

THE COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard is one of the **Armed Forces** in the United States. They work along the waterways and coastlines. The Coast Guard is famous for rescue missions and do a lot to protect the waters in the United States. They also help keep drugs and crime out of the country. The Coast Guard's **motto** is *Semper Paratus*, meaning "always ready" in Latin.



RECRUITS

Recruits are new members of the Coast Guard. They must love to swim because they are required to swim long distances. Recruits learn to use pistols and rifles. Some Coast Guard recruits train to dive under water while others learn to fly planes. Once a recruit finishes basic training, they are known as **coast guardsmen**.

ROLES

Once coast guardsmen finish **basic training**, they began working. Some coast guardsmen drive boats and ships, while others fight fires at sea. Other coast guardsmen load and unload goods from ships. Coast guardsmen also make sure boaters follow U.S. laws. Some coast guardsmen train to become **officers** to lead other coast guardsmen.



RESCUES

Search and rescue is an important job for coast guardsmen. On average, the Coast Guard saves around ten people a day. They help when disasters strike, such as floods and hurricanes. The Coast Guard rescues people who are trapped or in danger.

SAFETY

The Coast Guard helps keep the water safe. Some of the ways they do this are by keeping buoys lit, checking lighthouses, fixing broken beacons, and making sure fog signals are working. The Coast Guard enforces fishing laws, laws against illegal drugs, and water pollution laws. They arrest people who break the laws. The coast guard also helps keep the water clean. Sometimes waterways freeze over and ships cannot get through. The Coast Guard has ships called **icebreakers** that break the ice to make paths for ships to get through.

OVERSEAS

The coast guard is sometimes sent overseas. This may happen during war or for special missions. The Coast Guard works for the United States **Navy** in these times. They help watch for enemies and search enemy ships for weapons. They also move U.S. troops and supplies overseas. Special units guard ports and protect U.S. ships. Coast guardsmen also help train foreign troops and help keep the peace. Sometimes they clean up after disaster. The Coast Guard helps many people each day.

Name _____

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MATCHING: Match each term with its description.

1. ____ icebreakers	A. The Coast Guard helps keep these lit
2. ____ motto	B. Recruits must go through this
3. ____ Armed Forces	C. Lead other coast guardsmen
4. ____ recruits	D. The Coast Guard's means "always ready"
5. ____ basic training	E. Ships that break through frozen water
6. ____ Navy	F. The Coast Guard is part of this in the U.S.
7. ____ buoys	G. The Coast Guard is sometimes part of this branch
8. ____ officers	H. New members of the Coast Guard



MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

9. How did the author **mostly** organize the passage?
- A. She explained how to become a coast guardsmen in chronological order.
 - B. She compared and contrasted the Coast Guard with other branches of the military.
 - C. She described problems encountered by the Coast Guard and explained how Coast Guardsmen solve them.
 - D. She described many characteristics of the Coast Guard.
10. In which situation would the Coast Guard **most likely** be called in to help?
- A. To stop rioting in a major city.
 - B. To rescue people from flooded streets.
 - C. To raid enemy territory overseas.
 - D. To build a new lighthouse.
11. With which statement would the author **most** agree?
- A. The Coast Guard is the most important branch in the U.S. military.
 - B. Becoming a member of the Coast Guard is more difficult than becoming a part of any other military branch.
 - C. The Coast Guard helps in many different situations.
 - D. The Coast Guard should do more fighting overseas.