



The U.S. Coast Guard Acquisition Directorate is committed to delivering and supporting state-of-the-market platforms that are affordable, efficient and mission-capable. Today Rescue 21 is standing watch and saving lives over 28,000 miles of coastline.

### Project Description:

Rescue 21, the U.S. Coast Guard's advanced direction-finding communications system, was created to better locate mariners in distress and save lives and property at sea and on navigable rivers. By harnessing today's cutting-edge technology, Rescue 21 enables the Coast Guard to execute all its missions, especially its search and rescue mission, with greater agility and efficiency. The system can also identify suspected hoax calls, thereby eliminating unnecessary response actions and conserving Coast Guard resources.

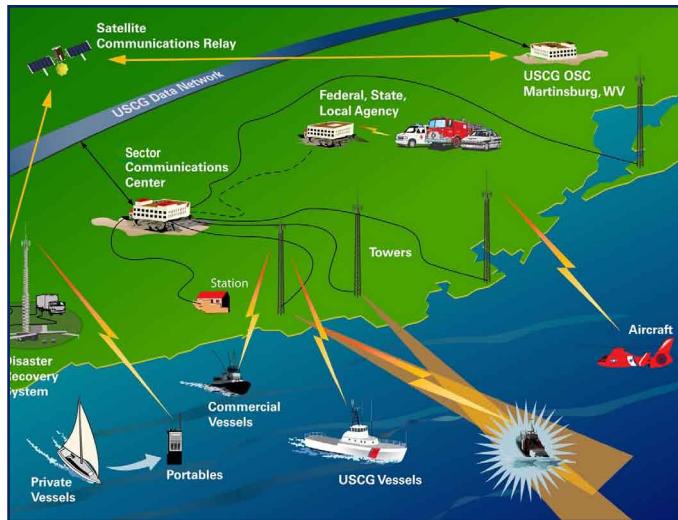
When completed, this major acquisition will provide an updated, VHF radio communications system that will replace the National Distress Response System in use since the 1970s. Rescue 21's expanded frequency capacity will enable greater coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and first responders. By replacing outdated technology with a fully integrated system, Rescue 21 provides rescuers with

upgraded tools and technology to protect America's coasts and rescue mariners at sea.

When fully deployed in 2017, Rescue 21 will provide coverage throughout the coastal continental United States, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as modified coverage in Alaska and along the Western Rivers.

For Alaska and along the Western Rivers, Rescue 21 is designed for each region's unique operating environment and terrain. At remote sites along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, Rescue 21 will upgrade current communications systems but will not provide direction finding capabilities. Due to Alaska's unusually tough operating environment, the Coast Guard will deploy a modified Rescue 21 system tailored to factors such as population densities, marine traffic, supportability, durability, accessibility, weather and terrain.

Mission execution begins *here.*



*With increased communications coverage, advanced direction finding capabilities and Digital Selective Calling, Rescue 21 helps take the search out of search and rescue.*

### Standard Mission Capabilities:

- Uses direction-finding equipment to locate mariners in distress using lines of bearing;
- Provides VHF communications to vessels within a minimum 20-mile coastal radius;
- Identifies and locates suspected hoax calls;
- Improves interoperability with federal, state and local agencies;
- Allows simultaneous monitoring of multiple VHF channels;
- Automates transmission of marine information broadcasts.
- Enhances clarity, recording and playback of distress calls;
- Closes coverage gaps for coastal communications;
- Supports Digital Selective Calling, a system that can transmit pre-formatted distress messages, including GPS coordinates, when properly registered;
- Provides portable, deployable towers and electronics for restoration of communications during emergencies and natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav and Ike.

### Alaska Mission Capabilities:

- Supports Digital Selective Calling for registered users;
- Enhances clarity of distress calls;
- Allows simultaneous channel monitoring;
- Enhances clarity, recording and playback of distress calls;
- Reduces coverage gaps for coastal communications;
- Automates transmission of marine information broadcasts.

### Western Rivers Mission Capabilities:

- Enhances clarity of distress calls;
- Allows simultaneous channel monitoring;
- Automates transmission of marine information broadcasts.
- Provides more supportable, modern technology

The Rescue 21 systems in Alaska and the Western Rivers have unique operating environments and features. Further information can be found under the project tab of <http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21>.

### Status:

Today Rescue 21 is standing watch, answering the call of duty over 28,000 miles of coastline.

### Rescue 21 Operational Sectors:

2006	May	Sector Mobile, Ala.
	June	Sector St. Petersburg, Fla.
	December	Sector Seattle, Wash. Group/Air Station Port Angeles, Wash.
2007	September	Sector Delaware Bay, Penn.
	October	Sector Long Island Sound, N. Y.
	November	Sector New York, N. Y.
2008	January	Sector Jacksonville, Fla.
	February	Sector Hampton Roads, Va.
	March	Sector Miami, Fla.
	April	Group/Air Station Astoria, Ore.
	May	Sector Baltimore, Md.
	June	Group/Air Station North Bend, Ore.
	July	Sector Portland, Ore.
	August	Sector New Orleans, La.
	September	Sector Key West, Fla.
	October	Sector Houston/Galveston, Texas
	December	Sector Charleston, S.C.
2009	March	Sector North Carolina*
	April	Sector Boston, Mass.

\* Coverage currently limited in the Outer Banks; full deployment of Rescue 21 in Sector North Carolina is scheduled for May 2010.

*“Installation of Rescue 21 across the nation represents a quantum leap forward in command, control and communications. By closing coastal coverage gaps and capturing more accurate data from radio transmissions, the system offers an essential tool in maritime security, search and rescue and marine environmental protection.”*

*— Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard*

**For more information on Rescue 21, please visit [www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21](http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21).**