



PHOTO BY PA3 BRENT ERB, DT

From Maine to the Shrewsbury River in N.J., coastline stretches along 2,000 miles making up the First District. It is best known for its rich history, beautiful scenery, and prosperous fishing industry.

In District One, a person can sail with the crew of the CGC Eagle (WIX 327), see officers being commissioned at the Coast Guard Academy, and visit Boston Light, the oldest and only manned Coast Guard lighthouse in the United States. The First District is the birthplace of the Coast Guard. It is also where the first Revenue cutter, the Massachusetts, was built in Newburyport, Mass. One of the most famous surfmen, Joshua James, the lighthouse keeper who saved over 600 lives and was buried in a surfboat, was stationed at Point Allerton, Mass.

The abundant history of this district pales in comparison to its gorgeous backdrops of wide beaches and tall pines. The District boasts some of the most beautiful sights in America, from the tiny islands off the coast of Maine to sunsets on Cape Ann, Mass., from the busy streets of New York City to the tranquil Rhode Island seaside.

District One utilizes a wide variety of Coast Guard assets, including 34 small boat stations, 27 cutters, one air station, and many other marine safety offices, groups, and aids to navigation teams. These resources are kept running by less than 3,700 active duty and reserve members.

With an excess of one million boats registered in the First District, Coast Guard personnel have performed over 8,300 search and rescue cases since 1999. These men and women conduct

search and rescue safety inspections, perform maritime law enforcement, respond to oil spills, and provide upkeep for thousands of buoys and other aids to navigation. Together with 6,400 auxiliaries, the First District also educates the public on boating safety.

Fishing is District One's oldest profession, having been extremely successful for 377 years. Gloucester, Mass., claims the title of the oldest continuous seaport in America. The Coast Guard has worked with the fishermen to prevent unfortunate losses in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Movies such as *The Perfect Storm* have portrayed the dangers of modern-day fishing and how the Coast Guard has aided the brave fishermen.

With tragic incidents like the Egypt Air Flight 990 and the search for JFK Jr.'s plane, the First District's skills are tested. The First Coast Guard District has shown that truly, it is Always Ready, yesterday, today, and for the future *Semper Paratus!*

