

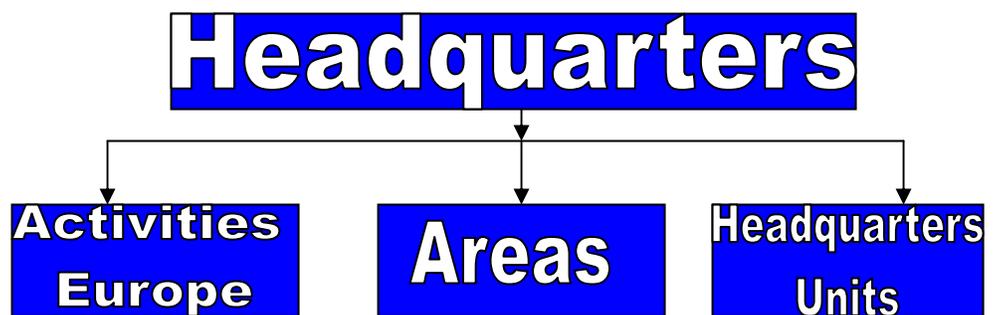
## Organizational Structure 2-5.01-K

**KNOW** the Coast Guard's Organizational Structure, as presented in the E-PME Study Guide.

### *USCG Organization*

The USCG is a military, multi-mission, maritime service and, as such, has a complex organizational structure.

A high-level overview of the organizational structure is shown on this diagram.



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### *Headquarters*

Coast Guard Headquarters, located in Washington, DC, is the administrative and operational command and control center for the Coast Guard. The senior officer at headquarters and of the Coast Guard is the Commandant.

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### *Coast Guard Commandant*

The Commandant, a four-star admiral:

- Plans, supervises, and coordinates the overall activities of the Coast Guard.
  - Directs the policy and administration of the Coast Guard under the general supervision of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.
  - Provides immediate direction to Headquarters units, although the Commandant is not actually the Commanding Officer of Headquarters.
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**Activities Europe**

Activities Europe is responsible to the Commandant for the administration and command of European Units and, in addition, has the following special responsibilities:

- European Loran-C System
- Mediterranean Sea, Norwegian Sea, and Icelandic Loran-C Chain

Activities Europe has the following staff divisions:

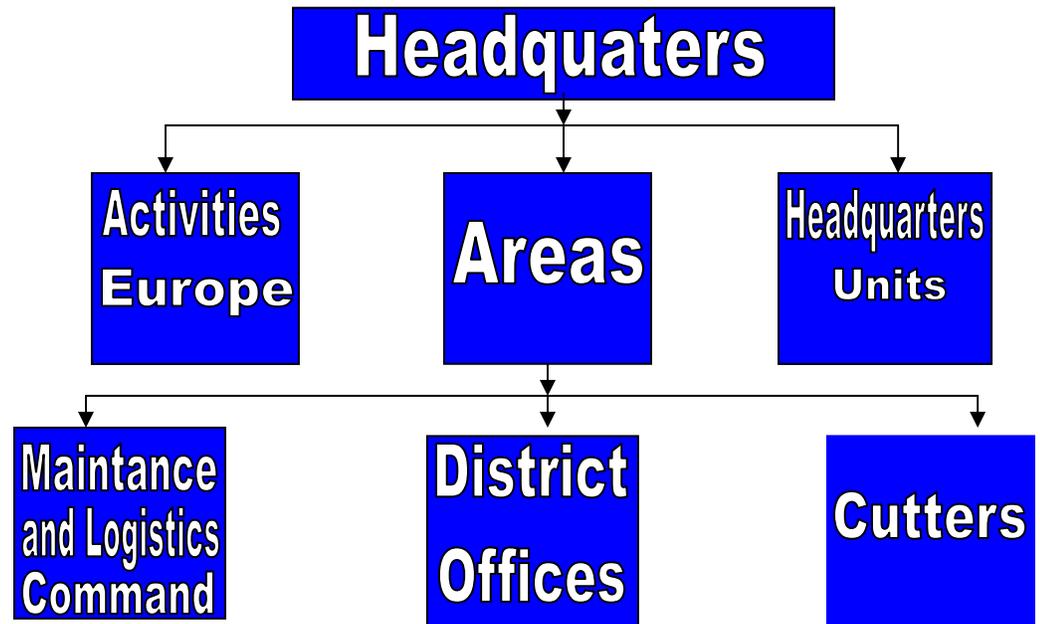
- Civil Engineering
- Comptroller
- Loran-C
- Personnel and Readiness
- Marine Safety Division

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**Areas**

In the field, the Coast Guard is organized into two regions: Atlantic Area and Pacific Area. Within each area, there are:

- District offices
- One Maintenance and Logistics Command
- Cutters



*Atlantic and Pacific  
Areas*

Three-star admirals (Vice Admirals) lead the Atlantic Area and the Pacific Area. The two areas are responsible for overall mission performance for their regions, including districts, maintenance and logistics commands, and other Coast Guard units that fall within their authority.

Areas have direct oversight of certain units, such as:

- High Endurance Cutters (WHEC)
  - Medium Endurance Cutters (WMEC)
  - Marine Safety and Security Teams (MSSTs)
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*Maintenance and  
Logistics  
Commands (MLC)*

One- or two-star admirals (Rear Admirals), who are under the general direction and supervision of the Area Commander, lead MLCs. MLCs provide support to all operational units and personnel within their respective areas.

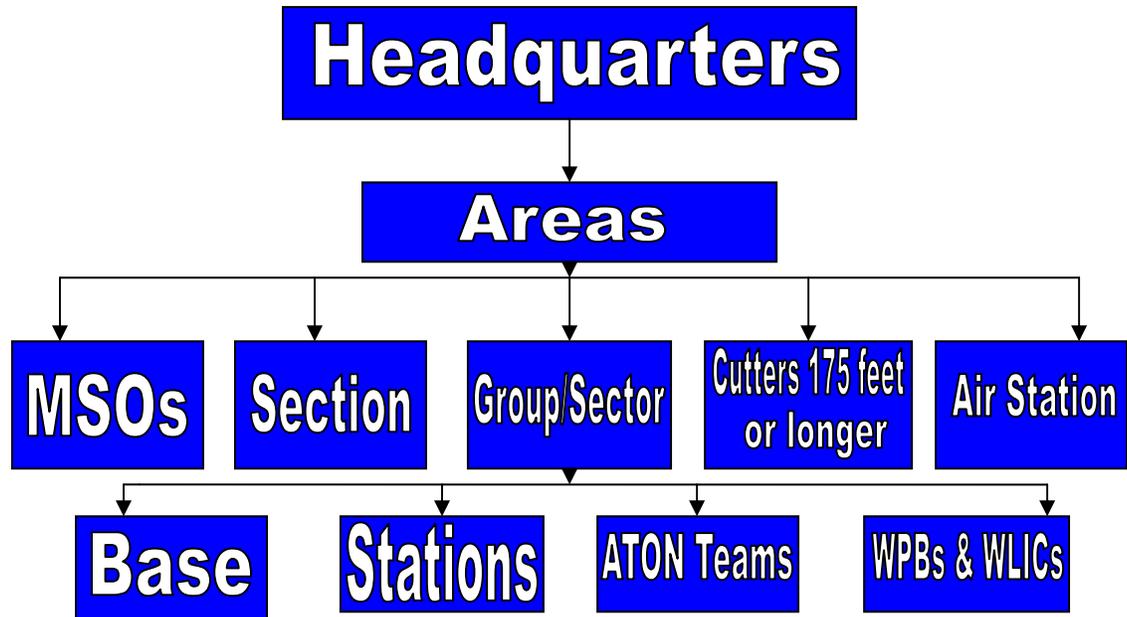
Services provided by the MLC include civil engineering, electronics systems, naval engineering, health and safety, legal, finance, personnel, and inspection. MLCs also have oversight for many Coast Guard units, such as Integrated Support Commands (ISCs), Civil Engineering Units (CEUs), and Support Centers.

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*Districts*

Districts are commanded by Rear Admirals (one- or two-star), who report directly to their Area commanders. Atlantic Area has five district offices, and Pacific Area has four district offices.

Districts are responsible for the administration and general direction of units under their authority and assuring that the functions and duties of the Coast Guard are performed efficiently, safely, and economically within their districts.



The districts are located in either the Atlantic Area or in the Pacific Area.

<b>Atlantic Area District Offices</b>	<b>Pacific Area District Offices</b>
1st District—Boston, Massachusetts 5th District—Portsmouth, Virginia 7th District—Miami, Florida 8th District—New Orleans, Louisiana 9th District—Cleveland, Ohio	11th District—Alameda, California 13th District—Seattle, Washington 14th District—Honolulu, Hawaii 17th District—Juneau, Alaska

*Coast Guard  
Units*

A variety of Coast Guard units serve under the command of their District office, including (but not limited to):

- Air Stations
  - Groups
  - Bases
  - Small Boat Stations
  - Cutters (175' and smaller)
  - Marine Safety Offices (MSOs)
  - Activities
  - Port Security Units (PSUs)
  - Patrol boats
  - Aids to Navigation Teams (ATON).
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*Cutters*

Larger cutters (over 180 feet in length) are under control of Area Commands (Atlantic Area or Pacific Area). A “cutter” is basically any CG vessel 65 feet in length or greater having adequate accommodations for crew to live on board.

Cutters at or under 180 feet in length come under control of District Commands.

Larger Cutters include:

- 420' Icebreaker (WAGB)
  - 399' Polar Class Icebreaker (WAGB)
  - 378' High Endurance Cutter (WHEC)
  - 290' Inland Icebreaker (WAGB)
  - 295' Training Barque Eagle (WIX)
  - 282' Medium Endurance Cutter (WMEC)
  - 270' Medium Endurance Cutter (WMEC)
  - 225' Seagoing Buoy Tender (WLB)
  - 213' Medium Endurance Cutter (WMEC)
  - 210' Medium Endurance Cutter (WMEC)
  - 175' Seagoing Buoy Tender (WLB)
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***Headquarters  
Units***

There are 35 Coast Guard units in the field that report directly to headquarters. Even though they are physically located within the geographical limits of a district, they are under the direct control of the Commandant or a headquarters directorate.

Some examples of headquarters units are:

- Aircraft Repair and Supply Center; Elizabeth City, NC
  - Aviation Training Center; Mobile, AL
  - Finance Center; Chesapeake, VA
  - CG Academy; New London, CT
  - CG Institute; Oklahoma City, OK
  - CG Yard; Baltimore, MD
  - National Pollution Funds Center; Arlington, VA
  - Operations Systems Center; Martinsburg, WV
  - Personnel Service Center; Topeka, KS
  - Research and Development Center; Groton, CT
  - Telecommunication and Information Systems Cmd.; Alexandria, VA
  - Training Center Cape May, NJ
  - Training Center Petaluma, CA
  - Training Center Yorktown, VA
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