

# Atlantic Area — 5th District

**C**oast Guard Atlantic Area covers 10.36 million square miles of land, including 40 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia; 4.36 million square miles of navigable water, including the Gulf of Mexico, most of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

The area commander, a vice admiral, is also Commander, Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic and Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District.

Approximately 19,000 active-duty members, 6,000 reservists, 27,500 auxiliaries and 1,500 civilians carry out Coast Guard missions in Atlantic Area.

The area operations center is the search-and-rescue mission coordinator for all search and rescue that takes place on the seas beyond district boundaries. The operations center is also mission coordinator for search and rescue cases that involve more than one district.

The operations center also interfaces with other law enforcement agencies and foreign maritime services, as well as the Defense Department.

The LantArea command manages all cutters 210 feet or more in length, as well as aircraft. It also handles requests for assets and schedules resources.

LantArea headquarters is co-located with the U.S. Post Office in the Portsmouth Federal Building in Portsmouth, Va. With a staff of 299 officers, enlisted and civilian personnel, LantArea is responsible for a broad range of resources, including 28 medium- and high-endurance cutters, four communications stations, 21 long-range and air-interdiction aircraft, the International Ice Patrol and one Caribbean Support Tender.

The city of Portsmouth is located in southeastern Virginia near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in a region known as South Hampton Roads, bordered by Norfolk, Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach. Portsmouth is a historic seaport city rich in history and home of the world's oldest and largest working shipyard.

The Coast Guard's Fifth District encompasses most of

the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States, extending from central Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey to the North Carolina/South Carolina border and off shore 300 miles.

The Coast Guard's Fifth District is 156,000 square miles of ocean, bays, rivers, wetlands and tidal marshes, including the world's largest natural harbor—the Chesapeake Bay.



District people work every day to prevent harm to this resource, while at the same time they strive to protect the public from injury on these sometimes unforgiving waters through an educational program for the boating public.

The district is made up of six groups, one activities command, four marine safety offices, 21 cutters, 10 helicopters, five C-130 airplanes, 33 small boat stations, nine aids to navigation teams and two air stations.

During an average year in the Fifth District, Coast Guard men and women save 365 lives, conduct 4,500 search-and-rescue cases, save or assist \$98.3 million in property, conduct 10,950 law enforcement boardings, inspect 2,555 U.S. commercial vessels, inspect 1,095 foreign commercial vessels, respond to 365

reported oil or chemical spills, operate and maintain approximately 6,828 federal navigational aids and administer approximately 2,500 private aids to navigation.

The Fifth District has three of the top 25 ports in the United States: Philadelphia, Baltimore and Hampton Roads, Va. According to the Hampton Roads Maritime Association, 2,545 American and foreign cargo ships departed from Hampton Roads, in 1999. District aids to navigation help mariners safely navigate Cape Hatteras, Diamond Shoals and the area off North Carolina known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic.

Hampton Roads also has the largest concentration of naval vessels as it is home to the world's largest naval base. It is also the number one coal exporting port.



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