

United States Military History



Coast Guard

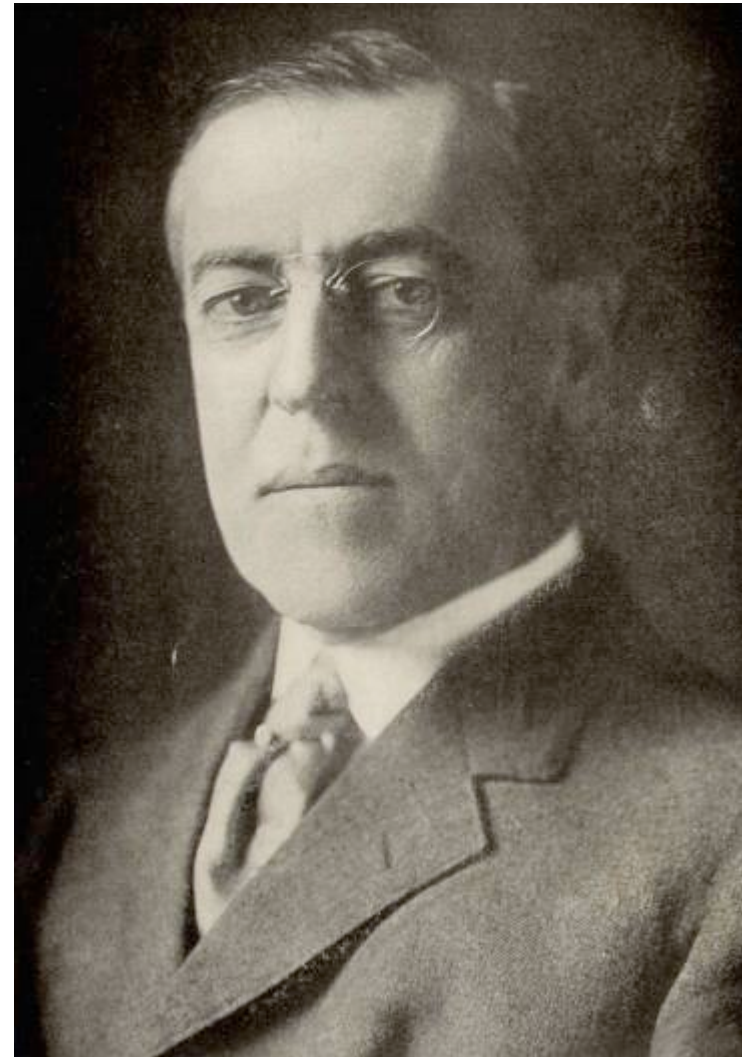
Coast Guard

“Act to Create the Coast Guard”

President Wilson signed the “Act to Create the Coast Guard”, on 28 January 1915.

Combined the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

Coast Guard was made, by statute, one of the nation’s armed service.



President Woodrow Wilson

Coast Guard

Ellsworth P. Bertholf

He was appointed Captain Commandant of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service in 1911.

He was appointed the first Captain Commandant of the Coast Guard in January 1915.

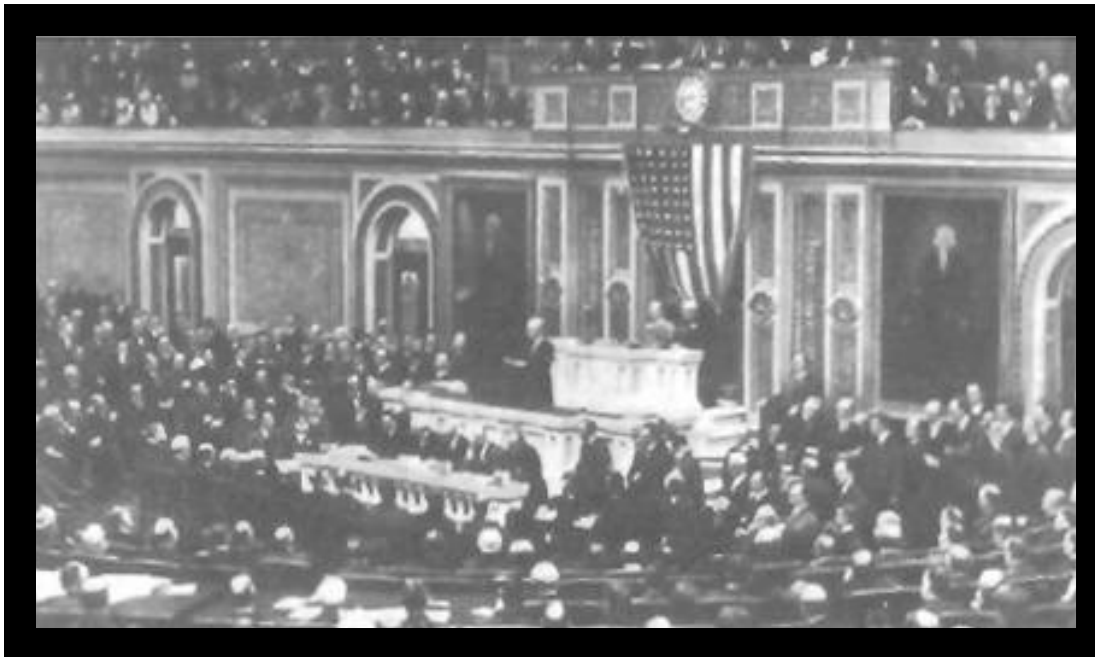
During the World War I he held the rank of Commodore.



Coast Guard

World War I

On 6 April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany. On the same day the Coast Guard was transferred to the US Navy by Executive Order.

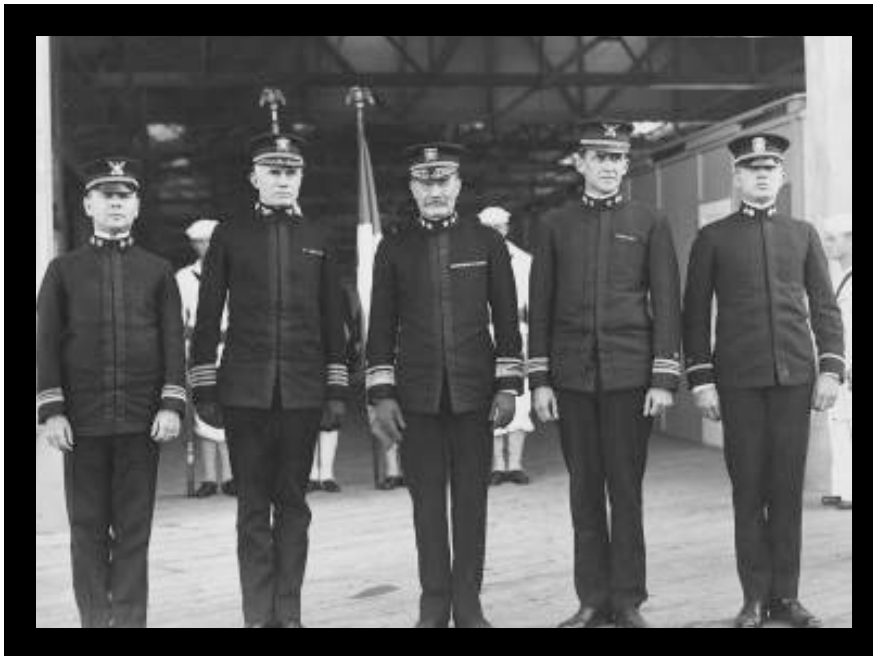


President Wilson
asks Congress to
Declare War on
Germany

Coast Guard

World War I

Coast Guard Officers went on to command several naval air stations, as well as naval vessels engaged in convoy missions in European waters



Coast Guard and
Navy Officers

Coast Guard

USCGC Tampa

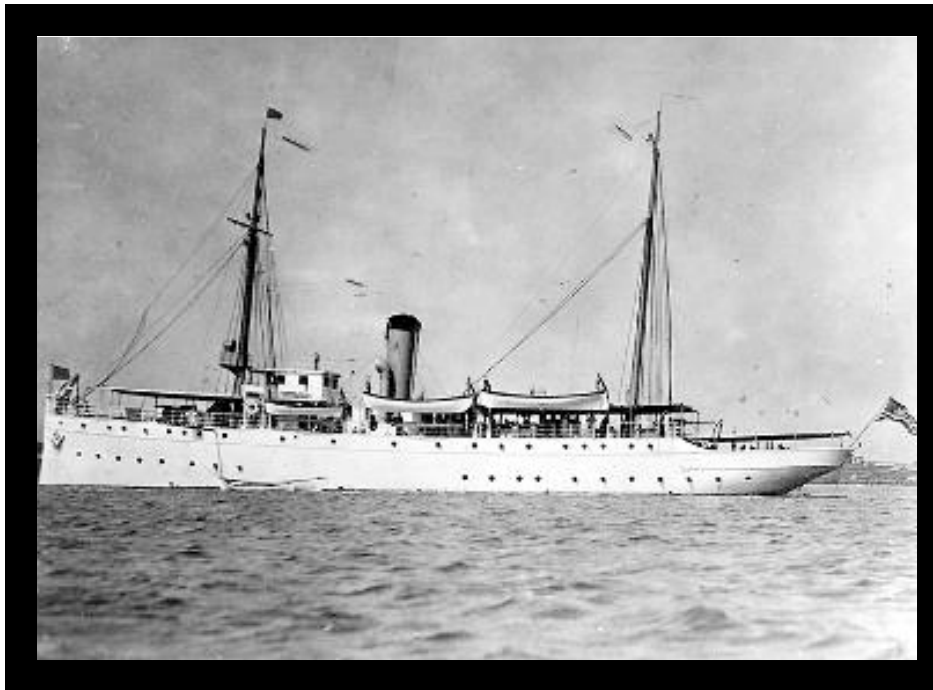
The Coast Guard ship Tampa conducted 18 convoy escort missions within an 8 month period.

On 26 September 1918, the Tampa was sunk by a single torpedo from German submarine UB-91. The dead included 111 Coast Guardsmen, 4 U.S. Navy men, a captain of the British Arm and 10 seamen of the Royal Navy and 5 civilian dock workers.

The sinking of the Tampa was the single largest US naval combat loss of the war.

Coast Guard

USCGC Tampa



USCGC Tampa

Artist's Depiction of
Tampa's sinking



Coast Guard

In February 1919 Congress sent a joint resolution to President Wilson calling for the Coast Guard's return to the Treasury Department's control. On 28 August 1919, in accordance with Executive Order No. 3160, the Coast Guard returned to control of the Treasury Department.



William F. Reynolds became
Commandant of the Coast Guard

Coast Guard

Prohibition

On 16 January 1920, the 18th Amendment to the Constitution became the law of the land. It outlawed any beverage with greater than 0.5% alcohol by volume.

As an arm of the Treasury Department, the US Coast Guard primary mission would be enforcement of this law.

Coast Guard

Prohibition

The 18th Amendment were unpopular and “bootlegging” (the illegal trafficking of liquor) became a major problem.

The size of the Coast Guard was increased to help combat the increasing illegal traffic of alcohol into the United States.

Coast Guard

Prohibition



**Government
Agents
Destroy
Barrels of
Liquor**

“Rumrunners”



Almeida



**Speedboat seized by
the Coast Guard**

“Rumrunners”



Underwriter



**Kirk and Sweeney
loaded with run**

Coast Guard

End of Prohibition

Prohibition was never very popular with the American people. Enforcing it had become a nightmare for the Coast Guard and the nation. Millions of dollars were being spent to stop the flow of alcohol into the country with disappointing levels of success. The demand was too great to be stopped.

Coast Guard

End of Prohibition

With the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as President, the ratification of the 21st Amendment to the Constitution took place on 5 December 1933. This repealed the 18th Amendment and legalized liquor once again.

With the 21 Amendment the Coast Guard changed its operational orientation from interdiction of bootleggers to other missions.

Coast Guard

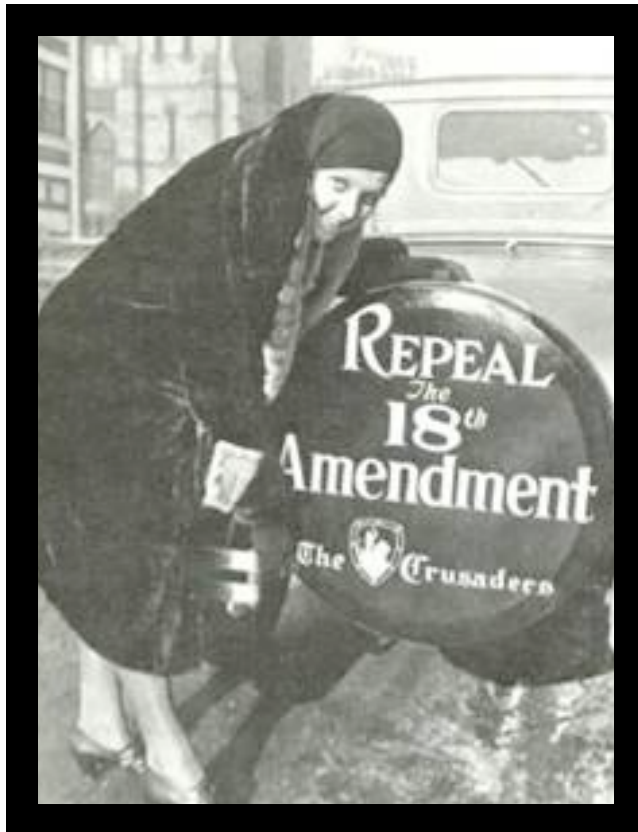


End of Prohibition

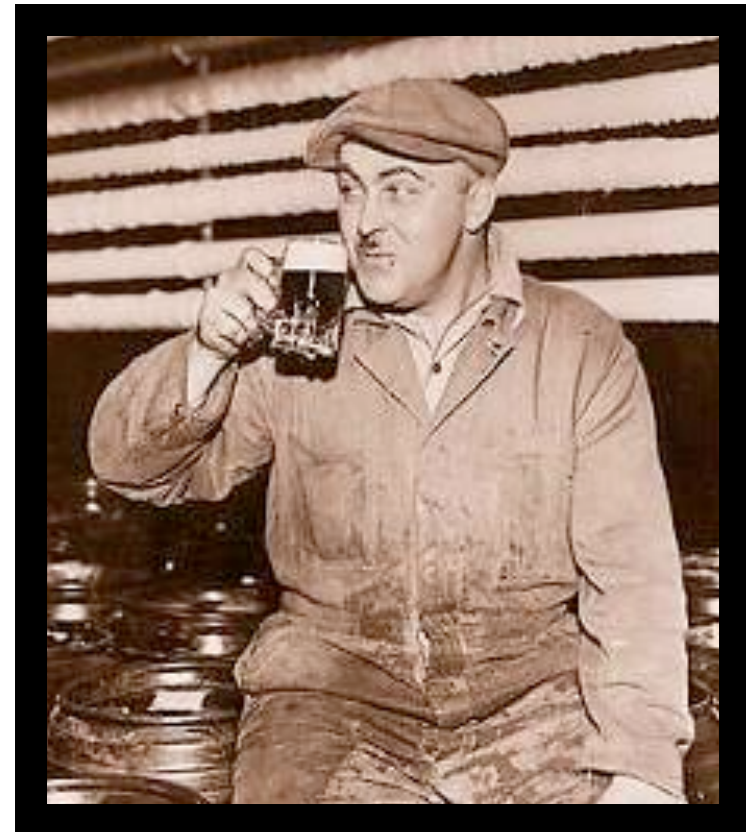
**United States
President
Franklin Delano
Roosevelt**

Coast Guard

End of Prohibition



Expression of Popular Sentiment



Prohibition repealed

Coast Guard

Bureau of Light House Service

On 7 June 1939, the Bureau of Light House Service was transferred to the Coast Guard.



Coast Guard

Outbreak of World War II

1 September 1939 - German invades Poland

3 September 1939 - Britain & France declare war

5 September 1939 - US declares its Neutrality and the Coast Guard is ordered to carry out neutrality patrols.

1 November 1941 - The Coast Guard was made a part of the US Navy.

Coast Guard

Outbreak of World War II



Coast Guard

United States Attacked!

7 December 1941 at 0755 Japanese planes attacked the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

The United States declared war against Japan and Germany.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin 1st EXTRA

8 PAGES—HONOLULU, TERRITORY OF HAWAII, U. S. A., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1941—4 PAGES PRICE FIVE CENTS

WAR!

(Associated Press by Transpacific Telephone)
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—President Roosevelt announced this morning that Japanese planes had attacked Manila and Pearl Harbor.

OAHU BOMBED BY JAPANESE PLANES

SIX KNOWN DEAD, 21 INJURED, AT EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

Attack Made On Island's Defense Areas

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Text of a White House announcement detailing the attack on the Hawaiian Islands is: "The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor from the air and all naval and military activities on the island of Oahu, plus all American bases in the Hawaiian Islands."
Oahu was attacked at 7:55 this morning by Japanese planes.
The flying fort and balloon Japan, was seen at about 7:50.
Wave after wave of balloons streamed through the island morning sky from the northwest and hung their missiles on a city strong in several foreign guns.
According to one uncorroborated report received at the governor's office, the Japanese force that attacked Oahu landed about 10 miles above the Pearl Harbor area.
It was also reported that at the governor's

CIVILIANS ORDERED OFF STREETS
The army has ordered that all civilians stay off the streets and highways and not use telephones.
Evidence that the Japanese attack has registered since it is was shown by thick blackening of smoke in the Pearl Harbor and Hickam field area.
All navy personnel and civilian defense workers, with the exception of women, have been ordered to duty at Pearl Harbor.
The Pearl Harbor highway was immediately closed to all traffic.
A thickening stream of injured people began pouring into the city emergency hospital a few minutes after the bombardment started.
Thousands of telephone calls almost paralyzed the Mutual Telephone Co., which put white operators on duty.
At The Star-Bulletin office the phone calls delayed the single operator and it was impossible for this newspaper, for sometime, to handle the flood of calls. Here also an emergency operator was called.
HOUSE OF ATTACK—7:55 A. M.
An official army report from department headquarters, made public shortly before 11, is that the first attack was at 7:55 a. m.
Witnesses said they saw at least 90 airplanes over Pearl Harbor.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS IN ACTION
First indication of the raid came shortly before 8 this morning when anti-aircraft guns around Pearl Harbor began sending up tremendous salvos.
At the same time a vast cloud of black smoke arose from the naval base and also from Hickam field where flames could be seen.
BOMB NEAR GOVERNOR'S MANSION
Shortly before 9:30 a bomb fell near Westlight Place, the residence of the governor, Governor Poindexter and Secretary Charles M. Hite were there.
It was reported that the bomb killed an unidentified Chinese man across the street in front of the Schenck Garage Co. whose windows were broken.
C. E. Daniels, a welder, found a fragment of shell or bomb at South and Queen sts. which he brought into the City Hall. This fragment weighed about a pound.
At 12:25 p. m. today Governor Poindexter telephoned to The Star-Bulletin concerning his declaration of a state of emergency for the entire territory.
He announced that Edward I. Daly, executive secretary of the major disaster council, has been appointed director under the M-Day law's provisions.
Governor Poindexter urged all residents of

Hundreds See City Bombed

Hundreds of Honolulu residents gathered on the top of Punchbowl today to witness the attack on the city.
The attack on Pearl Harbor from the air was seen by hundreds of people on the top of Punchbowl.
The attack on Pearl Harbor from the air was seen by hundreds of people on the top of Punchbowl.
The attack on Pearl Harbor from the air was seen by hundreds of people on the top of Punchbowl.
Schools Closed
All schools in the territory were closed today.
Editorial
HAWAII MEETS THE CRISIS

United States Attacked!





Coast Guard

Douglas A. Munro

Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Guadalcanal on 27 September 1942.

He is the only Coast Guardsman to have received this award.



Coast Guard

SPARS

On 23 November 1942, legislation was approved creating another arm of the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS).

SPARS was an acronym for "Semper Paratus - Always Ready"

More than 10,000 women volunteered for service between 1942 and 1946.

Coast Guard

SPARS



Coast Guard

End of the War

War ended 2 September 1945 when the Japanese signed the articles of surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

On 1 January 1946, the Coast Guard was returned to the control of the Treasury Department.



Japanese envoy signs the articles of surrender

Coast Guard

Korean War

During the Korean War (1950-53), the Coast Guard performed a variety of tasks. After the start of the conflict, the Coast Guard established air detachments throughout the Pacific. These detachments, located at Sangley Point in the Philippines, Guam, Wake, Midway, Adak, and Barbers Point in the Hawaiian Islands conducted search and rescue to safeguard the tens of thousands of United Nations troops that were being airlifted across the Pacific. The service recommissioned a number of mothballed Navy destroyer escorts to augment the fleet



Coast Guard

Vietnam War

The Coast Guard played a significant role in securing Vietnam's 1,200-mile coastline. Some 8,000 Coast Guardsmen and 56 different combatant vessels were assigned to duty there. Coast Guardsmen destroyed enemy supply ships, supported ground units, rescued American and other friendly forces, and performed many more duties, including carrying out humanitarian roles which are common to the Coast Guard.







Distributing candy to Vietnamese children



Coast Guardsman from *Point Mast* gives a gift to a Vietnamese girl

Coast Guard

President Lyndon B. Johnson transferred the Coast Guard from the Treasury Department to the Department of Transportation on 1 April 1967.



President Lyndon B. Johnson

Coast Guard

Cuban Boatlift

In 1959 the Communist revolutionary Fidel Castro took power in Cuba and within two years, the Coast Guard established patrols to aid refugees.

In 1980, Castro allowed Cubans to leave Cuba - hundreds of small boats loaded with refugees attempted to sail to Miami.

What followed became the largest Coast Guard operation every undertaken in peacetime.

Coast Guard

Cuban Boatlift

By the time the boatlift came to an end, over 125,000 Cubans had made the journey to the United States.







Coast Guard



War of Drugs

During the early 1970s, drug interception took on increasing emphasis that continues today.



Coast Guard

Desert Shield & Desert Storm

The Coast Guard has defended our nation in every war since 1790 and the crisis in the Persian Gulf was no exception. From the beginning of Desert Shield to the end of Desert Storm, the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard served proudly.



Coast Guardsmen conduct security patrols



Coast Guardsmen conduct security patrols

Coast Guard

Migrant Interdiction

With the tremendous success of the Cuban Boatlift in 1980, the next two decades saw the Coast Guard continue to have to deal with the question alien migrant interdiction. The 1990s saw the US Coast Guard save thousands in their response to numerous refugee boatlifts from Haiti and Cuba. The 1990s also saw a huge boom in the illegal migration of people from the People's Republic of China.

This work continues into the new century.



Golden Venture, loaded with 296 Chinese illegal migrants, beached on Long Island in 1993



11 migrants in a 1959 Buick sedan, interdicted in February 2004

Coast Guard

9/11

- On 11 September 2001, terrorists from Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network, hijacked four commercial aircraft, crashing two into the World Trade Center in New York and one into the Pentagon in Washington, DC (the fourth aircraft crashed around Shanksville, PA when passengers on board tried to regain control from the terrorists).
- Coast Guard units from New York were among the first military units to respond in order to provide security and render assistance to those in need.



USCGC *Tahoma* controls vessel traffic in New York harbor while the World Trade Center complex burns in the background

Coast Guard

Department of Homeland Security

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks President George W. Bush proposed the creation of a new Cabinet-level agency, eventually named the Department of Homeland Security. The Coast Guard was foremost among the agencies slated to become a constituent of the new department.



Coast Guard

Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Coast Guard provided port security in Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq; including the escort of humanitarian aid shipments into the port of Umm Qasr.

The Coast Guard provided security to Iraqi oil terminals located in the North Arabian Gulf. These facilities are vital to economic recovery in Post-Saddam Iraq



Coast Guardman provides security with a .50-caliber machine gun on the Khawr al Amaya oil terminal

Coast Guard

Hurricane Katarina

On 29 August 2005, Hurricane Katrina makes its second landfall on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans, LA.

The Coast Guard response included: 62 Aircraft, 42 cutters, 131 boats and over 5000 Coast Guard personnel.

By 27 September 2005 the Coast Guard had rescued 33,735 people.



United States Coast Guard

