

The Eighth Coast Guard District, headquartered in New Orleans, covers all or part of 26 states throughout the Gulf Coast and heartland of America. It stretches from the Appalachian Mountains and Chattahoochee River in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west, and from the U.S.-Mexico border and the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border in North Dakota. This area encompasses 1,200 miles of coastline and 10,300 miles of inland navigable waterways.

In a typical year, the men and women of the Eighth Coast Guard District prosecute more than 5,700 search and rescue cases—14 percent of the Coast Guard total—saving 800 lives, assisting more than 10,000 mariners, and protecting about \$200 million in property.

The ports of New Orleans and Houston are the two busiest shipping ports in the nation, with more than 2 million barrels of oil and 1 million tons of cargo imported daily. Seventeen of the top 40 busiest ports by tonnage are located in the Eighth District. There are also more than 6,500 oil and gas producing wells, along with 130 mobile offshore drilling units in the Gulf of Mexico, which constitute most of the U.S. offshore oil and gas industry.

In addition, The Eighth Coast Guard District conducts nearly 40 percent of the Coast Guards marine incidents investigations and responds to more than 4,000 marine environmental pollution incidents each year.

Five of the top seven fishing ports in the country are located in the district. They account for approximately 40 percent of the catch of U.S. commercial fishermen. Eighth District boarding teams annually perform more than 7,000 boardings to enforce laws and treaties related to fisheries, counter-drug and illegal migrant interdiction operations.

The Eighth Coast Guard District manages more than 24,000 federal aids to navigation, roughly 50 percent of the Coast Guards total, all 11,000 western river buoys and over 29,000 private aids to navigation representing 60 percent of the



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nations total.

To meet these challenges, more than 5,000 active duty and selected reserve members are located in the district, 3,500 of whom are assigned to Eighth District units. There are also 5,000 auxiliaries and about 150 civilian personnel working in the district.

These personnel are assigned to seven Group Commands, three air stations, 12 marine safety offices and 18 marine safety detachments/satellite units. Additionally, there are 14 multi-mission stations, 14 aids to navigation teams, three vessel traffic services and seven loran stations. The district is also home to 54 vessels, including: five 82-foot patrol boats, one 110-foot patrol boat, five 87-foot patrol boats, 17 river tenders, two 175-foot buoy tenders, a 180-foot buoy tender, one 133-foot river tender, seven construction tenders, ten 55-foot aids to navigation boats and three 64-foot self-propelled barges. Lastly, there are three Coast Guard Auxiliary regions in the district's area of responsibility.

There has been a Coast Guard presence in the Gulf of Mexico and Midwestern regions for nearly two centuries. Along the Gulf Coast, the Coast Guards history ranges from the Revenue Marine Service Cutter Louisiana engaging British privateers near the Mississippi River in 1805, the first time U.S. sovereignty was defended in the new Louisiana Territory, to the Coast Guard patrolling the Gulf for German U-Boats during World War II. In fact, the

only German U-boat sunk during WWII in the Gulf of Mexico was destroyed by one of the United States Coast Guards Eighth District air crews on a routine air patrol.

In the Midwest, Coast Guard history includes establishing aids to navigation in the early 1900s, and continues to be actively involved in marine safety and flood response since the 19th century.

