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***LCDR. DAVID E. FLAHERTY***  
***From June 1999 to Present***

Lieutenant Commander David E. Flaherty hails from Plymouth, Massachusetts. He attended the Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, graduating in June 1985 with a B.S. in Marine Engineering. Upon graduation he was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. After attending Surface Warfare Officer's School in Newport, Rhode Island, he reported to USS PONCE (LPD 15) in Norfolk, Virginia in November 1986. During his three-year tour on board PONCE, he served as Weapons Officer.

In June 1995, he activated his commission as a USNR (TAR) Officer. From June 1990 until August 1991, he served on the Staff of Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center and the Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region EIGHT in Jacksonville, Florida in various positions. Following Department Head School, he served as the Engineer Officer on board USS BRISTOL COUNTY (LST 1198) from May 1992 until December 1993.

In December 1993 he became Engineer Officer on board USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49), and was part of the crew which commissioned the ship in January 1994. In June 1996, he reported to Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California earning a Masters of Science Degree in Operations Research. He reported to USS PONCE (LPD 15) as Executive Officer in May 1999.

Lieutenant Commander Flaherty's decorations include: Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of second award; Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star in lieu of fourth award; and various unit and service medals.

Lieutenant Commander Flaherty is married to the former Michelle Ann Leblanc of Pensacola, Florida. They have been married for ten years and have a son, Ryan, five and a daughter, Samantha, who is three years old.