



Coast Guard Quick Facts¹

Motto

Semper Paratus “Always Ready”

Background

The Coast Guard was established in 1790. During times of peace it falls under the Department of Homeland Security. Upon the declaration of war or when the President directs, the Coast Guard operates under the authority of the Department of the Navy.

Mission

The mission of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) is to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests in the nation’s ports and waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

Coast Guard missions may include:

- Ports, waterway, and coastal security
- Drug interdiction
- Aids to navigation
- Search and rescue
- Marine safety
- Migrant interdiction
- Marine environmental protection
- Ice operations
- Other law enforcement duties

Organization

The Coast Guard is comprised of an Active and Reserve component and uses a variety of platforms.

- **Aircraft**
 - Fixed-wing aircraft operate from large and small Air Stations. Rotary wing aircraft operate from flight-deck equipped Cutters, Air Stations and Air Facilities.
- **Boats**
 - All vessels under 65 feet in length are classified as boats and usually operate near shore and on inland waterways. Craft include: Motor Lifeboats; Motor Surf Boats; Large Utility Boats; Surf Rescue Boats; Port Security Boats; Aids to Navigation Boats; and a variety of smaller, non-standard boats including Rigid Inflatable Boats.
- **Cutters**
 - A "Cutter" is any Coast Guard vessel 65 feet in length or greater, having adequate accommodations for crew to live on board. Larger cutters (over 179 feet in length) are under control of Area Commands (Atlantic Area or Pacific Area). Cutters at or under 175 feet in length come under control of District Commands.

Values

Three core values of the Coast Guard guide Service members' performance, conduct, and decisions:

- **Honor**
 - Integrity, ethical conduct, and moral behavior are integral to the mission of Coast Guard Service members, as they are loyal and accountable to the public trust.
- **Respect**
 - Service members are expected to treat each other with fairness, dignity, and compassion by encouraging growth, creativity, empowerment, and teamwork.
- **Devotion to Duty**
 - The commitment to responsibility, success, and achievement guides Service members' mission to serve with pride.

References

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¹ For more information, please visit <http://www.uscg.mil/>