

LT Robert Cooper enlisted in the United States Coast Guard Reserve in 1996 and received his commission as an Ensign in 1998. He currently serves as the Operations Officer at Port Security Unit 309 (PSU 309) in Port Clinton, Ohio. PSU 309 is a rapid mobilization unit primarily responsible for performing expeditionary naval coastal warfare missions, including anti-terrorism and force protection operations, in foreign ports. LT Cooper and his crew of 6 officers and 85 enlisted members are responsible for coordinating and managing waterborne and waterside security operations, as well as all communication needs. Prior to his most recent assignment, LT Cooper served on extended active duty as a Reserve Program Administrator at Integrated Support Command Cleveland, Ohio where he oversaw the administrative and operational readiness of approximately 800 Coast Guard reservists stationed throughout the Great Lakes.

In April 2002, LT Cooper was involuntarily recalled to active duty to supervise the incorporation of a new Maritime Homeland Security Watch into the existing Ninth Coast Guard District Command Center structure. The purpose of this watch was to monitor events, coordinate intelligence reporting, and maintain situational awareness of the entire Great Lakes maritime domain. In February 2003, LT Cooper's active duty orders were amended and he forward-deployed with PSU 309 to Europe and the Middle East in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

In his past reserve assignments, LT Cooper has served as the Communications Officer, Security Officer, Training and Education Services Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Boat Division Officer at PSU 309. After receiving his commission in 1998, LT Cooper also served as the Assistant Administrative Officer at the Port Security Unit Training Detachment located in Port Clinton, Ohio. Before receiving his commission, then Petty Officer Cooper served as a Fire Team Leader with the waterside security division at PSU 309.

LT Cooper's personal military awards include two Coast Guard Commendation medals, a Coast Guard Achievement medal, the National Defense medal, Armed Forces Reserve medal and both the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service medals.

In his spare time, LT Cooper enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf and riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycles. LT Cooper is also very active in numerous professional military associations and veterans organizations. He is currently the acting president of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) Department of Ohio and vice-president of the Naval Services Section. He served as vice-president of the Cleveland Coast Guard Chapter #10 of ROA from August 2002- March 2007. He currently serves as the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Military Officers Club of Central Ohio. LT Cooper is also an active participant on the Ohio Governor's Mobilization Activation Task Force and the Ohio Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee.

LT Cooper has dedicated his life to public service. He is a seasoned law enforcement officer of 16 years and currently works for the Reynoldsburg Division of Police in his civilian employment. LT Cooper is a native of Columbus and currently resides in Canal Winchester with his family. His success would not have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Susan, and three children, Jessica, Steven and Gabrielle.