

## SHIP'S HISTORY

CGC Vigorous was commissioned in 1969 and has served the United States for over 35 years. The medium endurance cutter's first homeport was in New London, Connecticut, and has since been relocated to Cape May, New Jersey. Approximately nine hundred sailors spanning three generations completed tours of duty aboard these decks. The cutter has been tasked with a multi-mission portfolio covering commitments from the far reaches of the North Atlantic to the southern limits of the Caribbean Sea. Crews deploy an average of 185 days per year; the unit has operated for roughly 6,600 days away from homeport to date. At an average of four deployments per year, and 5,000 nautical miles covered per deployment, CGC Vigorous has seen over 700,000 nautical miles of ocean while pursuing nationally significant objectives.

In the 1970's, CGC Vigorous primarily engaged in the enforcement of Continental Shelf Fisheries Resource Regulations. Enforcement was aimed at foreign vessels commercially fishing in United States' waters. During that period, CGC Vigorous seized seven non-compliant foreign trawlers resulting in over \$1 million in fines. During the 1980's, Coast Guard missions expanded and so did the focus of the cutter. During the Mariel Exodus, crews aboard CGC Vigorous saved over seven hundred Cubans. During this period, high seas interdictions also prevented illegal importation of over 300,000 pounds of marijuana and 30,000 pounds of hashish with a combined street value of over \$410 million. The multi-mission pace continued throughout the 1990's when CGC Vigorous was involved in high profile operations with international impact. Accomplishments during Operations Able Manner, Able Vigil, Restore Democracy, and Uphold Democracy helped address volatile conditions in Haiti and Cuba. Highlighting the Coast Guard's role in international efforts to combat narcotics trafficking, CGC Vigorous was the host platform for bilateral negotiations during receptions for the Vice President of Honduras and Belizean officials. Throughout the 1990's, law enforcement activities aboard the CGC Vigorous were essential to events such as the seizure of the Motor Vessel Tyrone for narcotics smuggling and the catch seizures of the fishing vessels Edgartown and Italian Princess for fisheries violations.

CGC Vigorous expanded its mission portfolio again in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to include security operations as the Coast Guard integrated into the Homeland Security Department. In addition to traditional search and rescue and law enforcement activities, CGC Vigorous guards American ports from terrorist activities and has also participated in a significant inter-agency effort to safeguard allied leaders during the G8 Summit where crews controlled the venues sea-space to ensure a safe and uninterrupted conference. Always ready to act in the most challenging of situations, during a recent deployment, CGC Vigorous rescued over 200 migrants from peril. After nearly 140 deployments, CGC Vigorous still stands *PARATUS GERERE* (Ready to Act) and is actively engaged in strategic activities to secure America's maritime boundaries for the future.