



## "An Open Letter"

Admiral James Loy, 1 December 2001

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# AN OPEN LETTER TO TEAM COAST GUARD

In the wake of the terrible events of September 11th, every one of you has answered the call to action to protect and defend the liberties of a grateful nation. I am deeply proud of your superb response.

We are now in the process of adjusting operations to the "new normalcy" of American life. I know that many of you have experienced long hours, or have sacrificed plans and time with your families, due to the heavy strain of round-the-clock operations. I want you to know that I am committed to finding ways to reduce that strain.

As we work to rebalance our missions and resources, I urge you not to think of maritime security as a new task added suddenly to a growing constellation of tasks. Rather, we must see it as our north star. The mission of maritime security is not new to us. It is more urgent today than three months ago, but no less important than 211 years ago. We are guarding the coasts of the United States.

In the midst of our present trials, we must maintain clear vision and a keen sense of vigilance. We must continue to keep watch—building awareness of our vulnerabilities, the threats to our security, and those who would seek to do us harm.

Above all, we must continue to protect America at all costs.

Semper Paratus,

J. M. LOY  
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

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