



Acquisition Directorate

RESCUE 21

Mission execution begins here.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Rescue 21, the Coast Guard’s advanced command, control and 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 state-of-the-market technology, Rescue 21 enables the Coast Guard to execute its search and rescue missions with greater agility and efficiency.

Rescue 21 replaces the National Distress and Response System, which has been in use since the 1970s. Rescue 21 can more accurately identify the location of callers in distress via towers that generate lines of bearing to the source of VHF radio transmissions, thereby significantly reducing search time. Rescue 21 provides coverage out to 20 nautical miles from the coastline. It improves information sharing and coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and other federal, state and local first responders, and can also identify suspected hoax calls, conserving valuable response resources.

Rescue 21 is operational along the entire Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts of the continental United States as well as along the shores of the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and Guam. Remote sites in Alaska and along the Western Rivers are scheduled to receive modified Rescue 21 coverage by 2017.



“The Coast Guard is committed to increasing our capabilities at sector command centers. Rescue 21 is a key part of the Coast Guard’s recapitalization of its maritime communications infrastructure.”

*—Rear Adm. John H. Korn,
Assistant Commandant for Acquisition*

For updates on Rescue 21, visit the project’s website at <http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/rescue21>.

FEATURES:

- Improved information sharing and coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and federal, state and local first responders
- Geographic display to assist in identifying hoax callers, conserving valuable response resources
- Supports Digital Selective Calling (DSC), which allows mariners in distress with DSC-equipped radios to transmit, at the push of a button, their exact GPS position and vital vessel information to the Coast Guard and other DSC-equipped vessels
- Enhances clarity and provides recording and playback capabilities for all communications
- Simultaneous monitoring and relaying of information over multiple radio frequencies
- Provides portable tower communications during emergencies and natural disasters
- Automates transmission of urgent marine information broadcasts