



# Acquisition Directorate

# RESCUE 21

Mission execution begins here.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Rescue 21, the Coast Guard's advanced command, control and direction-finding communications system, was created to better locate mariners in distress and save property at sea and on navigable rivers. By harnessing today's state of the market technology, Rescue 21 enables the Coast Guard to execute all its missions—especially its search and rescue mission—with greater agility and efficiency.

Rescue 21 provides first responders with upgraded tools and technology needed to protect America's waterways. As Coast Guard Sectors are outfitted with Rescue 21, it replaces the National Distress Response System in use since the 1970s. One of the most significant improvements is Rescue 21's ability to more accurately identify the location of callers in distress with lines of bearing to the source of the Very High Frequency (VHF) radio transmission, thereby reducing search times and enabling the Coast Guard to save lives and property at sea and on navigable rivers.

Additionally, the system's geographic display capabilities assists in identifying the location of hoax callers, conserving valuable search and rescue response resources. The system also supports Digital Selective Calling (DSC), allowing boaters requiring assistance to transmit their exact Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) position to the Coast Guard and other DSC-equipped vessels. Rescue 21's expanded capabilities enable greater sharing of information and coordination with other Department of Homeland Security agencies, federal, and state emergency response or law enforcement personnel.

The Rescue 21 system will be fully deployed by the end of 2012 throughout the coastal continental United States, Great Lakes, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Remote sites in Alaska and along the Western Rivers will obtain modified coverage Rescue 21 by 2017.



*“The Coast Guard is committed to increasing our capabilities at Sector Command Centers. Rescue 21 is the first part of the Coast Guard’s recapitalization of its maritime communications infrastructure.”*

*—Rear Admiral John H. Korn,  
Assistant Commandant for Acquisition*

## FEATURES:

- Facilitates communications between public, commercial and government boats and ships within 20-miles of the U.S. shoreline
- Generates lines of bearings to locate mariners in distress via VHF Channel 16 communications
- Helps save Coast Guard resources by locating hoax callers for prosecution
- Provides GPS coordinates for Digital Selective Calling transmissions
- Enhances clarity, recording and playback capabilities of all communications
- Allows simultaneous monitoring and relaying of information over multiple radio frequencies
- Provides portable tower communications during emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes
- Automates transmission of marine information broadcasts