



# Acquisition Directorate

## Rescue 21 Project



# Rescue 21 Western Rivers

November 2008

### Overview

Rescue 21 Western Rivers, the Coast Guard's updated communications system for Sectors Upper Mississippi, Lower Mississippi and Ohio River Valley will modernize VHF-FM marine coverage in 'The Heartland.'

Currently in Full Rate Production in the continental United States, Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico, Rescue 21 is standing the watch and saving lives with upgraded communications tools and capabilities in many Coast Guard Sectors. As part of Rescue 21 Western Rivers, the Coast Guard is recapitalizing the National Distress System (NDS) on the Mississippi River and throughout the Ohio River Valley. The recapitalization will result in a more cost effective and realistic solution tailored for the unique operating environment along these busy inland waterways. All work on the Western Rivers is scheduled for completion by the end of 2012.

The Rescue 21 Western Rivers project will replace aging equipment including radios and antennas and add a second radio at the remote tower sites to provide additional transmit and receive capability. Additionally, this recapitalization will standardize and improve watch stander radio consoles at Sectors Ohio River Valley, Upper Mississippi River and Lower Mississippi River. In concert with the Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS) major acquisition project and the Coast Guard's Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic staff, this effort will also combine resources to provide necessary remote site facility upgrades, uninterruptible backup power solutions and new digital communications circuits, providing a fully-networked solution for Rescue 21 Western Rivers.

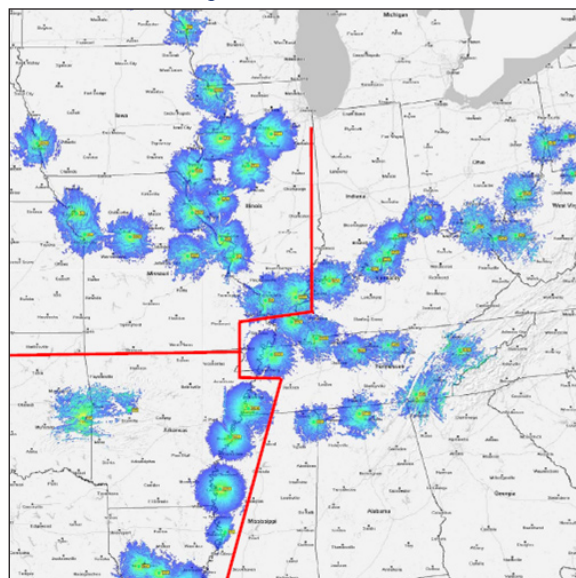
When completed, this vital major systems acquisition will provide leading-edge VHF-FM communications replacing the legacy National Distress and Response System or NDS that has been in use since the 1970s. By replacing outdated legacy technology with a modernized system, Rescue 21 Western Rivers will provide the Coast Guard with an upgraded tool and technology suite with which to better protect the nation's inland waterways.

### Capabilities:

- Enhances clarity of distress calls
- Allows simultaneous channel monitoring
- Provides more supportable, modern technology

### History and Timeline

- 1970s: National Distress System (legacy system) installed to receive and respond to VHF distress calls.
- May 1994: Mission Analysis Report includes new system requirements, noting gaps within the legacy coastal communications system.
- July 1995: The acquisition project is chartered as the National Distress and Response System Modernization Project (NDRSMP).
- December 1997: 'Morning Dew' incident, in Charleston, SC, validates need for a new VHF-FM system for the Coast Guard.
- September 2002: Rescue 21 production contract awarded.
- April 2006: Acquisition Program Baseline Revision (4) approved. Adjusted the requirement from deploy R21 on the Western Rivers to recapitalizing existing equipment.
- February 2007: Stakeholder's Conference in St Louis, MO, attended by CG-938, CG-761, MLC(t), D8 and Sectors Upper, Lower and Ohio Valley.
- May 2007: CG-938 submitted DRAFT preliminary scope definition to the Sponsor based on Stakeholder's Conference.
- July 2007: Coast Guard District 8 submitted response to preliminary scope definition to CG-7.
- June 2008: First Western Rivers Working Group meeting held.
- July 2008: Rescue 21 Operational Requirements Document Change 2 approved, incorporating new Western Rivers requirements.



Rescue 21 Western Rivers projected coverage areas.

Mission execution begins here.