



Commandant's Intent

January 2026

The U.S. Coast Guard is a vital instrument of national power in greater demand now more than ever. For over 235 years, the American people have depended on the Coast Guard to ensure our Nation's economic prosperity and national security.

Today our Nation faces unprecedented challenges including adversary threats to our sovereignty, our prosperity, and our way of life.

We must meet those challenges to ensure our Nation will prevail.

This provides my intent as your 28th Commandant.

Like every Coast Guard crew on a mission, we will: ***Ready, Fight, Navigate.***

We will ***Ready*** the Service.

Semper Paratus – Always Ready is more than a motto. It is our call to action to deliver value to the American people we serve. It means our force (Active, Reserve, Civilian, and Auxiliary) is prepared to accomplish our missions today and into the future, to adapt and win regardless of the challenge.

After decades of underinvestment created severe readiness problems, the President and Secretary of Homeland Security, with the support of Congress, directed bold new action and historic investment to renew the Coast Guard to become a more agile, capable, and responsive fighting force. We are now emerging from that prolonged readiness crisis.

Service readiness starts with the readiness of every Coast Guard man and woman, and their families. Upon that cornerstone we build the readiness of the crews and the entire force. We will ready the Service through execution of Force Design 2028 and the \$24.6 billion capital investment, and with strong, sustained support from our nation's elected leaders.

We will ***Fight*** by performing all our statutory missions to deliver value to the Nation.

- We control, secure, and defend the U.S. border and maritime approaches from illegal migration, dangerous drugs, foreign invasion, and other threats.
- We facilitate commerce vital to U.S. economic prosperity and strategic mobility by controlling, securing, and defending U.S. ports, waterways, and shipping, and through actions to revitalize the U.S. maritime industry.
- We successfully respond to a crisis or contingency that may come without warning, including rescuing those in distress, responding to hurricanes or national incidents, and defending the Nation as part of the Armed Forces.

Our greatest value to the Nation is that we save American lives, not only through search and rescue but also by stopping the flow of deadly illegal drugs into our communities, ensuring the safe and

secure flow of lifesaving commerce through our ports and waterways, responding to natural and man-made emergencies, preventing and responding to terrorist threats, and defending the Nation.

Our crews operate in a dangerous and unforgiving maritime environment, often against those who would do them harm. We will lead our crews to conduct disciplined operations to get the mission done and safely return.

We will *Navigate* the Service into the future.

We will implement Force Design 2028 and execute the \$24.6 billion capital investment to rebuild the Coast Guard: [USCG Force Design 2028](#)

As we navigate this bold course, we are guided by these truths:

- Our sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution.
- Our Core Values are essential to who we are and our success.
- Courage—physical and moral—is central to our character, our proud history, and our enduring role as a military service.
- Coast Guard men and women (Active, Reserve, Civilian, Auxiliary) are our greatest treasure, and we will lead and inspire our crews to achieve the missions while taking the very best care of them.
- Chief Petty Officers are the backbone of the Coast Guard. We will empower and depend on them to lead across the Service.
- We rely on the strong support, respect, and trust of the American people we serve and their elected leaders. That is a sacred trust, and we will work each day to preserve it.

Looking to the horizon we are filled with certain hope for the future, because if there is one thing our distinguished Service history proves: with a ready Coast Guard crew and the strong support of the American people, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.



Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
28th Commandant