



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
Washington, DC 20593

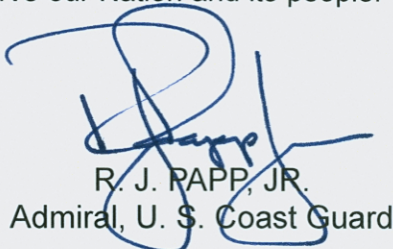
DIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

Diversity, though not easily captured in a single definition, allows the Coast Guard to benefit from the talents, abilities, ideas and viewpoints of a workforce drawn from the richness of American society, including men, women, minority groups, people with disabilities and veterans. It is achieved by using two key enablers: providing unfettered enlistment, appointment or employment opportunities to all qualified citizens equally, and creating and sustaining an organizational climate in which people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, races, religions, ethnicities and experience are fully included, valued and respected.

Diversity is vital to mission readiness and excellence. Diversity sparks innovation by incorporating new approaches and fresh perspectives to problem solving. Attracting and employing a diverse and talented team of active duty, reserve, civilian and Auxiliary members ultimately enables us to better perform our challenging maritime missions.

We must strive to create a climate of equity that fosters an environment where all individuals have the opportunity to prosper, advance in their careers and contribute their utmost to Coast Guard missions. We must strive to ensure that our Coast Guard recruits, retains and sustains a diverse, talented and highly skilled workforce. Our Diversity Strategic Action Plan will guide our efforts to achieve these goals. I encourage all members of our workforce to become familiar with the plan located on our diversity website <http://www.uscg.mil/diversity/>.

I am personally committed to making the Coast Guard the Service of choice for all Americans who seek to serve our Nation and its people. Achievement of this goal is an all-hands evolution.



R. J. RAPP, JR.
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard