

Pub 1 also describes the nature of our  
**Military, Multi-mission, Maritime Service:**

**Our Ethos**

**The Guardian Ethos**

I am America's Maritime Guardian.  
I serve the citizens of the United States.  
I will protect them.  
I will defend them.  
I will save them.  
I am their Shield.  
For them I am *Semper Paratus*.  
I live the Coast Guard Core Values.  
I am a Guardian.  
We are the United States Coast Guard.

**Our Core Values**

Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty

**Our Principles of Operation**

- Clear Objective
- Effective Presence
- Unity of Effort
- On-Scene Initiative
- Flexibility
- Managed Risk
- Restraint

**Our Motto**

*Semper Paratus*  
(Always Ready)

Pub 1 can be  
accessed and  
downloaded from the  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Internet Home Page in the  
Commandant's Corner.

[www.uscg.mil/comdt](http://www.uscg.mil/comdt)



**Coast Guard Publication 1**

**U.S. Coast Guard:  
America's Maritime Guardian**



**May 2009**

# Pub 1 - The Coast Guard's Capstone Doctrine

“I am proud to introduce the first revision of Coast Guard Publication 1 (Pub 1). Since its original printing in 2002, Pub 1 has served as our capstone doctrine. It defines our principles and culture. It communicates who and what the Coast Guard is, what we do, and how we accomplish our missions.”

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



## From the Introduction. . .

“What makes the Coast Guard unique is that in executing our diverse missions we harmonize seemingly contradictory mandates. We are charged at once to be police officers, sailors, warriors, humanitarians, regulators, stewards of the environment, diplomats, and guardians of the coast. Thus, we are military, multi-mission, and maritime.”

“Because this doctrine is rooted in history, it is enduring. Doctrine influences the way policy and plans are developed, forces are organized, trained and employed, and equipment is procured and maintained. It promotes unity of purpose, guides professional judgment, and enables Coast Guard active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary members to best fulfill their responsibilities. Pub 1 tells us how we became—and why we are—**America's Maritime Guardian.**”



## Pub 1 Describes Our Principles and Culture

It describes our:

### Three Roles

Maritime Safety • Maritime Security • Maritime Stewardship

### Eleven Statutory Missions

Marine Safety  
Search & Rescue  
Defense Readiness  
Migrant Interdiction  
Other Law Enforcement  
Ports, Waterways, &  
Coastal Security

Ice Operations  
Drug Interdiction  
Aids to Navigation  
Living Marine Resources  
Marine Environmental Protection



### Forces

Multi-Mission Shore-Based Forces  
Maritime Patrol & Interdiction Forces  
Deployable Specialized Forces



### Rich History



“A few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrance of our ports might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of the laws.”

— Alexander Hamilton (Federalist Paper 12, 1787)

Alexander Hamilton's June 4, 1791 letter of instruction to the Captains of the Revenue Cutters appears in its entirety in Pub 1.



### Periods in Coast Guard History

1790-1865: Revenue Protection and More  
1866-1914: Expanding Duties for a Growing Nation  
1915-1916: Establishment of the U.S. Coast Guard  
1917-1946: A Service Forged by War, Crisis, and Consolidation  
1947-1972: Sorting Out Roles and Missions  
1973-2001: A Unique Instrument of National Security  
September 11, 2001, and Beyond: America's Maritime Guardian

