

13th District



The Coast Guards Thirteenth District, where the mountains and scenery are majestic, may very well have the toughest coastal waters in the United States.

The treacherous Washington and Oregon coastline waters are protected by 14 search and rescue units and three air stations, which save approximately 260 lives and assist 7,000 others per year. The duty of protecting more than 460,000 square miles of the Pacific Ocean is completed with the assistance of 10 cutters. Thirteenth District units respond to more than 3,000 search-and-rescue calls and save more than \$15 million in property a year.

Nearly 1,300 active duty members, more than 450 reservists and 1,600 auxiliarists protect the Pacific Northwest people from the sea and the sea from the people using the Coast Guards newest vessels. The

grated into the Thirteenth District.

The Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean at Cape Disappointment, making it the prime location for two of the

Coast Guards toughest schools: the Advanced Rescue Swimmer School and the National Motor Lifeboat School in Ilwaco, Wash. ASMs and BMs take their training to another level while battling the heavy surf. The two schools are among the toughest in the Coast Guard.

Marine safety offices in Seattle and Portland ensure the people of the Pacific Northwest that the pristine maritime environment will be maintained. Both MSOs serve on the Northwest Area Committee, which is committed to cooperative planning for oil and hazardous substance spill response in the Pacific Northwest, and both chair the Pacific Northwest Port Readiness Committee that deals with issues of port safety and security. Together, the MSOs conduct a yearly average of more than 2,400 boardings on international and domestic vessels, and respond to more than 800 oil or hazardous material spills.

Pacific Ocean and Puget Sound fisheries are a high priority in the Pacific Northwest. A law enforcement and education program, developed by Thirteenth District units to enforce

keeps the fishing fleet within international and domestic regulations, making the toughest profession in America a lot safer.

Another guardian of the Pacific Northwest is the nations only international vessel traffic service. For more than 20 years, VTS Puget Sound has participated in a Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service agreement with Canadian Vessel Traffic Service to provide the best possible safety and information to incoming and outgoing Puget Sound traffic.

Polar ice breaking and research expeditions begin and end in the Thirteenth District. The Thirteenth District is home to the polar-class icebreakers, Polar Sea, Polar Star and Healy. The state-of-the-art, 420-foot cutter Healy made Seattle its home in September 2000.

What began with Cape Flattery Lighthouse on Dec. 28, 1857 and Cape Disappointment search and rescue station in 1877 has grown into a Coast Guard district that works smarter, not harder, by using technology. New cutters and small boats improve our search and rescue responses and assist us with drug interdiction. New buoy tenders, equipped with digital GPS, assure the boating community that our nearly 1,900 navigational aids are accurate. Two vessel traffic services give mariners an extra pair of eyes when transiting Pacific Northwest waters. The people of the Pacific Northwest expect the best from the Coast Guard and technology is allowing us to con