



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

November Daily Chronology of Coast Guard History

1 November

- 1843-Secretary of Treasury Spencer issued new "Rules and Regulations for the governing of the Revenue Cutter Service" that centralized control of personnel, promotion and discipline issues under the Revenue Marine Bureau, but left direct superintendence and direction of the individual cutters with the local Collectors of Customs.
- 1848-The Revenue cutter *C. W. Lawrence* weighed anchor off Washington, D.C. and set sail down the Potomac River. The cutter was commanded by Captain Alexander V. Fraser, the first chief of Revenue Marine Bureau, who left that position to take command of the new brig-rigged cutter. He was ordered to proceed on an epic voyage around Cape Horn via the Hawaiian Islands to San Francisco where the cutter arrived safely on 31 October the following year.
- 1903-The first wireless message was received on board a Revenue cutter. On this date in 1903 USRC *Grant* received a message transmitted by a shore station installed in the U.S. Customs building at Port Townsend, WA. The experimental use of a wireless set to coordinate the movements of a cutter at sea with shore-based stations proved to be a success and led to the wide-spread use of radio by all cutters. The equipment used ashore and on board *Grant* was installed by the Pacific Wireless Telegraph Company.
- 1941-President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 8929 transferred the Coast Guard to the Navy Department.
- 1943-The invasion of Bougainville, Solomon Islands, commenced. Coast Guard units participated in the landings.
- 1949-The authority to reestablish the Women's Reserve of the Coast Guard Reserve (SPARS), approved by the President on 4 August 1949, became effective.
- 1976-A multi-agency task force investigation led by the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department, and including the Los Angeles Police Department, DEA, Customs and the Coast Guard resulted in the seizure of the *Dong Phat* on this date in 1976. CGC *Cape Hedge* seized the vessel and arrested the four persons on board after the vessel delivered contraband to a shore-side connection. ON the beach other members of the task force arrested 10 men and seized 200 boxes of Thai sticks with a street value estimated in excess of \$30 million.
- 1984- The largest marijuana bust to date in West Coast history took place when CGC *Clover* seized the 63-foot yacht *Arrikis* 150 miles southwest of San Diego. The yacht was loaded with 13 tons of marijuana.
- 2013-The Coast Guard completed Arctic Shield 2013. Arctic Shield focused on Western Alaska and the Bering Strait and consisted of a three-pronged approach of operations, outreach and an assessment of the Coast Guard's capabilities in the Arctic. Several cutters were deployed in support of the operation, including CGCs *Polar Star*, *Healy*, *Waeshe*, *Naushon*, and *SPAR*. The crews aboard the various vessels conducted the Coast Guard's statutory missions while providing an operational presence and command and control capability in an area where the Coast Guard lacked the permanent infrastructure of a coastal sector. Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane crews were strategically



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positioned at Eielson AFB in Fairbanks and a forward operating location with MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crews was established at the Alaska National Guard hangar in Kotzebue to conduct search and rescue, law enforcement, and maritime domain awareness flights. Arctic Shield capability assessments included the deployment of a vessel of opportunity skimming system aboard the cutter *SPAR* and a Canadian coast guard vessel. *Healy* conducted their science missions and partnered with the Coast Guard Research and Development Center to evaluate equipment. Personnel tested two small unmanned aircraft systems, an unmanned underwater vehicle, a remotely operated vehicle and a Helix skimmer equipped for oil recovery on ice. *Polar Star* tested the overall readiness of the icebreaker. *Naushon* completed a historic patrol to the region and proved that a Coast Guard patrol boat could operate in the area "in the right season and with proper support," according to RADM Thomas Ostebo, 17th District Commander.

2 November

- 1820-The Revenue cutter *Louisiana* captured five pirate vessels during a cruise from Florida to Cuba.
- 1881-A rowboat with two men and a young girl was going down the Manistee River towards the harbor. It capsized about a hundred feet abreast of Station No. 5, Eleventh District, Lake Michigan. One of the men swam to the dock and was helped out by the life-saving crew. The remaining man tried to swim with his daughter on his back. She began to struggle violently and dragged him under. The keeper pulled off his outer clothing, swam out, caught the father and daughter as they were sinking for the third time, and succeeded in bringing them to the dock where they were helped up by the rest of the crew.
- 1929-The U.S. Marine Corps service football team, the "Bulldogs," defeated the Coast Guard team, the "Bears," in the annual Presidents Cup 19-0. The game was played at Clark Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C. The Coast Guard team was in fact the Destroyer Force football team of New London, Connecticut which had been "nationalized" to represent the entire service.
- 2014-CGC *Alert* returned to Astoria, Oregon, following a counter-drug patrol in the eastern Pacific Ocean off the coast of South and Central America. *Alert's* crew members successfully conducted a 70-day patrol traveling more than 12,600 miles scouring the eastern Pacific Ocean for illicit traffickers using their two small boats and armed helicopter from Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron from Jacksonville, Florida. *Alert's* crew interdicted three suspected vessels, detained 15 suspected smugglers, and seized over 3,180 pounds of cocaine.

3 November

- 1883-The keeper and crew of the Smith's Island Station, Virginia (Fifth District), saw a small schooner flying a signal near Isaac Shoal, five miles away from the station. They went out to her and found on board the captain of a sloop that wrecked the night before several miles from land. He had succeeded in swimming to a bar near the beach, where he was picked up by the crew of the schooner. Finding him suffering from exposure they signaled for assistance. The lifesaving crew applied bottles of hot water and resuscitated



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him. They then landed him in the surfboat and cared for him for six days until he was sent to his home.

4 November

- 1984-CGC *Northwind* seized the P/C *Alexi I* off Jamaica for carrying 20 tons of marijuana, becoming the first icebreaker to make a narcotics seizure.

5 November

- 1897-Rescue from drowning Chicago. Illinois, Lake Michigan: at 9: 30 p.m. the north patrol saw a man run across the driveway and jump into the lake with suicidal intent. The surf knocked him down and was tossing him about when surfmen rushed in and hauled him out.
- 1976-The Coast Guard awarded a contract to Tacoma Shipbuilding Company, Inc., of Tacoma, Washington, for the construction of four 140-foot WYTM icebreaking tugs.
- 2001- Six U.S. Navy Cyclone-Class patrol coastal warships were assigned to Operation Noble Eagle on 5 November 2001. This was the first time since World War II that U.S. Navy ships were employed jointly with the U.S. Coast Guard to help protect our nation's coastline, ports and waterways.
- 2013-CGC *Healy* moored in Seattle, Washington, after completing a 117-day deployment in the Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, and Arctic Ocean. During that time, *Healy's* crew of 88 successfully conducted three science missions and one Coast Guard mission to further the nation's scientific knowledge of the Arctic. The first science mission was a multidisciplinary study sponsored by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management 90 miles west of Barrow, Alaska, near Hanna Shoal. Science members collected pelagic and benthic chemical and biological samples, observed physical oceanographic properties, and analyzed the data to establish an ecological baseline for the highly productive and biodiverse area. The second science mission was a study sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) along the North Slope in the Beaufort Sea and in Canada's Amundsen Gulf. The science party focused on identifying geological evidence of a massive flood near the Mackenzie River that occurred about 13,000 years ago and had profound effects on global climate. The third mission was sponsored by the Coast Guard Research and Development Center and took place near and in the ice pack. This mission's focus was to assess the ability of current technologies to respond to oil spills in the Arctic. The technologies included an unmanned aerial system, an unmanned underwater vehicle, an oil recovery skimmer, and a remotely operated vehicle. The fourth science mission of the deployment was sponsored by NSF and took *Healy* north of Barrow on the North Slope and as far east as Amundsen Gulf. The primary mission objectives were to recover, service, and redeploy a series of scientific moorings anchored to the seafloor.

6 November

- 1882-At half past 4 in the afternoon the lookout at Station No. 8, Tenth District (Forty Mile Point, Hammond's Bay Lake Huron) discovered a small boat north of the station about six miles distant, drifting out into the lake apparently unmanageable. Two of the life-saving crew put off in a sailboat. The boat was reached at about dusk, some miles out from the land, with a man and a boy in it. Both were wet and nearly perished with



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the cold. Their boat was half full of water. They were at once transferred to the rescuing boat and their frail craft was taken in tow to the station.

- 1984-The Coast Guard accepted operational control from the Navy of the SES-200, a Surface Effect Ship, for five months of operational evaluations.
- 2008-Portsmouth-based CGC *Harriet Lane* returned to homeport following a 37-day living marine resources patrol in support of Operation Atlantic Venture in the North Atlantic Ocean. *Harriet Lane's* patrol highlights included 17 fisheries enforcement boardings on commercial fishing vessels, the issuance of one living marine resources violation, one narcotics seizure, 25 hours of small boat training as well as assisting the disabled 25-foot P/C *Playin' Hooky*, which was disabled 50 nautical miles off the coast of Virginia. The cutter also assisted the F/Vs *Chief* and *Clyde II* which were disabled east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. *Harriet Lane* towed both vessels nearly 250 nautical miles to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

7 November

- 1950-The Coast Guard announced that it would open a limited number of Organized Reserve enlistments to male veterans of other services and to males without previous military service in an effort to bring Coast Guard port security training units up to authorized strength without delay. Heretofore, such enlistments had been offered only to former Coast Guardsmen.
- 1984-The tank ship *Mara Hope* suffered a fire in her engine room that quickly got out of control. She had lain idle at the Coastal Marine Shipyard on the Neches River for more than a year but the owners of the Liberian tank ship had crewed the vessel and were working to reactivate the ship when the fire broke out. Coast Guard personnel and a 32-footer from MSO Port Arthur soon arrived on-scene as did a 41-footer from Station Sabine. Local firefighters also assisted. It took almost three days to get the blaze under control. The ship was declared a total loss. There were no serious casualties.

8 November

- 1942- Operation Torch, the Allied landings in Vichy-French-held North Africa, commenced. Coast Guard-manned Navy vessels participated in the assault, including the attack transports USS *Leonard Wood*, *Joseph T. Dickman*, and *Samuel Chase*. Coast Guardsmen also manned the landing craft on the Navy's USS *Arcturus*, *Charles Carroll*, *Joseph Hewes*, *William P. Biddle* and *Exceller*.
- After making contact with CGC *Minnetonka* on Ocean Station November Pan Am Flight 90944 *Romance of the Skies* was not heard of again. Wreckage of the aircraft was later found approx 90 miles of the ocean station. No survivors were found.
- 1959- The tanker *Amoco Virginia*, with a cargo of aviation gasoline, exploded and caught fire at Houston, Texas. U.S. Coast Guard units in the Galveston-Houston area assisted local and Federal agencies in extinguishing the blaze. For 10 more days, Coast Guard air and surface units controlled a dangerous situation by spreading foam to reduce the fire hazard of leaking aviation gas, directing harbor traffic, pumping out the damaged vessel, and moving her to a safe dock.
- 1979-The crew of Coast Guard LORAN Station St. Paul Island, Alaska, rescued the crew of the Japanese factory fishing vessel *Ryuyo Maru NR Two* which had run aground near



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Tolstoi Point on St. Paul Island during a storm. The Coast Guardsmen used a makeshift breeches buoy to effect the rescue of all of the 81 crewmen aboard the fishing vessel.

9 November

- 1970-The installation of the Coast Guard's Control Data Corporation 3300 Computer System at Headquarters was completed on 9 November 1970. A period of system acceptance testing was satisfactorily completed and the computer system was then accepted for use by the Coast Guard.

10 November

- 1775-The official birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps: on this date in 1775 the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution to create a "Corps of Marines." Although they were disbanded in 1783 and were not re-established permanently until 11 July 1798 the Marine Corps recognizes 10 November 1775 as its official birthday. The Marine Corps' motto is *Semper Fidelis* (Always Faithful). On 21 October 1921, Major Edwin McClellan, Officer-in-Charge, Historical Section, Headquarters Marine Corps, sent a memorandum to Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting that the original birthday on 10 November 1775 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps.
- 1913-Lightship No. 82 was lost with all hands during a gale while on station near Buffalo, New York. Six crewmen were aboard when the lightship went down. LV-82 was commanded by Hugh M. Williams, Master.
- 1975- The Great Lakes ore-carrier *Edmund Fitzgerald*, caught in an unexpected storm on Lake Superior, sank with a loss of all 29 hands. Coast Guard units helped conduct a search for the ship and survivors although all efforts proved to be futile.
- 2014-CGC *Reliance* returned to its homeport at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine, following a nine-week patrol in the Caribbean Sea supporting the Joint Interagency Task Force-South. During the deployment, the 75-member crew of *Reliance* was responsible for conducting counter drug operations in support of U.S. and international law. *Reliance* sailed with an aviation detachment from the Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron based in Jacksonville, Florida. The cutter worked directly with federal and international partners at JIATF-S and the Coast Guard Seventh District to combat transnational organized crime networks operating in the Caribbean Basin. *Reliance's* efforts directly contributed to the prevention of 14 metric tons of contraband from reaching American shores. During the *Reliance's* 63-day deployment, the cutter traveled over 6,000 miles, conducted three law enforcement boardings and conducted more than 100 helicopter launch and recovery evolutions while operating throughout the Western Caribbean.

11 November

- 1881-The crew of Life-boat Station No. 14, Eleventh District (Racine, WI) rendered service during the severest storm of the season The life-saving crew noticed several vessels running north for safety under bare poles and two of them made safely into the harbor. Observing this, the master of the schooner *Lavinda* tried to make the same haven, but the vessel became unmanageable, struck the south pier, immediately became waterlogged, and in five minutes was a wreck. The life-saving crew sprang for the



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lifeboat and put out to her assistance. They got alongside and managed to run a line from the wrecked vessel to the station tug *H. Wetzel*, which had steamed out to her relief. The tug soon towed her into the harbor.

- 1918-The Allied powers signed a cease-fire agreement with Germany at Rethondes, France on November 11, 1918, bringing World War I to a close. Between the wars November 11 was commemorated as Armistice Day in the United States, Great Britain, and France. After World War II, the holiday was recognized as a day of tribute to veterans of both world wars. Beginning in 1954, the United States designated November 11 as Veterans Day to honor veterans of all U.S. wars. Over 8,000 Coast Guardsmen served during the World War I and 111 were killed in action with the enemy.
- 1955-CGC *Yocona* rescued the crew of the sinking fishing vessel *Ocean Pride* some 50 miles off Cape Lookout, Oregon. When 60 to 70 mph winds and heavy seas with 30 feet swells made it impossible to launch lifeboats, *Yocona* came close aboard the sinking fishing vessel to allow all of its crew members to jump on board the cutter to safety.

12 November

- 1882-On 11 November the steam-barge *H.C. Schnoor* struck on the bar off Alcona at 11 o'clock at night about three hundred yards from the shore. A strong southeast gale prevailed at the time, and there was a heavy sea. At 8 o'clock in the morning of the next day (November 12) a team came with the news from Alcona to Station No. 5, Tenth District, (Sturgeon Point), about four miles and a half from the scene of the disaster. After a half-hour for preparation, the keeper was on the road with two teams, one bearing the wreck ordnance and the other the surfboat. An hour later they arrived and launched the surfboat. The surf, however, was so heavy that they failed to get alongside the barge and they were obliged to return. The wreck-gun was then used. The gear, having been set up, the mate was brought ashore by the breeches-buoy. As the crew was obliged to work from a point of land so narrow that they could not spread sufficiently to keep the lines apart, they twisted. The heavy current caused the lee part of the whip-line to foul with the hawser. Before the lines could be cleared, however, the wind changed and beat down the sea. The surfboat was launched and took the captain (who had been on shore at Alcona) and the mate back to the barge. The immediate danger ended with the subsidence of the sea. The life-saving crew returned to the station.

13 November

- 1883-The sloop *Madge Schults* capsized as she was passing in through Rockaway Inlet, about half a mile distant from the Rockaway Point Station (Third District). The only crewman of the sloop clung to the bottom of his craft and made signals for help. They were seen by the lookout at the station and the life-saving crew went off in their boat. He was taken from the water and landed on Barren Island.
- 1944-The Coast Guard-manned frigate USS *Rockford* and the Navy minesweeper USS *Ardent* attacked and sank the Japanese Navy submarine *I-12* mid-way between Hawaii and California. There were no survivors. In sinking *I-12*, *Ardent* and *Rockford* unwittingly avenged the atrocity *I-12* had perpetrated on 30 October 1944 when, after sinking the Liberty Ship *John A. Johnson*, the submarine rammed and sank the lifeboats and rafts and then machine-gunned the 70 survivors.



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- 2005-The first rescue using the new Rescue 21 command, control and communications system took place off Ocean City, Maryland. All three persons on board a swamped 20-foot fishing boat were safely rescued.
- 2014-The first Alenia C-27J to complete the Coast Guard's regeneration process arrived at the C-27J Asset Project Office in Elizabeth City, North Carolina on this date in 2014, where it was to be used to train and qualify Coast Guard aircrew and maintenance personnel, as well as develop flight and maintenance procedures for Coast Guard-specific mission profiles. Ultimately the aircraft would receive the equipment and systems needed to perform the full spectrum of Coast Guard missions.

14 November

- 1963- Coast Guard air and surface rescue craft responded immediately when the freighter *Fernview* and the tanker *Dynafuel* collided in Buzzards Bay. While helicopters removed the injured aboard the stricken ships, surface craft extinguished the fires. These Coast Guard units had completed the evacuation of all aboard the disabled vessels before the *Dynafuel* capsized and sank.
- 1990- PSU 302, staffed by reservists from Cleveland, Ohio, arrived in the Persian Gulf in support of operation Desert Shield. They were stationed in Bahrain.
- 1991- An HH-60J Jayhawk from Aviation Training Center Mobile participated in a search and rescue operation off the coast of Alabama, the first such case conducted by an HH-60J, which was just beginning to enter Coast Guard service.
- 2008-The Coast Guard received a report of a homemade migrant vessel heading north towards the Marquesas Keys 30 miles west of Key West, Florida. An RB-M was dispatched from Sector Key West to intercept the vessel, with a smaller special purpose boat capable of making shallow water pick-ups following the RB-M to the scene. A Special Purpose Craft – Law Enforcement (SPC-LE) was also dispatched to assist. The RB-M arrived first on scene to find the small, outboard-driven vessel about two miles southwest of the Marquesas Keys making an attempt to go ashore. Though the vessel proved to be fairly agile and was quickly closing the distance to shore, the RB-M used its speed and maneuverability to “shoulder” the vessel, keeping it in deeper water until it could be disabled. Using a boat hook, the RB-M crew disconnected the fuel line to the outboard engine, rendering it inoperable. The fourteen migrants aboard were then safely removed from the vessel.

15 November

- 1860-The light in the massive stone Minot's Ledge Lighthouse, which was built on the original site of the one lost in 1851, was exhibited. Work on the new lighthouse commenced in 1855 and finished in 1860. "It ranks, by the engineering difficulties surrounding its erection and by the skill and science shown in the details of its construction, among the chief of the great sea-rock lighthouses of the world."
- 1929-On the night of 15 November 1929, the SS *Briton* came ashore at Point Abino, Lake Erie, and was in danger of breaking up. Coast Guard patrol boat CG-164, under the command of BMC Clarence C. Kimball, safely rescued all 27 persons on board the stricken vessel.
- 1977-Coast Guard UTB-41332 from Station Cape Disappointment capsized in the Columbia River during a night training exercise. The UTB sank after the current swept



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it past the Columbia River Lightship. Three Coast Guardsmen were killed in the accident: BM3 Greg Morris, BM3 Ray Erb and SN Albin Erickson.

- 1977-CGC *Polar Star* departed Seattle en route Antarctica for ice tests and operational tasking in connection with Operation Deep Freeze. *Polar Star* recently completed installation of modified propellers and open water engineering trails in the Seattle area.

16 November

- 1929-CGC *Itasca* slid down the ways of the General Engineering and Drydock Company in Oakland, California on this date in 1929. Ms. Jean Lyans christened the new 250-Lake Class cutter. Ms. Lyans was nominated for the task by Representative Homer Hoch, of Kansas, a "great friend of the Coast Guard." The Lake-Class cutters, ten in all, were designed in-house by the Coast Guard and were propelled by a turbine-driven electric motor. All ten were transferred to the Royal Navy under Lend Lease in the spring of 1941.
- 1950-The *Serpen's* monument in Arlington National Cemetery was dedicated on 16 November 1950. The monument was placed on the gravesite of those who lost their lives on the night of 29 January 1945 when USS *Serpens* was destroyed off Lunga Beach, Guadalcanal. This was the largest single disaster suffered by the Coast Guard in World War II.
- 1992: CGC *Storis* became the cutter with the longest service in the Bering Sea, eclipsing the U.S. Revenue Cutter *Bear* which had held that distinction since 1929. *Bear* was decommissioned in 1929 after serving in the Bering Sea for 44 years and two months.

17 November

- 1791-Secretary of Treasury Hamilton fixed the value of rations at a "generous" 12 cents per day for each man in Revenue Marine.
- 1973-The "Largest Icebreaker in the Western World," CGC *Polar Star*, was launched.
- 1982-President Ronald Reagan visited the CGC *Dauntless* and awarded the cutter and crew the Coast Guard Unit Commendation for their work during the period of July, 1980 to July, 1982. President Reagan wrote in the *Record of Inspections*: "Aboard 'Dauntless' -- a proud ship with an impressive crew." This was the first visit by a U.S. president aboard a cutter in 19 years.
- 1983- LT Edith Munro, USCGR, a World War II SPAR veteran and the mother of Coast Guard hero Douglas Munro, passed away at the age of 88.

18 November

- 1953- Heavy rains in the Coquille, Coos, and Willamette River Valleys of western Oregon caused flooding of the lowland areas and isolation of some towns through the blocking of highways by slides and high water, necessitating the evacuation of families and livestock. A Coast Guard relief detail of boats, men, and aircraft participated in relief assistance measures, cooperating with the Red Cross and civil authorities.
- 1999- The 605-foot Russian freighter *Sergo Zakariadze*, loaded with a cargo of cement dust, ran aground at the entrance to San Juan harbor, Puerto Rico. Coast Guard Strike Team, MSO San Juan, Greater Antilles Section, among others, responded to the accident.



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19 November

- 1943-CG Air Station at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York, was designated as a helicopter training base. The Coast Guard ran the training program during the war.
- 1984- The Coast Guard accepted the new HH-65A Dolphin helicopter for service.
- 2008-CGC *Vigorous* returned to its homeport of Cape May, New Jersey, after "a productive 56-day deployment in the Caribbean Sea. . .Patrol highlights include law enforcement boardings, search and rescue operations as well as successfully completing Tailored Ship's Training Availability."

20 November

- 1943-Landings commenced at Makin and Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. The Coast Guard-manned assault transport USS *Leonard Wood*, veteran of the landings made in the Mediterranean, participated. She landed 1,788 officers and men of the 165th Combat Team of the U.S. Army's 27th Division, on Makin Island. Coast Guard-manned *LST-20*, *LST-23*, *LST-69*, *LST-169*, *LST-205*, and the USS *Arthur Middleton*, and the following Navy ships with partial Coast Guard crews: USSs *Heywood*, *Bellatrix*, and *William P. Biddle*, participated in the bloody assault of Tarawa.

21 November

- 1970-Two 378-foot cutters, CGC *Sherman* and *Rush*, combined with USS *Endurance* to attack and sink a North Vietnamese trawler attempting to smuggle arms into South Vietnam.
- 1995-CGC *Decisive* located and began tracking a 75-foot freighter packed with Haitian migrants 30 miles off the northwest coast of Haiti on 19 November. The cutter followed the freighter for two days as it maneuvered in and out of Cuban territorial seas, refusing to allow a boarding party aboard. Finally, at noon, 21 November, with CGC *Northland* having joined the chase, the captain of the freighter allowed a boarding team to come aboard where they discovered 516 migrants. Using small boats from both cutters, the migrants were brought aboard *Northland* and were repatriated.
- 2014-Watchstanders at the Coast Guard 7th District command center received a report from a tug stating they heard a distress call from a vessel claiming to be taking on water off the coast of Great Inagua, Bahamas. A Coast Guard MH-60 crew deployed in support of Operations Bahamas, Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) launched and located the coastal freighter *Calypso* approximately 50 miles off the coast of Great Inagua. The helicopter crew lowered a rescue swimmer down with a dewatering pump. *Calypso* began to slowly transit to the coast of Haiti to investigate the source of the flooding. At approximately 12:30 p.m. CGC *Charles Sexton* arrived on scene and Coast Guard crewmembers were transferred to the freighter and assisted with the dewatering of the vessel. The freighter began to list on the right side due to the amount of water in the lower compartments. To ensure the safety of everyone aboard, all seven crewmembers were removed and transferred to the cutter *Sexton* with no medical concerns. CGC *Thetis* arrived on scene at approximately 7 p.m. and safely transferred the seven crewmembers from *Sexton* to *Thetis*. At approximately 7:30 p.m., crewmembers from the cutter *Thetis* reported seeing the freighter *Calypso* continue to list on the right side before sinking approximately 45 miles north of Cap Haitien, Haiti.



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22 November

- 1906-At the second International Radio Telegraphic Convention, which was held in Berlin, the attendees agreed to adopt the wireless signal "SOS" as the internationally recognized signal for distress at sea. Their thinking was that three dots, three dashes and three dots could not be misinterpreted.
- 1953-A great boon to ocean navigation for aircraft surface vessels was the completion of four new LORAN stations in the Far East. The stations were built at Mikayo Jima, Ryuku Islands; Bataan and Cantanduanes Islands, Philippines; and Anguar, Palau Island in the Carolinas chain.
- 1968- On 22 November 1968, a DC-8 with 107 persons on board disappeared from the radar during final approach to San Francisco International Airport. Visibility was 3/4-mile in fog and the ceiling was 300 feet. A Coast Guard helicopter located the aircraft in the water 6,100 yards from the runway with people on the wings boarding life rafts. Within seven minutes, two additional helicopters and a Coast Guard boat were on the scene. All 107 persons were saved.
- 1993-NATO began enforcing United Nations' Resolutions 713 and 757 that set in place an embargo against the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Four Coast Guard LEDETs were deployed to Southern Europe to support the operation and were placed aboard NATO warships.
- 2015-CGC *Waesche* returned to its homeport at Coast Guard Island in Alameda after a 106-day deployment. *Waesche* departed Alameda in August on its 18,000-mile deployment ranging from the coast of Southern California to the Arctic Ocean, and the Bering Sea. During this deployment, *Waesche's* crew completed two weeks of weapons system testing and certification, patrolled the Arctic in support of Operation Arctic Shield, and enforced federal fisheries laws and safety regulations in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. Law enforcement personnel aboard the cutter conducted numerous at-sea boardings of fishing vessels to ensure compliance with federal fisheries regulations and conduct spot checks of required safety equipment. The cutter patrolled in the Arctic, furthering national strategic goals by enhancing maritime domain awareness and improving preparedness, prevention, and response capabilities in the region. While in the Bering Sea, *Waesche* assisted in a search-and-rescue case that resulted in the successful medical evacuation of an ailing fisherman. *Waesche* crewmembers worked closely with the communities of Dutch Harbor and Barrow, Alaska while in the area. The crew hosted community leaders from Barrow aboard the cutter to discuss the rapidly evolving economic landscape in the Arctic and volunteered during their time ashore to complete several community service projects in the community of Dutch Harbor.

23 November

- 1942-The Coast Guard Women's Reserve, known as SPARs, was organized.
- 1970-Simas I. Kudirka, a Lithuanian seaman, attempted to defect from his Soviet fishing vessel to CGC *Vigilant*. The incident occurred during a meeting near Martha's Vineyard between the Soviets and the U.S. on fishing rights. After consulting with the First District command, the cutter's commanding officer allowed Soviet crewmen to board the cutter and forcibly remove Kudirka.
- 2014-While on a routine patrol, a Joint Interagency Taskforce South maritime patrol aircraft crew detected a go-fast vessel south of Haiti heading north at 15 knots with fuel



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barrels and possible contraband on board. Watchstanders from the Coast Guard 7th District Command Center directed HMS *Argyll* to intercept and conduct a boarding of the vessel. The go-fast began to jettison objects and *Argyll* launched both of its smallboats. Shortly after, the go-fast vessel with four suspected smugglers aboard became compliant and was boarded by a U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement team assigned to *Argyll*. The Royal Navy warship's crew recovered 29 bales of contraband the suspects jettisoned into the water. All bales later tested positive for cocaine. The smuggling vessel was destroyed as a hazard to navigation. In a separate case, the Coast Guard LEDET and crew of *Argyll* teamed to seize 216 kilograms of cocaine after a Dutch maritime patrol aircraft detected a suspect go-fast and vectored *Argyll* to the vessel's location on 23 November 2014. The go-fast vessel was stopped and two suspects were taken into custody. The contraband was offloaded in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

24 November

- 2015-CGC *Bertholf* returned to its homeport of Alameda after completing a 104-day multi-mission deployment in which the cutter seized over \$455 million worth of illegal narcotics. *Bertholf* was deployed to the Eastern Pacific Ocean in support of Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S) Operation Martillo. During this phase the cutter's crew boarded and seized 11 smuggling vessels, detained 32 suspected narco-traffickers, and prevented more than 30,000 pounds of illegal narcotics from reaching U.S. shores. The cutter's success on the recent deployment showcases the stamina and flexibility of *Bertholf's* hard-working crew, highlighted by the cutter's interdiction of a self-propelled semi-submersible (SPSS). *Bertholf's* boarding teams achieved complete surprise in taking control of the stealthy vessel, and spent over two full days onboard the SPSS ultimately recovering over 15,000 pounds of narcotics. At another point during the deployment, the cutter's crew pursued nine different go-fast vessels on the high seas in less than seven days. The successful interdictions were enabled by the cutter's interoperability with other Coast Guard units, as well as assets from the Department of Defense and other agencies supporting the JIATF-S mission. For a portion of the deployment, the cutter traveled to Valparaiso, Chile in support of UNITAS 2015, a multinational naval exercise, partnering with naval forces from 11 countries, including the U.S. Navy. *Bertholf's* boarding teams conducted joint interdiction operations with Chilean and Mexican forces, boarding simulated rogue merchant vessels to seize smuggled weapons of mass destruction components as part of an international task force.

25 November

- 1968-M/V *Triple Crown* foundered off the coast of Southern California with a loss of nine lives while retrieving the anchor and chain of a large offshore drilling rig. The Coast Guard investigated.
- 1999-Elian Gonzalez, a five-year old Cuban boy, was found on Thanksgiving morning clinging to an inner tube three miles off the coast of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was among three survivors of a boating accident which killed 11 migrants fleeing Cuba. The Coast Guard searched from Islamorada to Boca Raton, using a HU-25 and a HH-65 from Air Station Miami, a HC-130 from Air Station Clearwater, CGC *Maui*, and a 41-foot UTB from Station Fort Lauderdale. The child later gained international notoriety when



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his father, a Cuban citizen, attempted to have him returned to Cuba, a desire that Elian's relatives in the U.S. fought through the U.S. court system all the way to the Supreme Court. The Court ruled in his father's favor and the child was returned to Cuba.

26 November

- 1964-The Israeli passenger liner *Shalom* and the Norwegian tanker *Stolt Dagali* collided off Point Pleasant, New Jersey in a dense fog. Nineteen tanker crewmen were killed in the collision which sliced the tanker into two pieces. CGC *Point Arden* was the first on scene. Five other cutters and "a fleet" of Coast Guard and Navy helicopters soon joined in the rescue and salvage operations, resulting in the rescue of 24 of the tanker's crew. One injured *Shalom* crewman was airlifted by a Coast Guard helicopter for medical treatment and survived. No one else from the liner was injured.
- 1968-While en route from Apia, Western Samoa to Pago Pago, Polynesian Airlines Flight 5WFAA sighted the wreckage of an overturned vessel and reported it to the Federal Aviation Agency Flight Service at Tafuna, American Samoa. CGC *Cape Providence*, moored at Pago Pago on search and rescue standby, was notified of the sighting. With an assist from the Polynesian airliner, the cutter located the disabled fishing vessel named *Main Sun No.2* and found 17 survivors clinging to the overturned hull. Despite the rough seas breaking over the hull, the *Cape Providence* rescued 13 of the survivors, while 4 more were retrieved from the water by the fishing vessel *Chie Hong No.20*, which had arrived on scene to assist. Two members of the 19-man crew, however, had been trapped in the engine room on the capsized vessel and had perished.
- 1995-Coast Guardsman Michael E. Earley rescued a 12-year old boy who had fallen from the Astoria-Megler Bridge into the frigid, swiftly flowing waters of the Columbia River. Petty Officer Earley was on liberty and driving along the highway towards the bridge when he noticed several people on the bridge waving their arms. When he stopped to offer assistance, he saw a young boy struggling to stay afloat in the strong flooding tide of the river. Without hesitation, Petty Officer Earley hurried to the shoreline, tied a rope to his belt, and disregarding his own safety, plunged into the churning 52-degree water and rescued the young boy. He was awarded a Gold Life-Saving Medal for his heroic action.
- 1996-A Coast Guard HC-130 located a grossly overloaded Haitian freighter off the coast of Haiti. Crewmen from the cutters *Dauntless*, *Chandelier*, *Monhegan*, and *Nantucket* helped to transfer the largest group of Haitians ever found on a vessel to CGC *Northland*. One Haitian died of severe dehydration, the other 581 were repatriated.
- 1997- Two crewmen died when the Japanese freighter *Kuroshima* ran aground in a storm near Dutch Harbor. Eighteen other crewmen were rescued by Coast Guardsmen who used a tow rope to haul a life raft to safety. The Coast Guardsmen were from CGC *Midgett* that was fortuitously in Dutch Harbor for a mid-patrol break. The freighter was later refloated.
- 2002-President George W. Bush signed into law a bill that created the Department of Homeland Security, the largest reorganization of the federal government in fifty years. The Coast Guard was one of a number of agencies that transferred to the new Department; the transfer was scheduled to go into effect on 1 March 2003.

27 November



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- 1883-The schooner *Maggie W. Willard* with a crew of five men struck on Sea Horse Rock about two miles west of the Crumple Island Station (First District) on the coast of Maine at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. She was discovered by the station crew, who offered assistance. Finding the vessel in a very dangerous position and leaking the crew's effects were saved and they were taken to the station. All efforts to get the vessel off failed. That night the schooner drove over the reef and sunk in deep water, becoming a total loss.

28 November

- 1889- The crew of the Evanston, IL, Life-Saving Station earned the Gold Lifesaving Medal for the rescue of the crew of the steamer *Calumet*. Most of the crew consisted of students from Northwestern University.
- 1942-Petty Officer Clifford Johnson was on liberty at the Coconut Grove Lounge in Boston on the night of 28 November 1942 when the lounge caught fire. Over 490 persons perished in what was one of the worst fires in the nation's history. Petty Officer Johnson repeatedly risked his life by entering the fire on four occasions to pull victims from the flames, receiving severe burns over his body. He spent over two years in the hospital recovering from his injuries.
- 2014-CGC *Stratton* returned to its homeport at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California, after a 140-day deployment to the Arctic and Central America. Since departing in July, 2014, *Stratton's* crew completed a 24,000-mile deployment in support of the nation's interests in the Arctic and joint counter-drug operations off the coast of California and Central America. During this operational patrol, *Stratton's* law enforcement crews seized and disrupted 6.6 tons of illegal narcotics valued in excess of \$27.5 Million. *Stratton* Coast Guardsmen assisted mariners in four separate search and rescue cases. Furthering national strategic goals, the cutter's crew patrolled the Arctic and conducted interoperability tests with new equipment. *Stratton* Coast Guardsmen worked closely with the communities in isolated locations of Point Lay, Gamble and Barrow, Alaska. The crew went ashore to schools and civic centers to teach water safety and provide life jackets to community members.

29 November

- 1808-Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin requested 12 new cutters at a cost of \$120,000 to enforce "laws which prohibit exportation and restrain importations" to support the embargo ordered by President Thomas Jefferson. President Jefferson had ordered an embargo against most European imports and exports to protest the harassment of U.S. sailors by warring European powers. The embargo did not work. The United States went to war with England in 1812 but the Revenue Marine got the new cutters.
- 1877-The first annual report of the U.S. Lifesaving Service was submitted in published form to the Secretary of the Treasury.
- 1969-The German freighter *Nordmeer* ran aground on the Thunder Bay Shoal in Lake Huron. Most of her crew safely evacuated to a nearby ship but eight crewmen remained on board to attempt to save their vessel. The weather quickly deteriorated, however, and they radioed for assistance. A Coast Guard helicopter and the icebreaker *Mackinaw* responded and safely evacuated the eight men while the freighter broke up.



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- 2013-CGC *Waesche* returned from a 109-day deployment in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean to its homeport at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California on 29 November 2013. While on patrol *Waesche's* crew conducted a broad range of operations including maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, maritime surveillance and community outreach. While underway, the crew was on scene for the opening of the red king crab fishing season to help ensure the safety and security of fishermen conducting operations in the Bering Sea. The crew also enforced fisheries laws and regulations to ensure sustainable fishing is practiced in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. The crew responded to five search and rescue cases including a removal of 14 mariners from a disabled fishing vessel, *Alaska Mist*, some 160 nautical miles northeast of Dutch Harbor in mid-November. In Unalaska, Alaska, the crew participated in helping with maintenance and upkeep at a high school and several other community relation projects.

30 November

- 1837-Two early complainants on the efficiency of the American lighthouses, E. and G.W. Blunt, publishers of the famous Blunt's "Coast Pilot," submitted a statement to the Secretary of the Treasury. They argued that the whole lighthouse system "needs revision, a strict superintendence and an entirely different plan of operation."
- 1920- The Navy minesweeper USS *Swan* ran aground on Duxbury Beach, Massachusetts. Coast Guardsmen from three nearby stations rescued the minesweeper's crew with a breeches buoy. CGC *Androscoggin* assisted in the rescue.