Detroit (2006-2008), I was accused of discrimination based on race. An investigation was conducted by the Coast Guard which found that no discrimination took place.

In 2018, I was formally accused of discrimination on the basis of sex (female), race (Asian), ethnicity (Chinese), and reprisal by one subordinate civilian employee. The allegation claimed that I discriminated against this individual when I initiated a Preliminary Inquiry (PI) due to a potential security violation where the employee in question was mistakenly escorted into a SCIF without possessing the proper clearance. The employee claimed the PI was a form of harassment based on her protected classes and reprisal for her prior EEO complaints levied against other co-workers. A Preliminary Inquiry Officer from outside the command was appointed to investigate these claims. Before that investigation commenced, the complainant withdrew her allegations against me. Her withdrawal was due to a global settlement in an unrelated EEOC case.

6. If you ever served as a general court-martial convening authority involving an offense 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?

Not applicable.

7. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

In October, 2012, an anonymous source alleged a number of irregularities and misconduct by the chain of command of Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON), Jacksonville, which I commanded at the time. The Atlantic Area Commander convened an Administrative Investigation and on December 20, 2012, concluded that the allegations were unfounded.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees?

Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers 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.

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

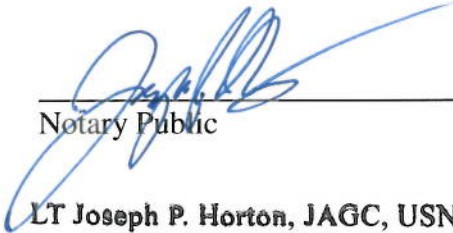
F. AFFIDAVIT

Donna Lea Cottrell being duly sworn, hereby states that ~~he~~ she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of ~~his~~ her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.



Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of February, 2019



Notary Public

LT Joseph P. Horton, JAGC, USN
Legal Assistance Attorney
Notary Public
Under the authority of 10 U.S.C. §1044a
Commission Expires: Indefinite



BIOGRAPHY



JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE WEST

Rear Admiral Donna L. Cottrell United States Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Donna L. Cottrell assumed her current duties as Director, Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF West) on 31 March 2017. A standing Joint Task Force, JIATF West is the U.S. Pacific Command's executive agent for executing Department of Defense counterdrug activities in order to shape the theater and disrupt transnational criminal organizations that threaten U.S. interests in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility.

Rear Admiral Cottrell previously served as the Deputy to the Assistant Commandant for Capability. She was responsible for identifying and sourcing new and extended capabilities, competencies and capacity to meet U. S. Coast Guard Mission Requirements. She also assisted in the development of service-wide policy for Coast Guard staffing, training and equipping.

From 2014 to 2016, Rear Admiral Cottrell served as the USCG District Thirteen Chief of Staff where she directed Coast Guard field and staff activities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana in support of the District Commander's vision and strategy. From 2011 to 2014, Rear Admiral Cottrell commanded Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) in Jacksonville, FL.

Other past assignments include Commanding Officer of Air Station Savannah, Executive Officer at Air Station Detroit, Air Operations Officer at Group-Air Station Atlantic City, and Administration Officer at Air Station Chicago. Rear Admiral Cottrell was also assigned to the Navy Helicopter Training Squadron Eight at NAS Whiting Field, FL where she served as a TH-57 helicopter flight instructor. Rear Admiral Cottrell acquired over 3500 flight hours in four different models of the HH-65 and MH-65 Dolphin helicopter.

In 2004, Rear Admiral Cottrell was assigned to the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center in Elizabeth City, NC where she was Chief of the Information Systems Division and directly responsible for all Information Technology (IT) support for Coast Guard Aviation. Working closely with the Logistics Transformation Project Integration Office (LTPIO), Rear Admiral Cottrell served as the information systems expert tasked with combining the applications used in naval, aeronautical, civil and C4IT programs into one common platform to manage the Coast Guard's logistics program.

In 2006, Rear Admiral Cottrell served as project manager of the Coast Guard Academy Task Force and was a key player in evaluating the governance, leadership training, and character development at the Academy.

Prior to Officer Candidate School in 1987, Rear Admiral Cottrell served as a Boatswain's Mate and Aviation Electronics Technician. After her commission, Rear Admiral Cottrell served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the USCGC STEADFAST.

A native of Wellington, Ohio, Rear Admiral Cottrell (nee Perry) graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1982; from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1997 with a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Science; from The Air Force Institute of Technology in 2004 with a Master of Science degree in Information Resource Management; and from the U. S. Naval War College in 2011 with a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Rear Admiral Cottrell's personal awards include two Legion of Merits, two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

RDML Donna L. Cottrell

Current Assignment

2017 – Present Director, Joint Interagency Task Force - West

Assignment History

2016 – 2017 Deputy, COMDT (CG-7D)
2014 – 2016 D13 Command Cadre, Chief of Staff
2011 – 2014 CG HI Jacksonville, Commanding Officer
2010 – 2011 Naval War College, DUINS
2008 – 2010 CG AIRSTA Savannah, Commanding Officer
2006 – 2008 CG AIRSTA Detroit, Executive Officer
2004 – 2006 ARSC Info Systems, Div Chief
2002 – 2004 Air Force Inst. Technology, Aviation Eng A
1998 – 2002 CG AIRSTA Atlantic City, Aviator - RW
1995 – 1998 CGLO Pensacola, Aviation Instructor
1991 – 1995 CG AIRSTA Chicago
1991 – 1991 CG AIRSTA Mobile
1989 – 1991 CGLO Pensacola (Student)
1987 – 1989 USCGC STEADFAST
1987 – 1987 CG RTC Yorktown-OCS

Educational Summary

2011 Master of Arts, U.S. Naval War College
2004 Master of Science, Air Force Institute of Technology
1998 Master of Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
1982 Bachelor's Degree, Ohio University

Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement

2017 Legion of Merit
2016 Legion of Merit
2014 Legion of Merit
2010 CG Meritorious Service Medal
2006 CG Meritorious Service Medal
2008 CG Commendation Medal
2007 CG Commendation Medal
2002 CG Commendation Medal
1995 Commandant's Letter of Commendation

Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities

2002 FAA Airline Trans Pilot HELO
2005 Project Management Professional