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## *U.S. Coast Guard History Program*

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### **LCDR Kelly (Mogk) Larson, USCG (Ret.)**

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*Office of Public Affairs*  
**13th Coast Guard District**

*U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security*  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



# News Multimedia Release

Date: Dec. 21, 2009  
Contact: 13th Coast Guard District Public  
Affairs  
(206) 220-7237

#### **First female Coast Guard rescue swimmer retires**

SEATTLE - Capt. Anne Ewalt, Chief of Staff for the 13th Coast Guard District, presents a Meritorious Service Medal to Lt. Cmdr. Kelly Larson (formerly Mogk), the 13th District Command Center Chief, during her retirement ceremony here, Dec. 21, 2009.

Larson joined the Coast Guard in 1984 and became the first female to complete Navy Rescue Swimmer School on May 23, 1986.



SEATTLE – Lt. Cmdr. Kelly Larson (formerly Mogk), the 13th Coast Guard District Command Center Chief, stands with her father Lou Mogk, Capt. Anne Ewalt, Chief of Staff for the 13th District and Capt. Salvatore Palmeri, Chief of the Incident Management Branch for the 13th District after being presented her letter of retirement here, Dec. 21, 2009.

Larson joined the Coast Guard in 1984 and became the first female to complete Navy Rescue Swimmer School on May 23, 1986.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara Molle



SEATTLE - Capt. Anne Ewalt, Chief of Staff for the 13th Coast Guard District presents a Meritorious Service Medal to Lt. Cmdr. Kelly Larson (formerly Mogk), the 13th District Command Center Chief, during her retirement ceremony here, Dec. 21, 2009.

Larson joined the Coast Guard in 1984 and became the first female to complete Navy Rescue Swimmer School on May 23, 1986.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara Molle.

SEATTLE — The first female Coast Guard rescue swimmer retired after more than 25 years of distinguished Coast Guard service Monday.

Lt. Cmdr. Kelly Larson (formerly Mogk), the 13th District Command Center Chief, joined the Coast Guard in 1984 and became the first female to complete Navy Rescue Swimmer School on May 23, 1986.

One of Larson's most memorable rescues occurred January of 1989 earning her an Air Medal and an in-person congratulations by then President George H.W. Bush. Larson played a key role during the rescue of a downed Air National Guard F-4 pilot who had ejected over the Pacific Ocean. Her actions included exposing herself to the hypothermic elements to free the downed pilot from his parachute and remaining in the water for a back-up rescue helicopter for transport. This allowed the rescue helicopter to immediately transport the pilot for medical care.

Larson attended Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Va., in 1993, graduating to be commissioned as an ensign in the Coast Guard.

Ten years after becoming the first female Coast Guard rescue swimmer, Larson attended the Navy's Flight Training Command in Pensacola, Fla., earning her second set of aviation wings and became a Coast Guard rescue helicopter pilot.

Larson's list of awards include but are not limited to a Meritorious Service Medal, an Air Medal, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, five Presidential Unit Citations, four Meritorious Unit Citations, the Coast Guard "E" Ribbon, three Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal and two Special Operations Service Awards.

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