

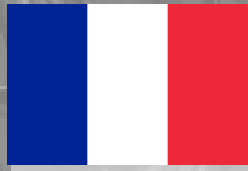
1787

U.S Constitution signed on September 17th

1798

Quasi-War with France authorized by Congress on May 28th

The cutter Pickering captured 10 prizes, one of which carried 44 guns and 200 men, three times her own force.



1799

Quasi-War

The Eagle, recaptured the American vessels Nancy and Mehitable in a memorable fight in 1799 with the French privateer, Revenge.

1812

War of 1812

The cutter Jefferson captured the first prize of this war.

One of the most hotly contested battles was between the cutter Surveyor and the British frigate Narcissus. The Surveyor was eventually captured, but the British captain praised the gallantry of the American crew.

One of the most dramatic engagements was the defense of the cutter Eagle against the attack of the British brig Dispatch and an accompanying sloop.



1846

Mexican-American War

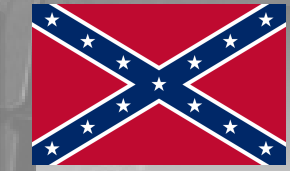
After combat skirmishes with American and Mexican troops over the Texas southwestern boundary, Congress declared war with Mexico on May 13, 1846. Mexico's declaration of war with the U.S. occurred on May 23rd.



1861

Civil War

The cutter Harriet Lane took part in the expedition to Fort Sumter in 1861 to patrol the coast for commerce raiders and provide fire support for troops ashore. The Harriet Lane is credited with firing the first naval shots of the Civil War.



1865

Civil War

1898

Spanish-American War

Spain declared war on the U.S. on April 24, 1898, a consequence of our intervention in the Spain/Cuba crisis.

On May 11, 1898 in Cardenas Bay, Cuba, the cutter Hudson and torpedo boat USS Winslow were engaged in battle with Spanish gunboats and shore batteries. With the massacre of Ensign Bagley, U.S. Navy, and the commanding officer and half the crew wounded, Hudson rescued the craft from destruction while under intense enemy fire.

A peace treaty was signed in Paris, France on December 10, 1898. Once again, the Revenue Cutter Service provided important inshore support to the Navy.

1917

World War I

After German submarines deliberately sank three American vessels, the U.S. entered World War I on April 2, 1917. The Coast Guard was again put into military service. This time, however, the entire Coast Guard manpower, vessels, and units was transferred to the Navy in April 1917 to fight overseas.

In August and September 1917, six Coast Guard cutters, Ossipee, Seneca, Yamacraw, Algonquin, Manning, and Tampa were deployed to Gibraltar, constituting Squadron 2 of Division 6 of the Atlantic Fleets patrol forces. The cutters escorted hundreds of convoys between Gibraltar and the British Isles, as well as performing escort and patrol duties in the Mediterranean.

1939

World War II

Following the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, the Coast Guard began carrying out neutrality patrols on September 5, 1939. On June 22, 1940, port security began.

1939-1945

World War II

Submarine Patrol

Coast Guard-manned ships sank 11 enemy submarines; Coast Guard aircraft are credited with sinking one enemy submarine.

One of our first successful attacks involved the 165-foot cutter Icarus. Using depth charges, the Icarus forced the surfacing of a German submarine. With just a 3-inch deck gun, the submarine was forced to surrender.

In early 1943, after a sharp gun battle, the cutter Campbell sank an enemy submarine by ramming it, causing severe damage to the Campbell. A small crew kept the ship afloat during the 600-mile tow to port.

1939-1945

World War II

In the latter part of 1943, the cutter Spencer tracked a submarine through a convoy. This was accomplished with such skill that the action report became part of antisubmarine force policy.

Escort Service

Coast Guard cutters and aircraft performed extensive convoy protection duties in the Atlantic arena. These craft are credited with sinking 12 German U-boats.

1939-1945

World War II

Transport Duty

Coast Guard personnel manned over 350 ships and hundreds more amphibious type assault craft...from the largest troop transports to the smallest attack craft. These vessels landed Army and Marine forces in every major amphibious invasion in North Africa, Italy, France, and the Pacific. Amphibious operations in the Pacific theater alone engaged thousands of Coast Guardsmen in situations where small-boat experience was essential.

The Coast Guards only Medal of Honor recipient was posthumously awarded to Douglas Munro, for his extraordinary heroism, outstanding leadership, and gallantry actions. On September 27, 1942, Munro was instrumental in rescuing a group of marines near the Matanikau River. The initial landings were made on Guadalcanal in August 1942.

1939-1945

World War II

Search and Rescue

Coast Guard craft rescued more than 1,500 survivors of torpedo attacks off the U.S. coast. Cutters on escort duty saved another 1,000 survivors.

Over 1,500 more survivors were rescued during the Normandy operation.

1939-1945

1946

1946

1950

1965-1970

1990-1991

2001-Current

World War II

Water and
Shore Patrol

Coast Guard coastal picket vessels patrolled along the 50-fathom curve, where enemy submarines concentrated early in the war. As a major participant in the U.S. anti-sabotage effort, on-shore duty had armed Coast Guardsmen patrolling beaches and docks

Rear Support Services

The Coast Guard also contributed to the war effort in other less publicized areas. These activities included, Providing port security, Supervising the movement of dangerous cargoes, Controlling merchant vessel traffic, Maintaining aids to navigation, Breaking ice to allow ship passage

Return to the Treasury Department

The Coast Guard returned under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department on January 1, 1946.



Prior to Korean War

In 1946, a Coast Guard team was sent to Seoul, Korea to organize, supervise, and train a South Korean Coast Guard. They succeeded in establishing a shipyard, supply and communications systems, and training facilities. The team also arranged for the transfer of 19 ships from the Japanese and American navies.



Korean War

When war broke out, the Coast Guards role was marginal, primarily one of support. Its principal contributions consisted of improving communications and meteorological services, as well as assuring port security and proper ammunition handling. Coast Guardsmen manned a number of Navy destroyer escorts, performing a variety of missions in the Western Pacific.

Vietnam Conflict

The Coast Guard was also an effective force in the Vietnam Conflict, performing duties uniquely suited to its specialized skills. Shallow-draft warships and operating expertise in coastal waters were needed for the interdiction of trawlers being used by North Vietnam for infiltration and resupply activities. This operation was named Market Time, with the Coast Guard having a major role.



Desert Shield/Storm

The mission of Operation Desert Shield was to defend Saudi Arabia. After invading Kuwait, Iraqi troops had begun to mass along the Saudi border, breaching it at some points. This suggested that Hussein's forces may continue south into Saudi Arabia's oil fields. When it was obvious that Saddam would not withdraw, Desert Shield became Desert Storm on January 17, 1991.



War on Terrorism

Operation Liberty Shield In March 2002

As part of this operation, the Coast Guard increased its patrols by 50 percent and placed armed boarding officers on every high-interest vessel arriving or departing from American ports. By the end of 2003, the USCG had conducted over 3,000 air and sea patrols. Over 3,900 Reservists served on active duty.

Operation Enduring Freedom

In support of this operation, eight 110-foot Island Class patrol boats and four PSUs composed of approximately 1,300 Coast Guard men and women had been deployed by the end of 2003.

2001-Current

War of Terrorism

Operation
Iraqi Freedom

The Coast Guards vital role in supporting this operation represents its largest overseas deployment in support of military operations since the Vietnam Conflict. Due to the Coast Guards multimission character and capabilities, we served in numerous roles.

