



# Acquisition Directorate

## Rescue 21 Project



# Rescue 21

August 2008

### Overview

Rescue 21 is the United States Coast Guard's advanced command, control and communications system. Created to improve the ability to assist mariners in distress and save lives and property at sea, the system is currently being installed in stages across the United States. By harnessing cutting-edge communications technology, Rescue 21 enables the Coast Guard to perform all missions with greater agility and efficiency. The new system will close 88 known coverage gaps in coastal areas of the United States, enhancing the safety of life at sea. The system's expanded system frequency capacity enables greater coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, as well as other federal, state, and local agencies and first responders. When completed, this vital major systems acquisition will provide an updated, leading-edge Very High Frequency – Frequency Modulated (VHF-FM) communications system, replacing the legacy National Distress Response System installed and deployed during the 1970s. Rescue 21 will cover more than 95,000 miles of coastline, navigable rivers and waterways in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and Puerto Rico. By replacing outdated legacy technology with a fully integrated system, Rescue 21 provides the Coast Guard with upgraded tools and technology to protect the nation's coasts and rescue mariners at sea.

### Capabilities:

- Incorporates direction-finding equipment to locate mariners in distress using lines of bearing;
- Improves interoperability with federal, state, and local agencies;
- Enhances clarity of distress calls;
- Allows simultaneous channel monitoring;
- Upgrades playback and recording of distress calls;
- Reduces coverage gaps for coastal communications and along navigable rivers and waterways;
- Supports Digital Selective Calling for registered users;
- Provides portable, deployable towers for restoration of communications during emergencies, and natural or man-made disasters, (e.g., Hurricane Katrina.)

### History and Timeline

- 1970s: National Distress System (legacy system) installed to receive and respond to VHF distress calls.
- May 1994: Mission Analysis Report includes new system requirements, noting gaps within the legacy coastal communications system.
- July 1995: The acquisition project is chartered as the National Distress and Response System Modernization Program (NDRSMP).
- December 1997: 'Morning Dew' incident validates need for a new VHF-FM system for the Coast Guard.
- November 2001: Phase I contractors demonstrate designs able to meet critical functions.
- September 2002: General Dynamics C4 Systems awarded Phase II contract.
- August 2005: Project Resident Office commissioned in Scottsdale, Ariz.
- September 2005: Disaster Recovery System deployed to Port Sulphur, La. to restore communications following Hurricane Katrina.
- November 2005: First rescue attributed to Rescue 21 from Group Eastern Shore.
- December 2005: Coast Guard officially accepts Rescue 21 at N.J., and the Eastern Shores of Del., Md. and Va.
- May 2006: Sector Mobile officially accepts Rescue 21.
- June 2006: Sector St. Petersburg accepts Rescue 21.
- December 2006: Sectors Seattle and Port Angeles, Wash. officially accept system.
- April 2007: The first Full Rate Production Sector New Orleans (Phase I) accepts Rescue 21.
- August 2007: Project Resident Office commissioned in Juneau, Alaska.
- July 2008: The Alaska Implementation requirements for coverage areas and site functionality were approved.

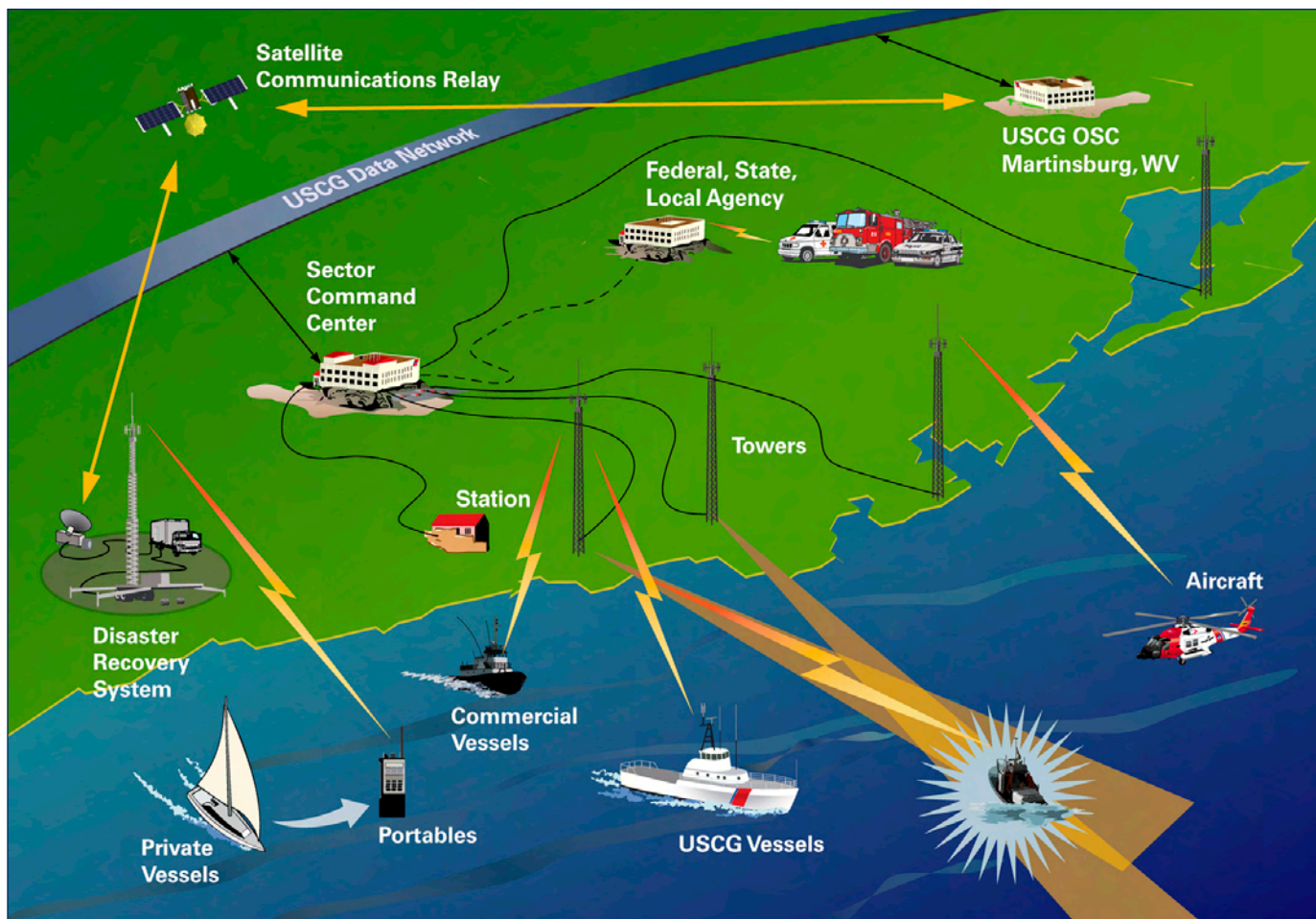


Mission execution begins here.

**Today Rescue 21 is standing the watch, answering the call of duty across 20,537 miles of coastline.**

## Rescue 21

Provides direction-finding capability and digital selective calling for more timely response to mariners in distress and allows protected communications for law enforcement and homeland security operations.



## Rescue 21 Operational Sectors

Sector Mobile - May 2006  
Sector St. Petersburg - June 2006  
Sector Seattle - December 2006  
Group/Air Station Port Angeles - December 2006  
Sector New Orleans (Phase I) - April 2007  
Sector Delaware Bay - September 2007  
Sector Long Island Sound - October 2007  
Sector New York - November 2007  
Sector Jacksonville - January 2008  
Sector Hampton Roads - February 2008  
Sector Miami - March 2008  
Group/Air Station Astoria - April 2008  
Sector Baltimore - May 2008  
Group/Air Station North Bend - June 2008  
Sector Portland - July 2008  
Sector New Orleans (Phase II) - August 2008

