



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 4, 2010

I send greetings to all those celebrating the 220th birthday of the United States Coast Guard.

From the earliest days of our Nation's history, America's livelihood has been inextricably linked to the seas. While the breadth of the Coast Guard's missions has changed since its founding in 1790, the commitment and honor of those who serve in this branch of our Armed Forces have not wavered.

As women and men of the Coast Guard, you belong to the greatest military force the world has ever known. In addition to defending our Nation at home and abroad, the United States Coast Guard protects America's maritime environment, safeguards commerce on our waters, and performs countless humanitarian and rescue operations.

This year, the United States Coast Guard has repeatedly exhibited its awesome capacity and might. When the tragic earthquake struck Haiti, the Coast Guard conducted critical operations to support relief efforts. The Coast Guard continues to play a central role in our Nation's efforts to contain and repair the oil spill's damage to the Gulf Coast. Wherever their exemplary efforts are required, Coast Guardsmen persistently personify their motto, remaining always ready.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank you again for your service. As you celebrate this milestone, I hope you look back with pride on the tremendous accomplishments of the United States Coast Guard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.