

# VALIANT COAT OF ARMS



**SEAL:** The coat of arms as blazoned in full color in a white disk enclosed by a dark blue border edged on the outside with a gold rope and inscribed in gold “USCGC VALIANT” above and “WMEC 621” below.

**SHIELD:** Red, white and blue are the colors traditionally associated with the Coast Guard. Red stands for courage and zeal. White is for integrity. Blue alludes to the sea and signifies loyalty and devotion. Gold represents high ideals, achievement and excellence. The griffin, a powerful mythological beast noted for its intelligence and bravery and renowned for keen eyesight and hearing, combines the courage of a lion with the alertness and swiftness of an eagle. It is winged to show VALIANT’s ability to land, transport and maintain the ship-compatible helicopters of the Coast Guard fleet. It is gold to imply excellence and high ideals.

**CREST:** The stylized mariner’s compass symbolizes navigation, leadership, and the far-reaching scope and wide areas of service and control patrolled by the VALIANT and underscores the missions of the cutter: search and rescue, alien migrant interdiction and law enforcement. The heraldic bezant representing the sun portrays the cutter’s area of operations (the Caribbean Sea and the Lesser and Greater Antilles). The eight points of the compass refer to the eight commendations received by the VALIANT. The red annulet is for unity. The two oars represent the two, powerful 2550 horsepower Alco diesel engines and the two small boats, one Cutter Boat-Over the Horizon (named BLACKJACK) and one Cutter Boat-Large (named SNAKE EYES). They further represent VALIANT’s mission of search and rescue duties. They are crossed to show support.