



## All Hands Messages

### *Holiday Message*

To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard:

I am pleased to announce that President Bush has formally declared Friday, 26 December 2008, as a federal holiday. All executive branch departments and agencies will be closed.

As we enter the holiday season, I hope this announcement helps you enjoy additional time with your friends and family. Over the past year, our active duty, reserve, auxiliary and civilian personnel have performed with amazing dedication and professionalism. Whether executing or supporting missions, your selfless efforts have saved thousands of lives, prevented dangerous drugs from reaching America's streets, and protected the homeland.

Like the other Armed Services and our partners within the Department of Homeland Security, we will have personnel standing watch on the flight-line, at sea, and in command centers on 26 December and throughout the holiday season. Pam and I appreciate your steadfast commitment to the Nation. I also send the best wishes from Chief Clyde and Wilma Allen who missed their share of holidays when my Dad was deployed around the world, from the Philippines to the Bering Sea.

For those who are deployed and unable to be with their families at all, take pride in the fact that you are America's maritime Guardian. We are all thankful for and humbled by your willingness to serve.

Just as you are dedicated to our missions, I ask you to exercise the same level of dedication towards each other. Look after your shipmates this holiday season so we can all enjoy a healthy and productive 2009.

Thank you and Semper Paratus.

Admiral Thad W. Allen  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

