



LTjg Roland Blake has recently retired after 22 years of service in the United States Coast Guard. His NJROTC experience started in 9th grade when he became a cadet with the NJROTC unit at William R Boone HS in Orlando, FL. He was active all 4 years on the competition Drill Teams, Academic Team, Color Guard, Rifle Team and Athletic teams and reached the position of Alpha Company Commander during his senior year, 1994.

After HS graduation he attended The Citadel in Charleston SC where he was a member of the Rifle Legion Drill Team, Palmetto Battery salute gun team, Regimental Pipe Band and participated in Civil War Reenactment. ROTC was a required course and he completed 1 year with the Navy and 3 with the Air Force. After graduation in 1998 he enlisted in the US Coast Guard and never looked back. For 15 years he was an aircrew member on the HH-65/MH-65 helicopter conducting search and rescue and law enforcement missions. As an E-6 he served for 2 years as a Recruiter in Baltimore MD and then earned his commission as an Ensign in 2015. As an Officer he served as the 1st LT and Operations Officer aboard the USCGC WINSLOW GRIESSER in Puerto Rico for 2 years and then as the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection officer in the Middle East with USCG Patrol Forces Southwest Asia stationed in Bahrain for a 1 year deployment. Upon return to the United States he served in Portland, Maine as a Pollution Response Officer and Enforcement Officer at USCG Sector Northern New England.

"At my retirement ceremony on February 14th, 2020 I am very proud to say that my High School NJROTC Instructor CDR Malcom Roberts and 1 of my HS NJROTC classmates attended the ceremony. NJROTC can change lives and be a part of your life for many many years!"

- Duty Stations: Kodiak, Alaska, Detroit Michigan, Baltimore Maryland, Jacksonville Florida, San Juan Puerto Rico, Manama Bahrain, Portland Maine, Neah Bay Washington.

- Memorable deployments to: Antarctica, Russia, most of the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Oman

- Significant Military Awards include: The Silver Life Saving Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal, GWOT Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, and Antarctic Service Medal