



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

January Daily Chronology of Coast Guard History

1 January

- 1808-The law passed by Congress in 1807 prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States went into effect on 1 January 1808. The Revenue Cutter Service enforced the law on the high seas.
- 1850-The light in the Minot's Ledge Lighthouse was first shown. This lighthouse was the first one built in the United States in a position directly exposed to the sweep of the open sea. It was destroyed and two keepers were killed in a great gale in April 1851.
- 1933-Carl C. von Paulsen, a pioneering Coast Guard aviator, and his crew of four rescued a man during a gale off the coast of Florida while flying in Coast Guard seaplane *Arcturus* from Air Station Miami. He and his crew were awarded a Gold Lifesaving Medal, the first Coast Guard aviators to earn the prestigious award.
- 1937-Effective this date, the dividing point between the 6th and 7th Lighthouse Districts on the east coast of Florida was moved northward from Hillsboro Inlet to St. Lucie Inlet to place the new trans-Florida waterway (through Lake Okeechobee) under one jurisdiction.
- 1946-The Coast Guard, which had operated as a service under the Navy since 1 November 1941, was returned to the Treasury Department, pursuant to Executive Order 9666, dated 28 December 1945.
- 1946-The International Load Lines Convention, which had been suspended since 9 August 1941, was restored to full effectiveness by a Presidential proclamation dated 21 December 1945. The Coast Guard assumed the enforcement of the convention's requirements in the interest of safe loading.
- 1954-The "Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1948" commonly known as the "Revised International Rules of the Road" became law. These were a result of the International Conference on the Safety of Life at Sea, 1948.
- 1958-The Coast Guard ceased listening continuously for distress calls on 2670 kilocycles. Although the countries of the world had agreed at the Atlantic City Convention of the International Telecommunication Union in 1947 to use 2182 kilocycles for international maritime mobile radiotelephone calling and distress, the Coast Guard had continued listening on the old frequency until the public had had sufficient time to change to the new one.
- 1967-CGC *Point Gammon* destroyed an enemy trawler in Vietnam.
- 1984-CGC *Westwind* was heavily damaged by ice in Antarctic's Weddell Sea. About 120 feet of the port-side hull was gashed when brash ice forced the ship against a 100-foot sheer ice shelf. The gash was two to three feet wide and was six feet above the water line. The crew made temporary repairs. There were no injuries.
- 1985-CGC *Citrus* was rammed by the M/V *Pacific Star* during a boarding incident. The *Pacific Star* then sank after being scuttled by her crew. There were no casualties. The seven crewmen were arrested on drug charges.
- 1999-The aviation machinist ratings merged with the aviation structural mechanic ratings to form the aviation maintenance technician rating with the designator AMT. The aviation electronics technician rating became the avionics technician rating with the



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designator AVT. The aviation survivalman rating was renamed aviation survival technician.

2 January

- 1892-The British schooner *H. P. Kirkham* wrecked on Rose and Crown Shoal. The crew of seven was rescued after 15 hours of exposure. The lifesaving crew that rescued them was at sea in an open boat without food for 23 hours.
- 1986-Andy Lee Howay was born in flight at 12,000 feet over Gaylord, Michigan aboard Coast Guard HU-25 CGNR 2110 out of Air Station Traverse City. He was born two months premature and weighed 3.5 pounds upon birth. Aboard the aircraft were Captain Martin Niemeroff, USPHS and an obstetrics nurse from Munson Medical Center. Andy attended the retirement ceremony for CGNR 2110 in 2013.

3 January

- 1882-The watch at Station No. 13, Second District, Massachusetts, reported at about 4 p.m., the collision of two schooners, two and a half miles east southeast of the station. Launching the surfboat, the crew proceeded to the vessels. The smaller vessel, the British schooner *Dart*, was boarded first. She was out from Saint John, NB and bound for New York with a cargo of lumber and a crew of four persons. The vessel was badly damaged, having her bowsprit, jib boom, and headgear carried away. The life-saving crew at once set to work. They cleared away the wreck and weighed her anchor, which had been let go in the collision. By this time, the steamer *Hercules*, of Philadelphia had come alongside and *Dart's* master arranged for a tow to Vineyard Haven. The life-saving crew ran the hawser from the schooner to the steamer and sent them on their way. The other schooner, in the meantime, had sailed away.
- 1944-CDR Frank Erickson received an official commendation after he piloted a Sikorsky HNS-1 helicopter that carried two cases of blood plasma lashed to the helicopter's floats from New York City to Sandy Hook, New Jersey, for the treatment of Navy crewmen of the Navy destroyer USS *Turner*, which had exploded and burned off New York harbor. Having performed that heroic deed in violent winds and snow that grounded all other aircraft Erickson became the first pilot in the world to fly a helicopter under such conditions. It was also the first "lifesaving flight" ever performed by a helicopter.
- 2003-CGC *Boutwell* departed Alameda in preparation for supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The cutter began operations in the Arabian Gulf on 14 February 2003. Prior to the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, her crew conducted maritime interception boardings to enforce U.N. sanctions against Iraq. At the outbreak of hostilities and throughout the conflict, she operated in the strategically critical and politically sensitive Khawr Abd Allah and Shaat Al Arab Waterways, providing force protection to the massive coalition fleet, securing Iraqi oil terminals, and preventing the movement of weapons, personnel or equipment by Saddam Hussein's regime or other guerilla or terrorist forces.
- 2014-CGC *Polar Star* received a request from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on 3 January 2014 to assist the Russian-flagged *Akademik Shokalskiy* and Chinese-flagged *Xue Long*, reportedly ice-bound in the Antarctic. The Russian and Chinese governments also requested assistance from the United States. After resupplying in Sydney, *Polar Star* was en route to the stranded vessels on 4 January, enduring 50-knot



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winds, 20-foot seas and 40-degree rolls. The Coast Guard icebreaker left its homeport of Seattle in December 2013 to support Operation Deep Freeze. The ship's mission was to break a channel through the sea ice of McMurdo Sound to allow the resupply and refueling of the U.S. Antarctic Program's McMurdo and Amundsen-Scott South Pole stations. *Polar Star* was released by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority from SAR duties on 7 January 2014, following confirmation that both stricken vessels were free from the Antarctic ice due to a favorable change in wind conditions. The Coast Guard Pacific Area command center received confirmation from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority that both ships broke through the heavy ice, rendering assistance from the *Polar Star* no longer necessary.

4 January

- 1980-Coast Guard forces narrowly averted an environmental disaster when the 300-foot barge *Michelle F*, with more than 2.8 million gallons of No. Six industrial fuel aboard grounded one-half mile offshore from the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge. Much of her cargo was offloaded before she was successfully refloated.
- 2012-CGC *Healy*, under the command of CAPT Beverly Havlik, embarked on an Arctic domestic icebreaking mission to escort the Russian tanker vessel *Renda* through 800 miles of Bering Sea pack ice to deliver 1.3 million gallons of fuel to ice-bound Nome, Alaska. After 10 days of intense, close aboard ice escorting, the two vessels safely arrived on 14 January 2012 and began a successful 60-hour, over-the-ice fuel transfer while hove to in the ice 468 yards offshore of Nome.

5 January

- 1883-At 1 o'clock in the afternoon the crew of the Quoddy Head Station discovered a schooner at anchor. The weather was bitter cold, with a gale from the northwest. The men got the station's boat out and pulled to the vessel. She proved to be *Clara Dinsmore* from Boston. There were four men on board, one of them a passenger. With her sails iced up and splitting, she was in need of assistance. The keeper took charge and got the vessel under way with the sails she had left and beat her up the bay to her destination at 6 in the evening.
- 1975-The "Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC)" *Showa Maru* ran aground in the Straits of Malacca, eight miles from Singapore Harbor, resulting in a major oil spill. At the request of the Japanese Government, 10 Coast Guardsmen from the National Strike Force were sent to Singapore aboard a Military Airlift Command aircraft. In addition to the team, four pumping subsystems of the Coast Guard's Air Deliverable Anti-Pollution Transfer System (ADAPTS) were also airlifted to the scene. The governments of Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia concurred in the request for assistance. This incident marked the second time in a year that the Strike Force responded to the request of a foreign government for assistance, the first being a request by the Chilean government to assist after the grounding of VLCC *Metula* in the Strait of Magellan in August, 1974.

6 January

- 1934-The United States Line SS *Washington* came within inches of ramming the new Light Vessel *No. 117* on the Nantucket Station. The liner scraped the lightship's side,



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shearing off davits, a lifeboat, antennas, etc. Five months later the lightship was sunk by the White Star Line RMS *Olympic* when it rammed the lightship, killing seven of the lightship's crew.

- 1973-The Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut, announced that its cadets were served "meals for the first time by female civilian employees." The Academy had "recently become the first of the nation's service schools to contract their food services to a civilian company." Previously, Coast Guard personnel had done the serving.

7 January

- 1877-The French steamer *Amerique* grounded off Sea Bright, New Jersey. Saved were 189 persons, rescued by the Life-Saving Service crew. Despite their efforts though three died.
- 1947-During Operation Highjump, Coast Guard icebreaker CGC *Northwind* successfully completed the first major rescue mission involving a submarine. USS *Sennet* (SS-408) and supply ships *Yance* and *Merrick* were stuck in ice flow at the Antarctic Circle.
- 1982-LT Colleen A. Cain, the Coast Guard's first female HH-52 helicopter pilot, died in the line of duty when HH-52 *CG-1420*, on which she was co-pilot, crashed into a mountainside 50 miles east of Honolulu. The pilot, LCDR H. W. Johnson, and aircrewman AD2 D. L. Thompson, were also killed.
- 1994-The barge *Morris J. Berman*, carrying a cargo of 750,000 gallons of oil, struck a reef off Puerto Rico. Coast Guard units, including the National Strike Force, responded.

8 January

- 1958-The Coast Guard LORAN Station at Johnston Island began transmitting on a 24-hour basis, thus establishing a new LORAN rate in the Central Pacific. The new rate between Johnston Island and French Frigate Shoal gave a higher order of accuracy for fixing positions in the steamship lanes from Oahu, Hawaii, to Midway Island. In the past, this was impossible in some areas along this important shipping route.
- 2015-The U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards commenced Operation Coal Shovel seasonal domestic ice breaking operations in the southern part of Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair and Detroit River systems, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The mission of Operation Coal Shovel was to quickly reopen the Great Lakes maritime transportation system for the movement of commercial vessels that may become beset in the ice. The previous winter of 2013-2014 presented some of the harshest ice conditions ever recorded in the Great Lakes. At one point during March 2014, 92.5 percent of the Great Lakes were covered by ice; this was the highest percentage of ice coverage seen since 1979. Operation Coal Shovel 2013-2014 started in December 2013 and lasted for a total of 128 days.

9 January

- 1844-The first published and systematic annual report of the Revenue Marine Bureau was transmitted to Congress on 9 January 1844 by the head of the Bureau, Revenue Captain Alexander Fraser, the service's first "Commandant." The report noted that the Revenue Marine consisted of 15 revenue schooners varying in size from 60 to 170 tons. The cutters were stationed at Eastport, Portland, Boston, Newport, New York, Delaware Bay, Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah, Key West, Mobile, New Orleans and



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Lake Erie. The report also noted that the number of personnel of the Revenue Marine consisted of 20 captains, 20 first lieutenants, 20 second lieutenants, 20 third lieutenants, 45 petty officers, 7 pilots, 30 stewards, 15 cooks, and 323 seamen.

- 1945-Coast Guardsmen participated in the liberation of Luzon in the Philippines. Sixteen Coast Guard-manned vessels and seven other Navy vessels with partial Coast Guard crews took part in the offensive.
- 1952-SS *Pennsylvania* broadcasted that she had sustained a 14-foot crack in her port side. A tremendous sea was running, and the wind exceeded 55 miles per hour. The master advised that the vessel was foundering and that 45 men were abandoning ship in four lifeboats 665 miles west of Cape Flattery, WA. The Coast Guard used all the facilities at its command in the area, as well as coordinating the use of U.S. Navy, Air Force, and Royal Canadian Air Force facilities in an attempt to locate and rescue the survivors of the vessel. Fifty-one aircraft from all services and 18 surface vessels participated in the search. Some of the debris was located, including one over-turned lifeboat, but no survivors were found.

10 January

- 1977-CGC *Cape George* received a mayday broadcast from the motor tankship *Chester A. Poling*. The 281-foot tankship was breaking in half in high seas and sinking approximately eight miles ESE of Gloucester Harbor, Massachusetts, with seven POB. CGCs *Cape George*, *Cape Cross*, *Firebush*, *Decisive* and boats from CG Station Gloucester, Point Allerton, and Merrimack River and aircraft from Air Station Cape Cod all responded. *Cape George* arrived on scene and rescued two persons stranded on the bow section. A CG HH-3F rescued the first person from the stern of the tankship and a second crewman fell off the stern while attempting to jump into the rescue basket. At this time the stern section rolled over, throwing the remaining three survivors into the frigid seas. CGC *Cape Cross* moved in and rescued two of the crewmen while the HH-3F rescued a third. The six survivors were taken to Gloucester Station and transferred to a local hospital.

11 January

- 1755/57-Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the U.S. Treasury and the "father" of the U.S. Coast Guard, was born on this day in either 1755 or 1757 in the town of Nevis, British West Indies.
- 1882-At 0900 during a thick snowstorm, the schooner *A.F. Ames* of Rockland, Maine, was bound from Perth Amboy to Boston with a crew of seven persons. She stranded during a thick snowstorm five hundred yards east of Race Point and one mile and three-quarters west of Station No. 6, Second District. The vessel was discovered by the patrol and the life-saving crew boarded her at 0915. She was leaking and pounding heavily. The pumps were manned to keep the water down. The vessel was floated on the rising tide and made sail. She was piloted into deep water. The leak, however, was gaining rapidly. After consulting with the captain, the vessel was put on the beach. The crew was sheltered at the station until the 13th when the keeper sent them to Boston.
- 1991-Coast Guard units responded after receiving a distress call from F/V *Sea King*, a 75-foot stern trawler with four persons on board that was taking on water and in danger of sinking off Peacock Spit near the mouth of the Columbia River. The Coast Guard



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units that responded included a prototype 47-foot MLB, two 44-foot MLBs, the 52-foot MLB *CG-52314 Triumph II*, and a Coast Guard helicopter. Despite valiant efforts to save the vessel, it capsized and sank. Three Coast Guardsmen who went aboard the vessel to assist were safely rescued from the water. Another, MK1 Charles Sexton, an emergency medical technician who went aboard the *Sea King* to assist an injured crewman, was pulled from the water but died 50 minutes after his arrival at a local hospital. MK1 Sexton was posthumously awarded the Coast Guard Medal.

12 January

- 1850-The wreck of *Ayrshire* on occurred on Squan Beach, New Jersey on this date in 1850. All but one of the 202 persons on board were saved by a life car. This was the first recorded use of a life car in the U.S.
- 1943-Coast Guardsmen participated in the landings at Amchitka, Alaska.
- 1961-Two Coast Guard craft from the Cape Disappointment Lifeboat Station [LBS], *CG-40564* and *CG-36454*, answered a call for assistance from the 38-foot crab boat *Mermaid*, with two crew on board, which had lost its rudder near the breakers off Peacock Spit. *CG-40564* located the *Mermaid* and took her in tow. Due to adverse sea conditions the crew of *CG-40564* requested the assistance of *CG-52301 "Triumph,"* stationed at Point Adams LBS, which took up the tow upon her arrival on scene. Heavy breakers capsized *CG-40564* and battered the *CG-36454* but the 36-foot motor lifeboat [MLB] stayed afloat. The crew of *36454* then located and rescued the crew of the *40564* and then made for the Columbia River Lightship. The crew of the *36454* managed to deposit safely all on board the lightship before it too foundered. Soon thereafter a heavy breaker hit *Triumph* which parted the tow line, set the *Mermaid* adrift, and capsized the *Triumph*. The crew of the *Mermaid* then rescued one of the six crewman on board *Triumph*. *CG-36554* and *CG-36535*, also from the Point Adams LBS, then arrived on scene and *36535* took the *Mermaid* in tow. Another large breaker hit, snapping the *36535's* tow line and sinking the *Mermaid*. *CGC Yocona* arrived on scene soon after Coast Guard aircraft UF 2G No. 1273 from Air Station Port Angeles and began searching for survivors. Other CG aircraft, including UF 2G 2131, UF 2G 1240 and HO 4S 1330, arrived and began dropping flares. Foot patrols from the life-boat stations searched the beaches as well and recovered one Coast Guard survivor. Ultimately five Coast Guard crewman, all from MLB *CG-52301 Triumph*, drowned, as did both of the *Mermaid's* crew.
- 1963-*CGC Tupelo*, four Navy and one Ohio State Highway patrol helicopters, *CG-44002D*, three ice skiffs and crews from Marblehead Lifeboat Station, Sandusky Light Station, Lorain Lifeboat Station and a panel truck from Toledo CG Moorings were dispatched to rescue 150 persons reported adrift on an ice floe off Reno Beach, Lake Erie, 10 miles east of Toledo, Ohio during a severe storm that had winds gusting to 40 knots. Four persons, also adrift, reached a breakwater off shore. *Tupelo*, using ship's boats, removed four persons from the breakwater and the panel truck crew passed a line to the ice floe and anchored it to the shore. All 150 persons were brought safely ashore without incident. The helicopters searched the surrounding area to ensure that no others were adrift. Commander Ninth Coast Guard District stated that the prompt action of all the commands and agencies involved averted a "serious catastrophe and sent a 'Well Done' message to all participants."



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- 2009-CGC *Boutwell* departed Alameda, CA, on an around-the-world cruise as part of the USS *Boxer* Expeditionary Strike Group.
- 2010-A severe earthquake struck Haiti. CGCs *Forward*, *Mohawk* and *Tahoma* were the first U.S. assets to arrive on scene at Port au Prince, with *Forward* arriving the morning of 13 January 2010 and *Mohawk* arriving in the afternoon. These units provided air traffic control for military aircraft, conducted damage assessments of the port, and ferried supplies and injured people with embarked boats and helicopters. Other Coast Guard assets began arriving soon thereafter to assist in the recovery efforts, including the CGC *Oak* and aircraft from AIRSTA Clearwater.

13 January

- 1853-The ship *Cornelius Grinnell* grounded in a heavy surf off Squan Beach New Jersey. A surf car was used to rescue safely all 234 persons on board.
- 1925-Congress authorized the Coast Guard to assist in the enforcement of the Alaskan Game Law.
- 1918-Surfmen from the Humboldt Bay Lifesaving Station rescued the 430-man crew of the Navy cruiser USS *Milwaukee* safely after the cruiser ran aground. *Milwaukee* had been attempting to pull a grounded submarine off of Samoa Beach, near Eureka, California, when she too ran aground and was a total loss.
- 1982-Air Florida Flight 90 crashed onto the 14th Street Bridge and then into the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., during a heavy snow storm. Coast Guard units, including cutters *Capstan* and *Madrona*, divers from the Atlantic Strike Team, a helicopter from AIRSTA Elizabeth City, personnel from Curtis Bay, and reservists from Station Washington assisted in the rescue of the five surviving passengers and the recovery of the aircraft's wreckage. The plane crushed several cars on the bridge. All told seventy-four persons lost their lives.

14 January

- 1942-A Coast Guard aircraft, Hall PH-3 No. *V-177*, dropped food to a raft with six survivors of a torpedoed tanker in one of hundreds of such incidents carried out by Coast Guard aircraft during the war. This tanker had been the victim of a German U-boat attack off the coast of the United States.
- 1985-Vice President George Bush made an official visit to Base Miami Beach to extend the thanks of the nation to those involved in Operation Hat Trick, an "all-out" effort to stop smugglers soon after they had left ports in Central and South America. The vice president decorated 15 Coast Guardsmen.
- 2004-CGC *Thetis* rescued three shrimp fishermen from the fishing vessel *Dona Nelly* after they were in the water for 45 minutes after their vessel sank 15 miles off the coast of Brownsville, Texas.

15 January

- 1836-A General Order from the Secretary of the Treasury prescribed that "Blue cloth be substituted for the uniform dress of the officers of the Revenue Cutter Service, instead of grey. . ." thereby ending a controversy that had brewed for years regarding the uniforms of the Service.



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- 1947-The first helicopter flight to the base "Little America" in Antarctica took place. The pilot was LT James A. Cornish, USCG and he carried Chief Photographer's Mate Everett Mashburn as his observer. They flew from CGC *Northwind*.
- 1966-When winds of 30 to 50 knots hit the southern California coast, surface craft off the 11th Coast Guard District rendered assistance to six grounded vessels, three disabled sailboats, and three capsized vessels. They also responded to seven other distress cases. A Coast Guard helicopter played a prominent role in one of the cases by evacuating the five-man crew of the vessel *Trilogy* that had gone aground and broken up on Santa Cruz Island.
- 1974-The first group of women ever enlisted as regulars in the Coast Guard began their 10-week basic training at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May. Thirty-two women were in the initial group and formed Recruit Company Sierra-89.
- 1993-In response to a massive increase in the number of Haitians fleeing their country by sea that began in October, 1991, President-elect William Clinton ordered the commencement of Operation Able Manner on this date in 1993. It was the largest SAR operation ever undertaken by the Coast Guard to that time. Twenty-nine cutters were initially involved, as were aircraft from 10 air stations and five US Navy vessels.

16 January

- 1920-Prohibition, later called the "noble experiment" by President Herbert Hoover, became the law of the land on 16 January 1920, one year after the 36th state ratified the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. Enforcement of the law fell to the Department of the Treasury and the Coast Guard was charged with interdicting the flow of "Demon Rum" at sea before it reached American shores.
- 1944-LT Stewart R. Graham became the first person to make a helicopter take-off and landing aboard a ship underway at sea when he piloted a Sikorsky HNS-1 off of and back on the SS *Daghestan* in the North Atlantic.
- 1948-The list of nominations for appointments and promotions of Coast Guard officers transmitted to Congress by the President on this date represented the first permanent advancements of Coast Guard regular officers since the summer of 1942.
- 1988-Coast Guard units responded to a report of a murder on board the container vessel *Boxer Captain Cook*. The ship's first officer reportedly murdered the captain and threw his body overboard. A boarding party from CGC *Northland*, offloaded onto CGC *Cape York*, boarded the vessel while it was underway on the high seas and captured the suspected murderer and collected evidence of the crime.
- 1990-CGC *Mellon* fired a Harpoon anti-ship missile in a live-fire test, becoming the first cutter to fire the missile.

17 January

- 1832- Treasury Secretary Louis McLane discontinued the practice of hiring unemployed Navy officers as senior Revenue Cutter Service officers. All vacancies from that point forward were to be filled by promotions from within the service. Secretary McLane's actions brought a tremendous boost to morale among Revenue cuttermen as they had long complained about the slow line of promotion caused by unemployed Navy officers "grabbing up" senior positions.



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- 1972-CGC *Storis* seized two Soviet fishing vessels, the 362-foot factory vessel *Lamut* and the 278-foot stern trawler *Kolyvan*, for fishing inside the 12-mile U.S. contiguous zone.
- 1977-DOT Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr., issued licenses to LOOP, Inc., and Seadock, Inc., to own, construct, and operate deepwater ports in the Gulf of Mexico. Both ports were designed to "handle" supertankers.
- 1994-Coast Guard units and family members assisted those in need after an earthquake hit Los Angeles, California.

18 January

- 1884-USRC *Dexter*, under the command of Captain Eric Gabrielson, came to the aid of the stricken steamer *City of Columbus* after it had grounded on the Devil's Bridge rock outcropping off Martha's Vineyard. The cutter maneuvered around the wreckage and launched its small boats to effect rescues. Second Lieutenant John U. Rhodes, First Lieutenant Warrington D. Roath and Third Lieutenant Charles D. Kennedy and volunteers from the cutter's crew distinguished themselves in their rescue efforts. They worked in concert with lifeboats from the Massachusetts Humane Society's Gay Head station. All told 29 passengers and crew were saved out of 132 aboard *City of Columbus*. A local newspaper reported that the *Dexter's* ". . .officers and crew, from the captain to the cabin boy, acted the part of heroes, both at the scene of the wreck and afterwards in caring for the survivors."
- 1938-CGC *Bibb* returned to Norfolk after a 10-day post-trial run from Norfolk to the Virgin Islands and back again with the Commandant, RADM Russell R. Waesche, aboard. During the run *Bibb* went to the aid of the four-masted schooner *Albert F. Paul*, which had lost its topsails and was leaking badly. The *Paul* was taken in tow and *Bibb* proceeded under reduced speed. CGC *Sebago* was contacted by radio and relieved *Bibb* of the tow. During the cruise, "constant communication was maintained between *Bibb* and Radio Station Fort Hunt, Virginia (NMH)."
- 1953-A Coast Guard PBM seaplane crashed off the Chinese coast near Swatow, China during takeoff after having rescued 11 survivors from a ditched U.S. Navy aircraft that had been shot down by Chinese anti-aircraft fire. A total of nine servicemen lost their lives in this second crash, including five of the Coast Guard aircrew. The survivors were later rescued by the USS *Halsey Powell* (DD-686). The entire Coast Guard PBM aircrew were awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal for their actions.
- 1974-Coast Guard units rescued 61 crewmembers from the 551-foot tanker *Keytrader* and the 657-foot Norwegian freighter *Baune* after the two vessels collided on the night of 18 January 1974 in dense fog. Sixteen other crewmembers did not survive. *Keytrader* was carrying 18,000 tons of fuel oil. A 53-foot Coast Guard vessel assisted in fighting the ensuing fire.
- 2003-On 18 January CGC *Walnut* departed from her homeport in Honolulu, Hawaii and began her 10,000 mile transit to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This 45-day transit was completed as quickly as possible with brief stops for fuel and food along the way in Guam, Singapore, Kuwait. The cutter deployed with an oil spill recovery system in the event the regime of Saddam Hussein committed any acts of environmental terrorism. When those threats did not materialize, the cutter then conducted maritime interception operations enforcing U.N. Security Council resolutions, participated in the search for two downed United Kingdom helicopters, and



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patrolled and provided assistance to captured Iraqi offshore oil terminals being secured by Coast Guard port security personnel. The cutter's crew completely replaced 30 buoys and repaired an additional five along the 41-mile Khawr Abd Allah Waterway. This ATON mission vastly improved the navigational safety of the waterway for humanitarian aid, commercial, and military vessels sailing to the port and was a critical step to economic recovery for the people of Iraq.

19 January

- 1935-Chief Warrant Gunner and Naval Aviation Pilot (CWO-GUN; NAP) Charles T. Thrun, USCG, Coast Guard Aviator Number 3, was killed when his Grumman JF-2 Duck crashed at Cape May. CWO Thrun was the first Coast Guard aviator to die in the line of duty.
- 1937-Coast Guard units began flood relief operations in the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys. These operations lasted until 11 March and resulted in the rescue of hundreds of victims and thousands of farm animals.
- 1946-Staged jointly by the Coast Guard and the Navy, the first public demonstration of LORAN was held at Floyd Bennett Field in New York.
- 1949-The tanker *Gulfstream* collided with icebreaker CGC *Eastwind*. The collision and resulting fire killed 13 of *Eastwind's* crew, nine of whom were chief petty officers.
- 1969-CGC *Absecon*, while on ocean station duty, was directed to assist the sinking M/V *Ocean Sprinter*. *Absecon* launched a small boat and rescued all of the merchant vessel's crew. The five Coast Guardsmen manning the small boat received the Coast Guard Medal for their actions.
- 1977-The Coast Guard accepted delivery of CGC *Polar Sea* from Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company, Seattle, Washington. *Polar Sea* was placed "In Commission, Special" on 31 January 1977 under the command of CAPT Richard Cueroni.
- 1996-The tug *Scandia* and its barge, the *North Cape*, ran aground on the shore of Rhode Island, spilling 828,000 gallons of oil. This was the worst spill in that state's history. The Coast Guard rescued the entire crew, pumped off 1.5 million gallons of oil and conducted skimming operations.

20 January

- 1914-The International Ice Patrol Convention was signed.
- 1915-Congress passed the "Act to Create the Coast Guard" on this date in 1915 (38 Stat. L., 800). The act combined the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard. President Woodrow Wilson signed the act on 28 January 1915.
- 1961-During his inaugural parade, President John F. Kennedy noticed that there were no African-Americans in the Coast Guard Academy cadet unit marching in the parade. He told his speechwriter, Richard Goodwin, "That's not acceptable. Something ought to be done about it. Goodwin called Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon the next day and Dillon ordered the Academy "to scrutinize the Academy's recruitment policy to make sure it did not discriminate against blacks."
- 1984-Coast Guard units responded to a six-alarm fire along Boston's waterfront. The fire began early on the morning of 20 January on the Boston and Maine Railroad Bridge directly behind Boston Garden and North Station. The Boston Fire Department



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requested Coast Guard assistance and MSO Boston coordinated the response. Small boats from Station Boston responded while personnel from ATON Team Boston, Support Center Boston, Point Allerton Station, and CGCs *Pendant*, *Chase*, *White Heath*, *Nantucket I* and *Nantucket II* also assisted.

21 January

- 1881-The light was first shown at Tillamook Lighthouse, located 19 miles south of the Columbia River entrance.
- 1969-CGC *Point Banks*, while on patrol south of Cam Rahn Bay, received a call for assistance from a nine-man South Vietnamese (ARVN) detachment trapped by two Vietcong platoons. Petty Officers Willis Goff and Larry Villareal took a 14-foot Boston whaler ashore to rescue the ARVN troops. In the face of heavy automatic weapons fire all nine men were evacuated in two trips. For their actions Goff and Villareal were each awarded the Silver Star. The citation stated, "The nine men would have met almost certain death or capture without the assistance of the two Coast Guardsmen."
- 1982-"Streamlining" plans were put into place when the Commandant, ADM John B. Hayes, announced in ALCOAST 002/82 his plans to consolidate some operations and streamline others to comply with President Ronald Reagan's goals of "greater efficiency in federal spending," and in accordance with Congressional appropriation levels. The service eliminated 35 units, including the West Coast Training Center at Alameda, and consolidated all recruit training to TRACEN Cape May.
- 1984-The tanker *Cepheus* ran aground near Anchorage, Alaska, on the morning of 21 January 1984, spilling 180,000 gallons of jet fuel into Cook Inlet. MSO Anchorage and the Pacific Strike Team responded to the incident and monitored the offloading of the damaged tanker and cleared its passage out of Alaska. The light jet fuel evaporated with little environmental impact.

22 January

- 1944-Coast Guardsmen participated in Operation Shingle--the landings at Anzio-Nettuno, Italy. Coast Guard units involved were USS PC-545 and LSTs 16, 326, 327, and 381.
- 1987-The Coast Guard established the Air Interdiction Facility at Norfolk Naval Air Station. The aircrews flew two loaned Navy E-2C Hawkeye aircraft on narcotics interdiction patrols.

23 January

- 1909-The schooner *Roderick Dhu* was discovered in distress on the bar by a Life-Saving Service patrol from the Point Bonita, California station. The schooner had been in tow by a tug, but parted hawsers when 5 1/2 miles SW of a LSS station. She hoisted a signal, and the keeper reported her condition to the Merchant's Exchange. A tug was sent out and the schooner was towed to sea. The next day she was towed into port, leaking badly, and convoyed by the USRC *McCulloch*.

24 January

- 1968-*Seifu Maru*, a Japanese refrigerator vessel, reported a fire and requested clearance to enter Dutch Harbor, Alaska to combat it. They also reported that two crewmembers



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had been overcome by smoke and requested their evacuation for hospital treatment. Clearance was granted and CGC *Citrus* was ordered to proceed and assist in fighting the fire. The burning ship arrived in Dutch Harbor on Jan 24 and advised that the fire was raging between the decks. Fire fighting parties from *Citrus* began assisting the crew of the Japanese vessel. Coast Guard aircraft evacuated three patients from *Seifu Maru* to Kodiak for hospitalization. The fire assistance rendered by *Citrus* in a four-day operation saved the Japanese vessel.

- 1984-MSO Memphis responded to what appeared to be a routine grounding when three barges being towed down river by the M/V *Karman P.* broke away 40 miles south of Memphis on 24 January 1984. Initial reports passed to MSO Memphis by way of Group Lower Mississippi River said the tank barge APEX-3506, with one million gallons of slurry-grade number six oil had grounded with "no damage and no pollution." After a boarding team arrived and found the barge sinking and having no means to lighten the cargo, they called in the Gulf Strike Team. Eventually, through the efforts of MSO Memphis, Gulf Strike Team, Atlantic Strike Team, National Strike Force Dive Team, and the Navy Superintendent of Salvage as well as a private salvage firm, the barge's cargo was lightened and the barge itself saved.

25 January

- 1799-Having existed essentially nameless for 8-1/2 years, Alexander Hamilton's "system of cutters" was referred to in legislation as "Revenue Cutters." Some decades later, the name evolved to Revenue Cutter Service and Revenue Marine.
- 1940-The ocean station program was formally established on this date in 1940 under orders from President Franklin Roosevelt. The Coast Guard, in cooperation with the U. S. Weather Service, was given responsibility for its establishment and operation. The program was first known as the Atlantic Weather Observation Service and later by thousands of Coast Guardsmen who served after World War II as the "Ocean Station" (OS) program. Cutters were dispatched for 30-day patrols to transmit weather observations and serve as a SAR standby for transoceanic aircraft. The program ended in the 1970s.
- 2004-A helicopter crew from AIRSTA Detroit helped rescue 14 people stranded on an ice floe about one mile west of Catawba Island, Ohio.

26 January

- 1939-Ground was broken for the construction of an air station at Elizabeth City, North Carolina. With the support of Congressman Lindsay Warren and a favorable vote by local county and city officials regarding a bond issue, the land was secured for the new facility which was constructed by the WPA.
- 1953-Coast Guard forces assisted civilian authorities in evacuating 191 persons from the Coxville Valley flood area.
- 1963-The modern Canadian Coast Guard was founded on this date. Their official motto is *Saluti Primum, Auxilio Semper* (Safety First, Service Always).
- 1991-Upon receiving a request from the Saudi government the Bush Administration determined that the Coast Guard would head an interagency team to assist the Saudi government in an oil spill assessment and plan for a clean-up operation after an intentional Iraqi oil spill.



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- 1990-Coast Guard Air Station St. Augustine, home of CGAW-1, was formally commissioned on 26 January 1990. The Navy loaned E2Cs to the Coast Guard for use in the efforts by CGAW-1 to track drug shipments by radar. One E2C, #3501, crashed during a landing at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, on 24 August 1990 and all four crewmen on board were killed. CGAW-1 was disbanded soon thereafter and the remaining E2Cs were returned to the Navy.

27 January

- 1909-The schooner *Nelson Y. McFarland* issued a distress call after dropping anchor near the White Head, Maine, Life-Saving Service station. Although anchored against the tide, she was becalmed, yet her stern swung so close to the ledge that "a change of wind or tide would have thrown the vessel upon the rocks. A pulling boat and crew from the station responded to the call and the men rowed to the ship's aid. After a 3-hours' pull the surfmen succeeded in towing the schooner to a safe anchorage in Seal Harbor."
- 1993-Communications Station Guam received a mayday broadcast from the M/V *East Wood*. The ship's radio operator claimed that the vessel had been taken over by hijackers and that there were 400 people in the vessel's two main cargo holds. Another transmission claimed that 10 persons were going to be thrown overboard. The Coast Guard dispatched an HC-130 from AIRSTA Barbers Point and ordered CGC *Rush* to intercept. A boarding team from the *Rush* seized the vessel and escorted it to an Army installation on the Marshall Islands. There were 527 Chinese nationals and 10 crewmembers aboard. The Chinese nationals were repatriated to China and nine of the crewmen were sent to Indonesia. The 10th crewman was taken to Honolulu to investigate whether prosecution was possible under U.S. law.

28 January

- 1885-Keeper Marcus Hanna of the Cape Elizabeth Light Station saved two men from the wrecked schooner *Australia*. For this rescue Hanna was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal. He was also awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Port Hudson in 1863. He is the only person to have ever received both awards.
- 1915- President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the "Act to Create the Coast Guard," an act passed by Congress on 20 January 1915 that combined the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard (38 Stat. L., 800). The Coast Guard, however, still considers the date of the founding of the Revenue Cutter Service, 4 August 1790, as its official birthday, even though the Lighthouse Service, absorbed in 1939, is even older than that, dating to 7 August 1789. Under the new law the Coast Guard officially became "part of the regular military establishment of the United States."
- 1980- CGC *Blackthorn* sank in Tampa Bay after colliding with the tanker *Capricorn*. Twenty-three Coast Guard personnel were killed in the tragedy.
- 1986- NASA's space shuttle *Challenger* exploded after lift-off, killing the entire crew. Coast Guard units, including the cutters *Dallas*, *Dauntless*, *Harriet Lane*, *Bear*, *Tampa*, *Cherokee*, *Sweetgum*, and *Point Roberts* conducted the initial search and rescue operations and later assisted in the recovery of much of the shuttle's wreckage. Other units included personnel from Station Port Canaveral, air stations Miami, Clearwater, and Savannah as well as Coast Guard reservists and Auxiliarists. *Dallas* served as the



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on-scene commander for what was a joint Coast Guard, NASA, Navy and Air Force search and recovery operation.

- 2003- DoD submitted a request for Coast Guard forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Commandant, ADM Thomas Collins, approved that request and ordered the deployment of eight 110-foot patrol boats, crews, and support units. The cutters were CGCs: *Wrangell*, *Adak*, *Aquidneck*, *Baranof*, *Grand Isle*, *Bainbridge Island*, *Pea Island*, and *Knight Island*.

29 January

- 1919-Ratification of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution occurred on this date in 1919. The amendment prohibited the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcoholic beverages. Its enforcement was authorized by the National Prohibition Enforcement Act, otherwise known as the Volstead Act that was passed on 28 October 1919. The Coast Guard was tasked with the prevention of the maritime importation of illegal alcohol. This led to the largest increase in the size and responsibilities of the service to date.
- 1938-CGC *Bibb* reported for duty in connection with the U.S. Navy exercises held off Culebra, Puerto Rico.
- 1945-The Coast Guard-manned attack cargo vessel USS *Serpens* exploded off Guadalcanal due to unknown causes. Only two men aboard survived. This was the single greatest Coast Guard loss of life in history.
- 1963-CGC *Casco* inaugurated the expanded Ocean Station Vessel Oceanographic Program when it departed for Ocean Station Echo on this date in 1963. *Casco* was outfitted for oceanographic research by the addition of a laboratory space, hydrographic winch and other instruments. As the first Coast Guard Ocean Station Vessel to be so outfitted, *Casco's* mission represented "a significant step on the Coast Guard's participation in the National Oceanographic effort."
- 1980-Local authorities in the Tijuana, Mexico area requested Coast Guard assistance in evacuating flood victims stranded by the rising waters of the San Miguel River. Two HH-3F helicopters from Air Station San Diego transported 180 persons to safety during the two-day operation.

30 January

- 1861-Treasury Secretary John A. Dix ordered Lieutenant. S. B. Caldwell, the second in command of the cutter *McClelland*, "to arrest Capt. Breshwood [the cutter's commanding officer and a Confederate sympathizer] assume command of cutter and if anyone attempts to haul down the flag, shoot him on the spot." The message was not delivered by the telegraph office. Breshwood turned *McClelland* over to the State of Louisiana where the cutter ended up in Confederate service. The northern papers reported the story though and the Secretary's order became a rallying cry in support of the Union's war effort.
- 1942-The capsized wreck of CGC *Alexander Hamilton* was sunk by the Navy after U-132 torpedoed the cutter off the coast of Iceland the previous day. She was the first cutter sunk by enemy action during World War II. Twenty-six of her crew perished in the attack.



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- 1942-USS *Wakefield*, the former passenger liner SS *Manhattan* converted to a troop transport and manned by a Coast Guard crew, transported British troops to Singapore. Having disembarked the troops, she was bombed by Japanese aircraft while still tied up on 30 January 1942. Five of her Coast Guard crew were killed and nine were wounded. After temporary repairs, *Wakefield* evacuated 500 women and children to Bombay before the port fell to the Japanese
- 1979-There was an explosion at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment office at Ponce Playa, Port Ponce, Puerto Rico. The OVPR (Organizacion De Voluntarios Por La Revelucion Puerto Riquena) claimed responsibility. The terrorist attack caused no casualties and little damage to the facility.
- 1982-Coast Guard 8th District units responded to the flooding of the Calcasieu River near Lake Charles, Louisiana. Up river Coast Guard boats searched daily for stranded people and domestic animals. Downriver COTP Port Arthur and Marine Safety Detachment Lake Charles wrestled with the problem of strong currents and four run-away barges that destroyed one bridge and threatened two others.

31 January

- 1942-HMS *Culver* (ex-CGC *Mendota*--one of the "Lake" Class cutters transferred to the Royal Navy in 1941 under the Lend-Lease program) was torpedoed and sunk with only 13 survivors.
- 1948-Mrs. Fannie M. Salter, keeper of the Turkey Point Lighthouse in upper Chesapeake Bay since 1925 and the last woman keeper of a lighthouse in the United States, retired from active service. The first woman had been hired as a lighthouse keeper 150 years before. Salter's retirement temporarily closed the tradition of women serving as keepers at lighthouses.
- 1968-Coast Guard SPAR Chief Storekeeper Mary Ashley Rose retired "after a career of more than 20 years of service in the Coast Guard. Chief Rose is the first enlisted woman to retire from active duty in the Coast Guard."
- 1975-CGC *Vigorous* (WMEC-627) became the first cutter to make a seizure of a foreign-flag fishing vessel in the high seas when she seized the Italian fishing vessel *Tontini Pesca Cuarto* for illegally taking lobster. All of the other fishery seizures prior to this were of vessels that had violated territorial seas (TS) or Contiguous Fishing Zone (CFZ). At the time, *Vigorous* was under the command of CDR Paul Welling, USCG. The arresting officer was ENS S.T. Fuger, Jr., USCG.
- 2001-Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crashed off the coast of California near the Channel Islands, killing all 88 on board. Coast Guard Channel Island Station crewmen responded to the tragedy.
- 2004-The crews of a 47-foot MLB from Station Chincoteague and a rescue helicopter from Air Station Elizabeth City combined to rescue five men after their vessel began taking on water 25 miles east of Chincoteague.