

Standing the watch

Look closely. You'll see some amazing things. First, you'll see members of Team Coast Guard who are absolutely sure about one thing: what they're doing is important. They're on watch every day, doing important work for America.

The smallest of the nation's five armed services, the Coast Guard is unique in that it has a demanding peacetime mission, and its serious work. Because excellence is part of that mission, accomplishing it requires a team effort. Everyone—active duty members, reservists, auxiliarists and civilian employees—is part of Team Coast Guard.

Team Coast Guard embodies many of the same qualities that you find in the best corporations: customer focus, quality management, innovation, efficient use of resources through our multi-mission character and, of course, a devoted work force, the Coast Guard's most important asset. These qualities have earned the Coast Guard recognition as one of the most efficient and effective government agencies.

Coast Guard people have a high level of responsibility at young ages. Only in the Coast Guard can people in their late teens and early 20s rescue people from plane crashes, ship wrecks and other perils on the water; captain a patrol boat in a dangerous law enforcement mission on the high seas; or serve as helmsmen when precise ship control is required.

Coast Guard men and women may find themselves saving fishermen in distress in the South Pacific, boarding fishing vessels in the Bering Sea to check for compliance with safety and environmental laws, teaching seamanship and navigation in Kansas, keeping the Great Lakes sea lanes open for commercial cargo ships, flying long-range missions in support of ice patrols in the North Atlantic, maintaining aids to navigation along our coasts and in our navigable rivers, interdicting illegal drugs and illegal migrants in the Caribbean or intercepting illegal Iraqi petroleum shipments in violation of U.S. Security Council Resolutions in the Per-



Crewmembers from Coast Guard Station Sabine Pass, Texas, board a fishing boat to conduct an inspection.



PAT TELFAIR BROWN, G-1/PA-1

A Coast Guard reservist stands ready at one of two M-60 machine guns mounted aboard a transportable port security boat.

sian Gulf.

I believe deeply in what we do and how we do it," said Adm. James M. Loy, Commandant of the Coast Guard. "I am thankful for the young Americans who join us to do noble work, even if it takes them to dangerous places—or places them in dangerous situations.

These young Americans are warriors, constables, life savers, regulators and environmentalists. You can sleep well. They are on watch."

Active duty

Enlisted men and women learn to be sailors at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J. They serve in 23 specialties called ratings, detailed in the next section.

Sixty percent of Coast Guard commissioned officers enter the service through the four-year Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Other Coast Guard officers are commissioned after completing civilian universities, serving as a Coast Guard enlisted member or working in specialized civilian professions such as law or engineering.

Coast Guard officers work in surface operations, aviation, marine safety, environmental protection, engineering, human resources and training, and legal specialties.

Women serve in all enlisted ratings and officer specialties and may be assigned to any Coast Guard unit. Unlike other military ser-

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