



Jonathan Less

- 1. What made you want to enter military service?** I joined the Coast Guard to fulfill a childhood dream from the time I was in High School. It took me until 37 years old to make it to boot camp. I survived.
- 2. What branch of the military did you join and why?** I joined the Coast Guard to fulfill a childhood dream from the time I was in High School. It took me until 37 years old to make it to boot camp. I originally filled out the application but never followed through with it. When I was given a second chance, I jumped without hesitation.
- 3. How many years did you serve?** I am currently still serving since 2013.
- 4. What was your rank upon discharge?** Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) Special Agent (Currently Serving)
- 5. What has been your greatest achievement in the military?** My greatest achievements have been traveling throughout the United States serving on various details from Force Protection, investigating criminal activity at the military UCMJ level, to Crimes against United States Criminal Code, to boarding vessels on lakes, rivers, and the high seas protecting the Homeland.
- 6. What lesson did you learn while in the military that you still use today?** I learned that no matter your age, the mindset to achieve your goals is always attainable, and you should always be Semper Paratus "Always Ready".
- 7. Did your military service influence your life today?** Yes, and it continues to guide me through the disciplines, principles, and standards that we all swore to.
- 8. Tell us a funny story that could only happen in the military.** So, everybody that knows me know I'm built for speed, not height. I was assigned to Station Venice, LA on a detail, and we were boarding vessels at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The last boarding of the day was a Shark Boat, loaded with a fresh catch. It was my turn to board with the crew, who all stood over 5ft tall. As we finished attempting to talk with the Captain, who at the time didn't speak, due to being struck by lightning 3 times in his life, his nephew explained the amazing stories of survival and I'm listening in awe. After the story telling was over, I turned to check with my Shipmates, and they were already on the boat waiting for me. Well, for those of you who haven't been on a

shark boat, the bow stands 6 feet tall, slicker than Valvoline, there's no climbing out for me. To exit the stern, I would have to climb over an entire boat of sharks. So, after all of the laughing, crying, and me begging my partner for help, and an exchange of a few choice words, I was hoisted (Rescued) by the United States Coast Guard.

9. What duty station did you most enjoy? The most enjoyable was Alaska, then California.

10. Why did you choose your military job specialty? This profession chose me. I am actively serving with the SCSO, and to become a Special Agent with CGIS, I needed investigation experience. After sole searching, I decided to join late in life, and I haven't looked back yet. I've met some of the most interesting people that are not only shipmates, but those I also consider family.