



# U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

## September Daily Chronology of Coast Guard History

### 1 September

- 1789-An act of Congress provided for the registering and clearing of vessels and the regulation of the coastwise trade, thus laying the foundation of American navigation laws which, until 1912, embodied the marine policy of the United States.
- 1894-An armed guard of Revenue Cutter Service personnel were placed on the Pribiloff Islands to protect seals.
- 1938-The Coast Guard assumed responsibility for the Maritime Service.
- 1939-The armed forces of Nazi Germany invaded Poland, beginning World War II.
- 1942- On 1 September 1942 Joseph C. Jenkins was given a temporary promotion to warrant officer (Boatswain); becoming the first African-American warrant officer in the Coast Guard.
- 1942- The Coast Guard transferred responsibility for running the merchant marine training programs to the War Shipping Administration.
- 1944-CGC *Northland* captured the crew of a scuttled Nazi supply trawler off Greenland. They had been attempting to establish a weather station on the coast of Greenland.
- 1977-Bobby C. Wilks became the first African American in the Coast Guard to reach the rank of captain. He was also the first African American Coast Guard aviator (Coast Guard aviator No. 735). He later became the first African American to command a Coast Guard air station.
- 1983-On 1 September 1983 Korean Airlines *Flight 007 (KAL-007)* strayed off course into Soviet airspace and was shot down by a Soviet fighter aircraft just west of Sakhalin island. All 269 persons on board were killed, including Congressman Larry P. McDonald from Georgia. CGC *Munro*, on a diplomatic mission to Tokyo, joined in the international SAR effort but no survivors were found. *Munro* then assisted in the search for the airliner's black box and recovered debris. The cutter also safely rescued from the sea all four crewmen of a downed LAMPs helicopter from the USS *Badger*. The *Munro* received the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation for her part in the SAR and recovery efforts.
- 2008-CGC *Dallas* visited the port of Sevastopol, Ukraine during a historic voyage through the Black Sea that included delivering relief supplies to Georgia.
- 2014-CGC *Terrapin* returned to its homeport of Bellingham, Washington, after a Pacific patrol to support counter drug operations off Southern California. *Terrapin* conducted a 42-day patrol totaling nearly 600 operational hours, completing 20 recreational safety boardings and interrupting the illegal flow of narcotics into the U.S. While working jointly with Customs and Border Protection and the Mexican navy to stem the flow of illegal drugs entering the U.S., a Customs and Border Protection Office of Air and Marine Multi-role Enforcement Aircraft crew detected a suspicious boat Aug. 21 and *Terrapin* was diverted to intercept. *Terrapin's* crew stopped the panga and detained the suspected smugglers who claimed Mexican nationality and discovered an estimated 90 bales of marijuana weighing nearly 2,000 pounds. The suspects, vessel and marijuana were turned over to the Mexican navy.



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## 2 September

- 1945-Japanese officials signed the articles of surrender aboard USS *Missouri*, officially ending World War II.
- 1966-The Coast Guard commissioned LORAN Station Con Son in Vietnam as a critical part of Operation *Tight Reign*.

## 4 September

- 1945-The Coast Guard Cutter CG 83525 became the first and only cutter to host an official surrender ceremony when Imperial Japanese Army Second Lieutenant Kinichi Yamada surrendered the garrison of Aguijan Island on board this Coast Guard 83-footer. Rear Admiral Marshall R. Greer, USN, accepted their surrender for the United States.

## 5 September

- 1939-President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed U.S. neutrality in World War II and ordered the Navy, augmented by the Coast Guard, to establish neutrality patrols.
- 1946-The U.S. Air-Rescue Agency, an inter-departmental group headed by the Commandant of the Coast Guard and engaged in the study of improved and standardized rescue and search methods, was renamed the Search and Rescue Agency. "Search and Rescue Units of the Coast Guard were at the same time integrated into the peace time organization and the whole developed into a system of constantly alerted communications, coastal lookout, and patrols of institute instant and systematic search and rescue procedure in case of disasters."
- 2013-CGC *Bertholf* returned to its homeport of Alameda, California, after a five-month counter-drug deployment to the Eastern Pacific in support of Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South (JIATFS).
- 2015-CGC *Healy* reached the North Pole on this date in 2015, becoming the first U.S. surface vessel to do so unaccompanied. *Healy* was underway in support of Geotraces, an international scientific endeavor to study the geochemistry of the world's oceans.

## 6 September

- 1966-On 6 September 1966 GM1 Lester K. Gates was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a combat "V" device for "meritorious service and action against the enemy" while serving on board CGC *Point White* (WPB-82308) in Vietnam. The *Point White* attacked and captured a Viet Cong junk while patrolling the Soi Rap River. GM1 Gates was the first enlisted Coast Guardsman to be awarded the Bronze Star since World War II.
- 1995-Hurricane Luis pounded the Leeward Islands. GANTSEC units responded with relief supplies, SAR, and evacuations. Coast Guard C-130s delivered 125,000 pound of relief supplies to St. Martin. CGC *Attu* delivered relief supplies to Antigua and Barbuda.
- 2014-CGC *Waesche* returned to its homeport of Alameda, completing a 14-week deployment that included counter-smuggling patrols, participation in the largest multi-national maritime exercise in the world, and fisheries enforcement operations. *Waesche* spent the first month of its deployment off the coast of Southern California and Mexico in support of joint inter-agency, counter-drug operations. Working with other Coast Guard assets, Customs and Border patrol (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Mexican navy, the cutter's crew interdicted more than 10,000



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pounds of illegal narcotics and six suspected narco-traffickers. *Waesche* then shifted their focus to the Central Pacific, where they participated in the multi-national Rim of the Pacific Exercises 2014 (RIMPAC) off the coast of Hawaii. After RIMPAC, the cutter headed to the South Pacific Ocean to conduct Fisheries Enforcement in support of the 14th Coast Guard District, which spans from Hawaii to American Samoa, Guam, and other U.S. possessions in the Pacific. During the patrol, *Waesche* embarked three fisheries enforcement specialists from partner nations in the Pacific, including Kiribati and the Cook Islands. In addition to fisheries enforcement, the crew of *Waesche* conducted flight operations with the French navy off the coast of Tahiti, completing a series of hoists and simulated supply-drops with a French AS365 helicopter.

## 7 September

- 1934-Surfboats and lifeboats from Coast Guard stations Shark River, Squan Beach, Sandy Hook and others responded to a deadly fire aboard the liner *Morro Castle*, rescuing 129 survivors. Cutters *Tampa* and *Cahoone* also responded. After failing to get the *Morro Castle* under tow due to the worsening weather, they recovered as many victims from the water as they could. All told over 250 Coast Guardsmen participated in the rescue and recovery effort. Eventually this maritime disaster led to a Senate investigation and subsequent changes in maritime safety regulations.
- 1953-When the Panamanian SS *Eugenia* grounded as a result of the heavy weather generated off Cape Cod by Hurricane Carol, the Cape Cod Lifeboat Station removed 13 survivors by breeches buoy and 4 by the station's DUKW, an amphibious surface craft.

## 8 September

- 1900-Second Assistant Engineer Charles S. Root and Seaman James Bierman of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, assigned to USRC *Galveston*, were awarded Gold Lifesaving Medals for their actions after the 1900 hurricane that destroyed Galveston, Texas. Root voluntarily commanded a boat that went to the assistance of survivors within the city itself, a boat manned by eight other volunteer members of *Galveston's* crew, including Seaman Bierman. The other members of Root's boat crew were Gunner George Jeffas; Carpenter Jacob Pedersen; Master-At-Arms W. Cormack; Coxswain F. Olsen; Third-Class Oiler W. Gardiner; Oiler W. Idstrom; and Fireman B. Rafailovich. In all they were credited with saving 34 persons "from drowning." They were the first members of the Revenue Cutter Service to receive the prestigious award.
- 1952-When SS *Foundation Star* sent a distress signal that she was in rough seas and in danger of breaking in half, four Coast Guard vessels and three commercial vessels proceed to her assistance and rescued the crew before the ship broke apart and sank.
- 2000-LCDR Daniel C. Burbank became the second Coast Guard astronaut to fly on a Shuttle mission (he had been selected by NASA for astronaut training in 1996). He flew as a mission specialist on NASA flight *STS-106* aboard the space shuttle *Atlantis* (September 8-20, 2000).

## 9 September

- 1942-The Coast Guard-manned weather ship USS *Muskeget* disappeared without a trace while on weather patrol in the North Atlantic during World War II. Her entire crew of



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nine officers and 111 enlisted men were lost. After the war the U.S. Navy determined that she had been torpedoed and sunk with all hands by the German submarine U-755.

- 1943-The invasion of Salerno, Italy began on this date in 1943. Coast Guard units, including LCI(L) Flotilla 4, participated. LCI(L) Flotilla 4 was a fleet of ocean-going landing vessels manned entirely by Coast Guardsmen and commanded by Captain Miles Imlay, USCG. They went on to participate on the landings at Normandy, France the following year.
- 2005-VADM Thad Allen, the Coast Guard Chief of Staff, was tapped to lead the Hurricane Katrina federal response and recovery efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama as the Principle Federal Official or PFO.

## 10 September

- 1889-From 10-12 September 1889 the lifesaving crews at Lewes, Henlopen and Rehobeth Beach stations assisted 22 vessels and saved 39 persons by surfboat and 155 by breeches buoy without the loss of a single life.
- 1981-CGC *Morgenthau*, in "Charlie" status in San Francisco while preparing for a yard period, responded to a distress call from the 610-foot M/V *Blue Hawk*, a cargo vessel carrying about 5,000 automobiles, after she reported a fire aboard while she was over 700 miles southwest of San Diego. *Morgenthau* was underway within three hours. In the interim, HC-130 *CG-1454* was dispatched by AIRSTA Sacramento while COMMSTA Point Reyes directed other merchant ships close to the *Blue Hawk* to assist. The fire still raged when *Morgenthau* arrived on scene two days later. The cutter's fire-fighting teams put the fire out and *Morgenthau* escorted the damaged freighter to San Francisco.
- 1994-Coast Guardsman George B. Evans, while on liberty with his children, earned a Gold Life-Saving Medal for the following action as listed in his award citation: "While relaxing with his children at the park, Chief Petty Officer Evans heard cries for help. He first saw two boys, who had been playing on a sandbar, in the water and then a man swimming toward one of the boys. Without regard for his own personal safety, Chief Petty Officer Evans jumped into the river and swam after the other child. Upon reaching the victim, Chief Petty Officer Evans held the frightened child above water. The victim, in his panic, attempted to climb on top of Chief Petty Officer Evan, pushing him under the water. This, combined with the strong current and considerable undertow, exhausted Chief Petty Officer Evans. Another man arrived and took over the rescue. After the victim was taken from him, Chief Petty Officer Evans swam back toward the sandbar. Too weak to make it safely back to the sandbar, he was pulled to safety by another man on the beach. Chief Petty Officer Evans determined efforts, outstanding initiative, and fortitude during this rescue resulted in the saving of one life. His unselfish actions and valiant service reflect the highest credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of humanitarian service.

## 11 September

- 1878-Life-Saving Service Keeper Captain J. O. Doyle, in charge of Life-Saving Station Charlotte, New York, earned a Gold Lifesaving Medal for a rescue he conducted of the crew of the wrecked schooner *B. P. Dorr*, out of Chicago, Illinois.



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- 2001-*Al Qaeda* terrorists hijacked four commercial U.S. aircraft, crashing two into the World Trade Center in New York and one into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The fourth aircraft crashed around Shanksville, Pennsylvania, when passengers on board tried to regain control of the aircraft from the terrorists. The attacks killed over 3,000 innocent civilians. Coast Guard units, including Reservists and Auxiliarists, were among the first military units to respond in order to provide communications, security, evacuation by water and render assistance to those in need. Coast Guardsmen assisted in the search and rescue efforts as well as the cleanup operations after the attacks.
- 2014-CGC *Healy* returned to its homeport of Seattle, Washington, after spending 130 days on a science deployment in the Bearing Sea, Chukchi Sea and Arctic Ocean. During the four-month patrol, the crew aboard *Healy* conducted three missions to further scientific knowledge and understanding of the Arctic. The first mission, the Study of Under Ice Blooms in the Chukchi Ecosystem, was led by Stanford University personnel with funding from the National Science Foundation. Throughout this phase *Healy's* crew completed 230 science station evolutions in which the ship stopped to conduct operations, including 14 on-ice deployments. The second scientific mission of the summer was completed by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution scientists who were studying the Pacific Boundary Current and other oceanographic trends in the Arctic. The third and final science pursuit of the summer was accomplished with a team from the Coast Guard's Research and Development Center. Members from the center brought technologies and equipment to be utilized for oil spill monitoring in the harsh Arctic environment. Tools used to complete mission objectives and testing evaluation consisted of several remotely operated vehicles, a few small unmanned aerial systems, an autonomous underwater vehicle, an unmanned surface vehicle, surface wave instrument float with tracking buoys, oil spill tracking buoys, and an aerostat balloon. Other smaller materials and projects were evaluated for use by the Coast Guard in the Arctic, and all of these tests together yielded a greater understanding of tools to available to respond to an oil spill should an accident occur in the ice at extreme northern latitudes.
- 2014-Coast Guard units responded to a flood near Southaven, in northern Mississippi. Desoto County Emergency Management Agency requested Coast Guard assistance and Coast Guard Sector Lower Mississippi River deployed flood response teams to the area. Working alongside Desoto County Search and Rescue and Southaven Fire Department teams, they rescued 30 people and 10 pets.

## 12 September

- 1941-After the Danish government in exile asked the U.S. to protect Greenland, CGC *Northland* seized the Norwegian sealer *Buskoe*, with Nazi agents on board, trying to establish radio and weather stations in MacKenzie Bay, Greenland. The capture of the *Buskoe* was the first U.S. naval capture of World War II.
- 1953-When the 6,000 ton ore carrier SS *Maryland* grounded off Marquette, Michigan, a Coast Guard helicopter, in the face of driving wind and rain that required the combined efforts of both pilots to hold the controls and stabilize the aircraft, removed 12 crew members to safety.

## 13 September



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- 1897-The American steamer *Business Point* mistook a buoy and stranded on Mouse Island reef, nine miles northwest of Point Marblehead Life-Saving station. The Life-Saving Service crew and two tugs attempted to release her, but without success. The master chartered a tug to go to Sandusky for a lighter which arrived about 6 p.m. The crew then assisted all night at transferring cargo and at 9 a.m. next day, the steamer backed off.

## 14 September

- 1716-The Boston Lighthouse on Little Brewster Island in Boston Harbor, the first lighthouse established in America, was first lit.
- 1944-The Great Atlantic Hurricane, a Category 3 hurricane, made landfall at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, Long Island, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island. Cape Henry, Virginia, reported sustained winds at 134 MPH with gusts to 150 MPH. There were 46 civilian deaths and \$100 million in damage from Cape Hatteras northward through the Maine coast. Cutters *Jackson* and *Bedloe*, and Lightship No. 73 on Vineyard Sound Station, foundered. All 12 of the lightship's crew perished. Only 30 of the 78 crewmen on board the two cutters were saved. Two Navy vessels also foundered. A total of 344 perished at sea.
- 1989-Sikorsky Aircraft unveiled the replacement for the Sikorsky HH-3F Pelican helicopter: the HH-60J. The Coast Guard planned to purchase 33 of the new aircraft and decided to call their version of the versatile helicopter the "Jayhawk."
- 1990-The Secretary of Transportation and the Commandant of the Coast Guard authorized the first-ever deployment of a reserve port security unit overseas. PSU 303, staffed by reservists from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the first of three PSUs deployed. PSU 303 was stationed in Al-Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

## 15 September

- 1944-Coast Guardsmen participated in the invasion and liberation of Morotai Island.
- 1948-After making a night-long high speed run to reach the hurricane-ridden Portuguese schooner *Gasper* some 300 miles off the southern tip of Newfoundland, CGC *Bibb* launched two 20-man rubber lifeboats in heavy rain and seas to rescue 40 survivors and 1 dog from the doomed ship.
- 1958- A New Jersey Central passenger train plunged into Newark Bay through an open drawbridge, submerging two engines and two coaches. Coast Guard small craft and helicopters assisted in rescuing 43 survivors and recovering 29 bodies.
- 1995-Hurricane Marilyn made landfall, cutting a path of destruction across the U.S. Virgin Islands. GANTSEC Command Center coordinated the SAR efforts. HH-65As from AIRSTA Borinquen rescued survivors from two vessels that sank during the storm. CGC *Escanaba* also participated in the SAR operation and then supported the relief efforts in St. Thomas. CGC *Vigorous* relieved *Escanaba* on 18 September. The CGC *Point Ledge*, homeported in St. Thomas, had been washed up on the city's seawall by the heavy storm surge, causing considerable damage. None of her crew were injured, however. Members of LEDET Miami and TACLET members from Miami and San Juan were flown to St. Thomas to help enforce a curfew, provide airport security and help stand watch on the grounded *Point Ledge*. Coast Guard aircraft also flew overflights to survey the damage and delivered relief supplies. In 10 days the aircraft delivered more



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than 410,000 pounds of relief supplies and transported 260 federal recovery workers to St. Thomas. MSD St. Thomas supervised all maritime recovery operations, facilitated maritime traffic for a community dependant on maritime commerce, responded to the massive environmental impacts, and were the DoT's representative for the initial standup of the EOC. ANT San Juan and the CGC *Laurel* were also sent to assist in the cleanup.

- 2001-Coast Guard units and local agencies responded to a bridge collision on the Intracoastal Waterway after the tug *Brown Water V* and its four barges struck the Queen Isabella Causeway, the longest bridge in Texas. The collision caused a 240-foot section of the causeway to collapse, spilling 10 cars into the water and killing five persons. Station South Padre Island deployed two 27-foot boats, a 41-foot boat and a 21-footer. Other vessels pulled 13 survivors from the water and transferred them to the Coast Guard craft. The CGC *Mallett* was later used as a rescue platform to retrieve the submerged vehicles and victims.
- 2012-CGC *Jarvis* returned to her homeport of Honolulu, Hawaii after completing its final patrol before being decommissioned after forty years of service in the Coast Guard. *Jarvis* was the first cutter commissioned in Hawaii and it served out of Honolulu for its entire Coast Guard career. Since re-commissioning in December of 1992 following a fleet renovation and modernization initiative, *Jarvis* participated in Alaskan fisheries patrols, counter-narcotics patrols in the Eastern Pacific, Western Pacific capacity building, and exercises with U.S. and foreign navies. In 2009, *Jarvis* successfully seized a self propelled semi-submersible vessel in the Eastern Pacific laden with more than five tons of illegal narcotics. During the cutter's spring 2012 patrol, *Jarvis* served as the on-scene commander for an aircraft that crashed off the coast of Palau, and coordinated the search and rescue efforts to save two lives. For its final patrol *Jarvis* departed Honolulu on 17 August 2012 with an embarked NOAA ship-rider and enforced the US EEZ and through a coordinated effort with District 14 and Air Station Barber's Point, *Jarvis* was able to provide law enforcement presence throughout the Hawaiian island chain and most notably the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument extending out to Midway Island.
- 2013-CGC *Munro* returned to its homeport in Kodiak after completing a lengthy North Pacific Ocean, a patrol to interdict fishing vessels "engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing." *Munro* crewmembers conducted the more than 80-day patrol with partners from the Chinese Fisheries Law Enforcement Command, the Japanese coast guard and the Russian Federal Security Service. While underway the crew gathered information on more than 600 sighted vessels and conducting fisheries enforcement boardings to ensure the vessels and crews were in compliance with international regulations. They also conducted cultural exchanges with the three partner nation's representatives to share best practices and to streamline communications processes for conducting this type of law enforcement activity. As a result of these annual joint patrols several vessels were interdicted and turned over to fisheries agencies in China and the U.S. for prosecution. These vessels include the 140-foot *Bangun Perkasa* operating off the coast of Japan in 2011 and the 177-foot fishing vessel *Da Cheng* 850 miles east of Tokyo in 2012.



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- 2016-The Coast Guard selected Eastern Shipbuilding Group Inc. of Panama City, Florida, to continue to the detail design and construction phase (Phase II) of the offshore patrol cutter acquisition program.

## 16 September

- 1918-On this date in World War I, while on escort-of-convoy duty, CGC *Seneca*'s crew attempted to bring the torpedoed British collier *Wellington* into Brest, France. Eleven of *Seneca*'s crew, sent as a boarding party aboard the collier, were lost when *Wellington* foundered. Coast Guard Coxswain James Osborne was awarded a Gold Lifesaving Medal for his efforts that day.
- 1939-The longest continually-operating Coast Guard Auxiliary unit, Flotilla 63, was first chartered in Onset, Massachusetts.
- 1988- Hurricane Gilbert made landfall in Mexico on this date in 1988. Coast Guard units assisted in rescue and evacuation operations from 18-20 September. During those SAR operations Coast Guard aircrews lifted 109 victims from flood waters to safety.
- 1996-Avondale Industries laid the keel for CGC *Healy* on this date in 1996 at New Orleans, Louisiana. Avondale launched the ice-breaking cutter on 15 November 1997 and delivered it to the Coast Guard on 10 November 1999. *Healy* arrived at its homeport of Seattle, Washington and was placed "In Commission, Active" on 21 August 2000.

## 17 September

- 1932-CGC *Escanaba* was launched at the Dafoe Boat and Motor Works in Bay City, Michigan. *Escanaba* saw extensive service on the Great Lakes prior to World War II and was home-ported in Grand Haven, Michigan. During World War II the cutter was lost in action off Greenland with only two survivors. The cause of the loss has never been determined with certainty.
- 1999-CGC *Dallas* returned to Charleston after an 84-day deployment to the Mediterranean and Black seas. Originally scheduled to go to the Adriatic and Ionian seas in support of NATO forces engaged in Kosovo, *Dallas* turned to support the U.S. 6th Fleet after tensions in Kosovo eased. *Dallas* also visited several ports not normally seen by Coast Guard crews, including Rota, Spain; Souda Bay, Crete; Haifa, Israel; and Antalya, Turkey.
- 2004-The Coast Guard made the largest cocaine seizure in its history (to date) when Coast Guard and Navy forces located and seized 30,000 pounds of cocaine aboard the fishing vessel *Lina Maria* approximately 300 miles southwest of the Galapagos Islands. LEDET 108, embarked aboard the USS *Curts*, made the seizure. A second Coast Guard and Navy team intercepted the *Lina Maria*'s sister ship, the fishing vessel *San Jose*, 500 miles west of the Galapagos, and discovered and seized 26,250 pounds of cocaine.

## 18 September

- 1939-President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed the enlistment of 2,000 new Coast Guardsmen and opened two new training stations.
- 1947-The U.S. Air Force's official birthday: the Air Force was created as a separate military service on this date. The Air Force's motto is: "*Uno Ab Alto*" (One Over All).



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- 1989-Hurricane Hugo hit Puerto Rico and eventually made landfall at Charleston, South Carolina, on the 21st. Coast Guard units conducted search and rescue as well as relief operations.

## 19 September

- 1930-For the first time in its history the Coast Guard located a clandestine "rummy" radio station by means radio direction-finding equipment it developed for its Prohibition enforcement efforts.
- 1965-CGC *Point Glover* (WPB 82307) of Coast Guard Squadron One (RONONE) made the first capture of an enemy junk in Vietnam.
- 1968-M/V *Johannes Frans*, a 634-foot Dutch tanker with a cargo of oil, reported that it was disabled in 10 to 15-foot seas and was taking on water 250 miles northeast of Bermuda. CGC *Dallas*, which was in the immediate area, received the same report from the subject via flashing light and immediately went to her assistance. The pump provided by *Dallas*, however, failed to work properly. A Coast Guard aircraft provided four additional pumps by the evening of Sept 19; *Dallas* reported that the flooding had been stabilized. Three civilian tugs were enroute, with the first due on the 21st. Weather conditions improved enough on the 21st for the master and crew to remain aboard and continue pumping. The tug *Foundation Vigilant* arrived on scene on the morning of the 21st and took the vessel in tow. The tug *Tasman Zee* arrived shortly thereafter and provided three pumps. The three ships proceeded to Bermuda. *Dallas* then proceeded to Ocean Station *Echo*.

## 20 September

- 1932-Cadets first moved into the newly constructed Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut, on this date.
- 1944-Coast Guardsmen participated in the invasions of Peleliu and Angaur.

## 21 September

- 1791-Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton authorized an allowance of nine cents for every ration that Revenue officers did not draw.
- 1922-Congress authorized officers of the Customs and of the Coast Guard to board and examine vessels, reaffirming their authority to seize and secure vessels for security of the revenue under the Act of March 2, 1799.
- 1938-A hurricane hit the northeast coast, wreaking havoc among the lighthouses and the light keepers there. First assistant keeper Walter B. Eberle of the Whale Rock light was killed when his lighthouse was swept into the sea. The wife of head keeper Arthur A. Small was killed when she was swept away from the Palmer Island Light Station. The keeper of the Prudence Island Light Station's wife and son were drowned when that light station was swept into the sea. Many more stations and depots were severely damaged as well.
- 1957-The German training barque *Pamir* with 90 persons on board, including 54 German naval cadets, foundered and sank in extremely rough seas 500 miles west of the Azores. The CGC *Absecon*, manning Ocean Station *Delta*, intercepted the SOS message and immediately proceeded to the scene. Three days later, the cutter and assisting vessels rescued six survivors, but the remaining 84 remained missing. The search



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continued for seven days, with *Absecon* directing on-scene operations of 60 merchant vessels from 13 nations, as well as American and Portuguese aircraft.

- 1977-CGC *Acushnet* (WAGO 167) deployed environmental buoy EB-07 at 39N 70W to assume part of the meteorological data collection duties of Ocean Station Hotel, which was decommissioned on 30 September 1977 when CGC *Taney* departed the ocean station for the final time. EB-07 was one of 10 environmental buoys in the Atlantic, six of which were north of Cape Hatteras. Coast Guard cutters provided continuing support of these buoys in accordance with an interagency agreement with NOAA.
- 1987-Coast Guard units responded when two freighters, *Pacbaroness* and *Atlantic Wing*, collided in a dense fog off the coast of Santa Barbara. The *Pacbaroness* sank, causing a large oil spill. Coast Guard units that responded included: CGCs *Conifer* & *Point Judith*; AIRSTAs Los Angeles, Sacramento, & San Francisco; MSO Los Angeles/Long Beach; Pacific Strike Team; MSD Santa Barbara; 11th District (m) and (dpa); Public Affairs Liaison Office and the Public Information Assist Team from Headquarters.
- 1989-Coast Guard units from New York rescued 61 survivors of U.S. Air *Flight 5050* after it skidded off a runway of LaGuardia Airport and into the Rikers Island Channel. Two persons were killed.
- 1989-Hurricane Hugo made landfall on the continental United States at Charleston, South Carolina. The Coast Guard's emergency command post had to be abandoned when the roof almost blew off. Base Charleston suffered severe damage, as well. Coast Guard units immediately began relief operations. Aircraft were airborne at first light that morning. They conducted SAR, performed medical evacuations, provided emergency communications with stricken areas, and transported relief personnel and equipment. More aircraft were flown in from AIRSTAs Traverse City and Mobile. From their staging area at AIRSTA Savannah, they delivered food and water to hard-hit areas such as McClellanville, SC, where 200 people were isolated and the entire town destroyed.
- 2015-CGC *Tahoma* returned to homeport at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, after a 66-day patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. During the patrol, on 9 September 2015, the *Tahoma's* crew pursued a "Go-Fast Vessel" to verify the vessel's nationality. With the assistance of a maritime patrol aircraft, the *Tahoma's* pursuit team closed in on the Go-Fast and attempted to initiate radio contact. The vessel jettisoned bales of contraband into the ocean and refused to comply with instructions. Warning shots were used to signal the vessel to prepare for a boarding. The noncompliant Go-Fast then came to an abrupt halt and was boarded. Boarding team members recovered 27 bales of cocaine from the water, totaling 540 kilograms (worth an estimated \$10.8 million) and detained the three suspected drug smugglers. The *Tahoma's* crew participated in the transfer and custody of 50 detainees and 1,893 kilograms of contraband with several other Coast Guard cutters in both the Eastern Pacific and the Caribbean Sea. This patrol was particularly unique as it deployed the 270 foot medium endurance cutter from its homeport in Kittery, Maine down to the waters of Central America, requiring the cutter to make transit both ways through the Panama Canal. Not only did the *Tahoma's* crew return home as Order of the Ditch recipients, but they also were afforded the opportunity to cross the equator while in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.



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## 22 September

- 1943-Coast Guardsmen participated in the invasion and liberation of Finschafen, New Guinea. An Allied invasion fleet, including Coast Guard-manned landing ships, landed Australian troops. Coast Guard-manned ships in the invasion fleet included USS *LST-18*, *LST-67*, *LST-168*, and *LST-204*. There were no casualties among the Coast Guard vessels.
- 1990-PSU 301 became the second reserve Coast Guard port security unit deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield. PSU 301 was staffed by reservists from Buffalo, New York. They were stationed in Al-Jubayl, Saudi Arabia.

## 23 September

- 1967-Coho Salmon Fishing Disaster-On this date a severe squall carried through the Frankfort River Platte area of northern Lake Michigan. Twenty-five-foot waves generated by the squall caught off guard an estimated 1,000 small boats fishing for Coho salmon. Between 150 and 200 boats were beached and many more were either capsized or otherwise in distress. During the next four days Coast Guard aircraft flew 33 sorties for a total of 55 hours. State and Local police provided beach patrols and private individuals also aided in the operation. One of the greatest problems faced by the Coast Guard was the confusion created by the hundreds of people unaccounted for after the storm, most of whom were not in trouble but had just not contacted their friends or family. Each report of a missing person was carefully followed through so that within four days it was determined that seven had been recovered and only one person remained unaccounted for. The Coho salmon which attracted the large number of boats to the area remained in season for another three weeks and during this time the Coast Guard maintained daily aircraft and small boat patrols of the area.
- 2014-CGC *Key Largo* collided with the 42-foot commercial fishing vessel *Sea Shepherd*, sinking the fishing vessel approximately nine nautical miles east northeast of Vieques, Puerto Rico. *Key Largo* was on a routine patrol when the collision happened. *Sea Shepherd's* two crewmembers were safely recovered by the crew of *Key Largo*.

## 24 September

- 1943-The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-167* and the USS *LST-334*, with a partial Coast Guard crew, landed troops during the invasion and liberation of Vella Lavella in the central Solomons despite fierce resistance from the Japanese defenders. Japanese aircraft attacked the invasion fleet, hitting *LST-167* with two bombs that killed 10 of her crew and wounded 10 more. Five crewmen were reported as missing in action. The *LST* was later salvaged.
- 1947-The Coast Guard announced that it had virtually completed the return of United States buoys, lights, and other aids to navigation to a peacetime basis.
- 2002-The Coast Guard announced the award of a \$611 million contract for the production, deployment and support of "Rescue 21," a modernization of the National Distress and Response System. "Rescue 21" was planned to be the nation's primary maritime "911" system for coastal waters of the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and navigable rivers and lakes within the United States.



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- 2005-Hurricane Rita made landfall just east of Sabine Pass, on the Texas-Louisiana line, as a Category 3 hurricane with top sustained winds of 120 mph. Coast Guard units, some still in the area from Hurricane Katrina rescue and relief efforts, responded. They saved 138 lives and evacuated 53 people.
- 2014-CGC *Alex Haley* returned to Kodiak following a successful 68-day deployment patrolling more than 12,000 miles throughout the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. *Alex Haley*, known as the "Bulldog of the Bering," departed Kodiak in July 2014 and spent two months conducting operations in the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands. During the deployment, *Alex Haley's* crew performed more than 40 at sea domestic fisheries enforcement boardings, four search and rescue cases, and one rescue and assistance operation.

## 25 September

- 1916-The beginning of lighthouse work in the United States was commemorated, when a bronze tablet was unveiled at the Boston Light Station on the 200th anniversary of its establishment.
- 1959-A U.S. Navy P5M seaplane that had ditched off the Oregon coast was located through radio contact by a Coast Guard UF-1G Albatross aircraft. After sighting 10 survivors in two rafts 110 miles off shore, the Albatross crew directed CGC *Yocona* to the scene, where a successful night rescue was effected.
- 1980-CGC *Bear* was launched at Tacoma Boatbuilding Company, Inc., in Tacoma, Washington. *Bear* was the first in its class of new 270-foot medium endurance cutters. It was sponsored by Mrs. John B. Hayes, the wife of the Commandant.
- 2014-The Commandant, ADM Paul Zukunft, signed the *U.S. Coast Guard Western Hemisphere Strategy*. The *Strategy* emphasized that although the Coast Guard performs "diverse maritime missions over vast geographic areas" the Coast Guard's primary operating area "will remain in the Western hemisphere."
- 2016-
- The U.S. Coast Guard found an overturned boat following a boating incident on Government Cut that left three deceased, including Miami Marlins' baseball pitcher JosÃ© FernÃ¡ndez. A boat crew from Coast Guard Station Miami was heading out on a law enforcement patrol at approximately 0330 when they passed a jetty along Government Cut and discovered an overturned 33-foot center console boat on the jetty with three deceased aboard.

## 26 September

- 1918-The Imperial German Navy submarine *UB-91* torpedoed and sank CGC *Tampa* with a loss of all hands. *Tampa* was steaming alone to Milford Haven, Wales, after being detached from ocean escort duty when attacked. On board were 111 Coast Guardsmen, four U.S. Navy personnel, and 15 British passengers, bringing the total of men lost that night to 130. One body was recovered and buried at sea while the bodies of two of the Coast Guard crew washed ashore in Wales and were buried in a small church yard in Lamphey, Pembrokeshire, Wales. One body was returned to the family in the U.S. after the war while one, who was never identified, is still interred in Lamphey to this day. Local residents care for the grave.
- 1942-CGC *Ingham* rescued eight survivors from the torpedoed SS *Tennessee*.



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- 1994-Coast Guard forces departed for Haiti in support of Operation Restore Democracy.
- 2011-The U.S. Coast Guard awarded a delivery order on this date in 2011 to Metal Shark Aluminum Boats for the production of 38 Response Boats-Small (RB-S). "The RB-S will have an approximate length of 28 feet, be capable of at least 40 knots, a minimum range of 150 nautical miles and accommodate a crew of four. The RB-S will also have a standardized communications and navigation suite as well as an increased emphasis on ergonomics and crew comfort. The current RB-S fleet was originally procured in 2002, following the attacks of September 11, 2001. In addition to bringing a higher level of standardization to the Coast Guard's small boat fleet, the RB-S has proven to be a tremendous asset in a wide variety of Coast Guard missions, especially ports, waterways and coastal security."
- 2014-CGB *Eagle* began the first phase of a four-year project to extend the cutter's service life and recapitalize major ship systems at the Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay, Maryland. The scheduled work included lead ballast replacement, berthing area renovations, and inspection and maintenance of the rudder, hull and rigging. On this same day the Yard also marked the completion of the Mission Effectiveness Project (MEP) to modernize the Coast Guard's medium endurance cutter fleet.
- 2014-CGC *Bear* returned to its homeport in Portsmouth, Virginia following a two-month long patrol in the Western Caribbean Sea. During the patrol, *Bear's* crew coordinated with multiple countries in Central and South America, along with partner agencies to stem the flow of illegal drugs into the United States. The unified effort resulted in the interdiction of multiple suspected drug smugglers and vessels transporting approximately 3,519 kilograms of cocaine. In addition to its seizures, the crew of *Bear* saved two Nicaraguan fishermen that were stranded at sea for over two weeks. *Bear's* interdictions were a part of Operation Martillo, which is an international effort to counter illicit trafficking in the Caribbean Sea.

## 27 September

- 1942-Douglas A. Munro, Signalman 1/c, USCG, gave his life evacuating Marines of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, at Matanikau Point, Guadalcanal. President Roosevelt posthumously awarded Munro the Medal of Honor, the only Coast Guardsmen to be awarded this decoration. The medal was given to Douglas Munro's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Munro of South Cle Elum, Washington, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a ceremony at the White House on Thursday, 27 May 1943. The citation read: "Awarded posthumously to DOUGLAS ALBERT MUNRO, SIGNALMAN FIRST CLASS, U.S. COAST GUARD 'For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty as Office-in-Charge of a group of Higgins boats, engaged in the evacuation of a Battalion of Marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, on September 27, 1942. After making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly 500 beleaguered Marines, Munro, under constant risk of his life, daringly led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he [signaled]the others to land, and then in order to draw the enemy's fire and protect the heavily loaded boats, he valiantly placed his craft with its two small guns as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. When the perilous task of evacuation was nearly completed, Munro was killed by enemy fire, but his crew, two of whom were wounded, carried on until the last boat had loaded and cleared the beach. By his



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outstanding leadership, expert planning, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished. He gallantly gave up his life in defense of his country."

- 1950-For the purpose of alleviating attrition during the Korean War, Executive Order 10164 authorized the Coast Guard, in cases where enlisted personnel did not immediately reenlist in the Coast Guard, to extend enlistments for one year, if the date of expiration of enlistment occurred prior to 9 July 1951. The Coast Guard, however, adopted a policy of permitting the discharge of men upon expiration of enlistment, provided they immediately enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve.
- 2013-Coast Guard Station Quillayute River, Washington, crews rescued three fishermen from their sinking vessel two miles west of James Island. The three fishermen were safely transported to Station Quillayute River by one of two 47-foot MLBs that responded to the sinking 50-foot fishing vessel; the second vessel remained on scene until the fishing vessel sank at 11:23 a.m. in 103 feet of water. The Coast Guard received a call for help from the crew of the fishing vessel *Fjord Mist* at 08:33 a.m., stating that the vessel was taking on water and sinking. The two boat crews from Station Quillayute River and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Air Station Port Angeles were directed to respond to the sinking vessel. A dewatering pump was provided to the fishing vessel crew, however the pump was unable to keep up with the flooding and for the crew's safety they were removed from the sinking vessel. The fishermen suffered no reported injuries.
- 2016-CGC *Dependable* returned to its homeport following a successful 53-day patrol, which focused on training, counter-drug and migrant missions. The cutter patrolled from the Florida Straits and throughout the Caribbean Sea performing homeland security missions, which included stopping the flow of illegal migrants and illicit drugs into the United States. During the patrol, *Dependable* worked closely with the Royal Bahamian Defense Force, the Navy of the Dominican Republic, and Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard air and surface assets to counter illegal drug smuggling and human smuggling. On 22 September 2016, *Dependable* assisted the Royal Bahamian Defense Force in the rescue of nine survivors from a sailing vessel in distress. Over the course of six hours, *Dependable* and the Royal Bahamian Defense Force searched for and located the sailing vessel *Change of Life* aground on a reef south of Great Inagua, Bahamas. Less than 24 hours later, *Dependable*, along with Her Majesty's Bahamian Ship *Leon Livingston Smith* rescued 10 Cuban migrants who had been stranded for 10 days on Anguilla Cay near Caysal Bank in the Florida Straits.

## 28 September

- 1850-An Act of Congress (9 Stat. L., 500, 504) provided for a systematic coloring and numbering of all buoys for, prior to this time, they had been painted red, white, or black, without any special system. The act "prescribed that buoys should be colored and numbered so that in entering from seaward red buoys with even numbers should be on the starboard or right hand; black buoys with odd numbers on the port or left hand; buoy with red and black horizontal stripes should indicate shoals with channel on either side; and buoys in channel ways should be colored with black and white perpendicular stripes.



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- 1850-An Act of Congress (9 Stat. L., 500, 504) gave legal authority for the first time for the assigning of collectors of customs to lighthouse duty. Section 9 of this act authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to assign to any of the collectors of customs, the superintendence of such lighthouses, beacons, lightships, and buoys as he might deem best. The act also stipulated that no collector of customs whose annual salary exceeded \$3,000 a year should receive any compensation as disbursing officer in the Lighthouse Establishment and, in no case, was the compensation of the collectors of customs for disbursements in the Lighthouse Service to exceed \$400.00 in any fiscal year.
- 1998- An oil spill along the coast of California off San Francisco was traced to the 717-foot Liberian-flagged tanker *Command*. A Coast Guard boarding team took samples of her cargo and matched it to that found along the coast. A Coast Guard spokesman noted: "This is the first time the Coast Guard has pursued an oil spill investigation into the international arena to the extent of stopping and boarding a vessel on the high seas, with permission of the vessel's flag state."

## 29 September

- 1898-The American steamer, *Toledo* with the barge *Shawnee* in tow, became water-logged 25 miles southwest of the station at Ship Canal, Michigan. Her crew boarded *Shawnee* and sailed to the canal. There they engaged the steamer *D. F. Rose* to tow *Toledo* in and the surfmen assisted to lay her on the beach near the piers. The keeper then telephoned for a tug and lighter, and upon their arrival all hands set to work until 11 p.m. saving about 1,000 feet of lumber. At this hour the wind came out west and the work had to be abandoned. *Toledo* broke up and became a total wreck on the 30th.
- 1976-The Coast Guard accepted the hydrofoil USS *Flagstaff* from the U.S. Navy on this date in 1976 for operational testing. The hydrofoil was based out of Station Woods Hole during the testing. It was capable of speeds in excess of 45-knots and carried a crew of 13.
- 1986-Coast Guard officials signed the contract papers to acquire the Sikorsky H-60 series helicopter to replace the venerable HH-3F Pelicans.
- 1994-The crew of Coast Guard LORAN Station Iwo Jima decommissioned their station and turned it over to a crew from the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency. The turnover of all of the Northwest Pacific LORAN chain stations was arranged under a 1992 agreement between the U.S. and Japan.
- 2014-CGC *Rush* returned to its homeport of Honolulu, Hawaii, following a successful 72-day deployment in the Central and Western Pacific. *Rush* departed in July 2014 and spent two months conducting operations in the Central and Western Pacific. During the deployment, *Rush's* crew coordinated with multiple countries and partner agencies to conduct fisheries boardings in support of the Coast Guard's living marine resources mission. *Rush* also participated in international engagement activities in American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. To enhance detection of fishing vessels, *Rush* embarked a helicopter and aviation detachment from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point. *Rush's* crew participated in several community outreach and volunteer events during their patrol that included delivering hygiene and first aid supplies, in support of the U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp, to several Pacific Island Nations. *Rush's* crew also built a garden to



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support an abused children's shelter in Samoa and played sports and games with disabled children in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

- 2016-CGC *Stratton* returned to its homeport of Alameda after a 114-day deployment spanning the Pacific Ocean from Hawaii to the Arctic. "Our crew logged more than 19,500 miles during this deployment," said U.S. Coast Guard Captain Nate Moore, the Commanding Officer of *Stratton*. "Their participation in a major international military exercise, support of the Coast Guard's expanding role in the Arctic domain, and commitment to pursue excellence in mission execution has made this an extremely successful deployment." The crew of *Stratton* participated in two high profile exercises during this deployment: the Rim of the Pacific 2016 (RIMPAC) military exercises and Operation Arctic Shield 2016. *Stratton* was the third consecutive National Security Cutter to serve as commander of the Combined Task Force 175, a multinational task force comprised of nine ships and 13 aircraft from the United States, China, France and Indonesia. Participation in RIMPAC 2016 highlighted the Coast Guard's unique capabilities and partnerships with Department of Defense entities and international partners along the Pacific Rim. *Stratton* participated in training evolutions that included complex ship formations, joint flight operations with the U.S. Navy MH-60S Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC-21), an aviation detachment from San Diego; live fire exercises; personnel and logistics transfers, and maritime interdiction operations. Successfully completing this integrated training with HSC-21 and deploying together for RIMPAC 2016 represent the first extended Navy aviation deployment aboard a Coast Guard cutter. As part of Arctic Shield 2016, the Coast Guard deployed cutters, aircraft, and personnel to northern Alaska to engage in operations encompassing a variety of Coast Guard missions across the North Slope.

## 30 September

- 1899-First Navy wireless message was sent via the Lighthouse Service Station at Highlands of Navesink, New Jersey.
- 1943-CGC *E.M. Wilcox* foundered off Nags Head, NC. One crewman was lost.
- 1949-The rank of commodore, established in 1943 as a wartime measure, was terminated by the President under the provisions of an Act of Congress approved 24 July 1941.
- 1977- CGC *Taney* departed Ocean Station (OWS) *Hotel* on 30 September 1977 when the station was closed and replaced by a buoy. This was the final ocean station patrolled by a Coast Guard cutter. OWS *Hotel*, located 200 miles east of the Maryland/Virginia coast was first established in 1970 as part of a supplemental weather warning program for the tracking and improved forecasting of East Coast storms and hurricanes. OWS *Hotel* was manned by the Coast Guard from 1 August through 15 April each year. The termination of OWS *Hotel* marked the end of the Coast Guard's participation in the manned ocean station program which began on 10 February 1940 when CGCs *Bibb* and *Duane* occupied stations Number 1 and 2 in the North Atlantic and continued through the end of the U.S. participation in the North Atlantic Ocean Station Program of the World Meteorological Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization in 1974.
- 1994-The crew of Coast Guard LORAN Station Marcus Island decommissioned their station and turned it over to the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency. This was the last



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station in the Northwest Pacific LORAN chain to be decommissioned and turned over to the Japanese under a 1992 agreement between the two countries.

- 1997- Omega Navigation Station Hawaii ceased operation, coinciding with the end of worldwide Omega transmissions.
- 2015-Coast Guard Port Security Unit 308, based in Kiln, Mississippi, returned home from a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. During the deployment, PSU 308 members maintained a continuous maritime anti-terrorism/force protection presence in the Naval Defensive Sea Area of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, directly supporting the commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay Naval reservation and adjoining waters. PSU 308 was commissioned September 16, 1998. It has been mobilized five times to this point since its inception, twice to Kuwait in 2003 and 2010, once to Bahrain in 2002, and once previously to Guantanamo in 2007. It was comprised of 142 selected reservists and six active duty personnel. PSU 308 was an expeditionary warfare unit specializing in maritime anti-terrorism/force protection and port security in support of military or humanitarian operations worldwide. PSU 308 maintained garrison facilities as a tenant command of Coast Guard Pacific Area Command in Kiln.