

Bio for LCDR John Egan USCD – rescuer in Deepwater Horizon

LCDR. John T. Egan was the Aircraft Commander of one of several Coast Guard helicopters that responded during the first hours of the rescue of the workers from the BP chartered drilling vessel that had experienced a horrendous accident that resulted in the Mercado Oil spill or termed by some the BP-Gulf Oil Spill. LCDR Egan's quick and heroic actions resulted in the saving of many of the badly burned victims that night for which he was recognized by award of the Coast Guard Air Medal. The air-sea interface is a fascinating study in its self and when it comes to emergency operations and helicopter rescue at sea, none is better than the Coast Guard. In this presentation John has offered to provide us with a more personal and intimate understanding of the initial events, issues, decision points and actions that led to a successful rescue despite the ongoing collapse of the drilling systems that led to one of the largest offshore oil spills ever witnessed in history.

LCDR Egan graduated from the US Coast Guard Academy in 2000 and served on a WW2 era buoy tender, the USCG Cutter Sedge out of Homer, Alaska. Later, he graduated from US Naval Flight School at Pensacola and was assigned flying HH-65 Dolphin helicopters out of the Coast Guard's busiest air-sea rescue unit, Air Station Miami. Near the end of his tour of duty John flew as aircraft commander in some of the first search and rescue sorties in response to the hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Six months later, he transferred to Air station New Orleans became the units lead Flight Instructor and Flight Examiner for MH-65 helicopters and the Air Station's safety officer. His follow on tour included assignment to the Joint Advanced Warfighting School in Norfolk, VA - one of several postgraduate institutions under the National Defense University. His thesis at the school addressed and supported the Coast Guards current strategy for acquiring and implementing operations with unmanned air vehicles. Upon graduation, he was transferred to the Commandant's operations staff specializing in maritime security and anti-terrorism homeland security programs.

LCDR Egan has a Bachelor of Science degree from the US Coast Guard Academy, an MBA from Liberty University, and a Masters of Science in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy from the National Defense University. He is now engaged in an in-depth postgraduate program in homeland security and strategy taught by the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, CA.

John currently resides in Oakton, VA and is married to his wife LT Katie Egan (USCGR) and has a son Coleton and daughters Caitlin and Elizabeth. John is a member of the Coast Guard Aviation Association, St George's United Methodist Church in Fairfax, VA and is an Eagle Scout and is a Master Mason from Juneau-Gasteneaux Lodge 21 F&AM in Juneau, Alaska.