

# FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT COMMANDER'S INTENT

I am deeply honored to serve as Commander, First Coast Guard District. You exemplify the best of Service to Nation, Duty to People, and Commitment to Excellence. We ask much of you and your families, yet without fail you answer the call to duty with distinction. I am extremely proud of each of you and thrilled to have the opportunity to work together to advance America's maritime interests. To that end, this Commander's Intent frames our purpose and the conditions that constitute success within our area of responsibility. It is aligned with the Commandant's Direction and Strategic Intent and the Atlantic Area Commander's Strategic Direction.

**Vision:** The First Coast Guard District is an agile, expert military organization providing the best possible service in Maritime Safety, Homeland Security, National Defense, and Environmental Protection. In all that we do, we strive to earn the respect of the American people; for they are the reason we serve. We are committed to dedicated teamwork and comprised of empowered and inspired individuals who live our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty.

**Mission:** The First Coast Guard District promotes national strategic objectives by ensuring safe, secure, and environmentally responsible maritime activities in the Northeast area from New Jersey, to the Canadian border. In this area of responsibility, we will:

- Respond to those in distress to preserve life and property;
- Safeguard the public from maritime threats and ensure the vitality and resiliency of the Marine Transportation System;
- Facilitate the safe and efficient movement of maritime commerce to promote America's prosperity; and
- Protect the ocean and associated waterways to preserve their natural beauty and ensure sustainability of marine resources.

## **Guiding Principles:**

**VIGILANCE:** Everyone will stand a taut watch. We must at all times remain alert and focused. Risks are inherent in what we do so we must be diligent in managing those risks. We cannot become fixed in our operational assumptions and therefore need to constantly reassess our situational awareness. Inattention and complacency breed failure and put lives in jeopardy.

**READINESS:** We will embody our motto of *Semper Paratus* – Always Ready. We will maintain ourselves to the highest level of personnel, material, and operational readiness so that we can effectively employ resources to assigned missions and functions. We must engage in a process of constant learning and preparation so that we know our responsibilities, authorities, capabilities, and limitations. We must take care of and attend to our families to ensure they too are ready to endure the demands of Coast Guard service.

**LOYALTY:** We must be worthy of America's trust by adhering to our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. We will act with the utmost integrity. We will ensure positive climates where individuals are valued and respected. Everyone also will be encouraged and expected to intervene to prevent a hazardous situation on or off duty. Moreover, we will respect the communities in which we live and serve by being good citizens and neighbors.

**UNITY:** We will continue to build our network of partners to achieve greater mission effectiveness. We operate in a complex environment where unity of effort is mission essential. Federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private industry each have a crucial role in ensuring maritime safety, security, and stewardship. Integrating the assets, capabilities, expertise, authorities, and resources of these other maritime stakeholders maximizes service to the public, gains operational efficiencies, and promotes trust.



**S. D. POULIN**  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, First Coast Guard District