

Learn About the
**United States
Coast Guard**



Missions, People and Equipment



I AM A **COAST GUARDSMAN.**

I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

I WILL PROTECT THEM.

I WILL DEFEND THEM.

I WILL SAVE THEM.

I AM THEIR SHIELD.

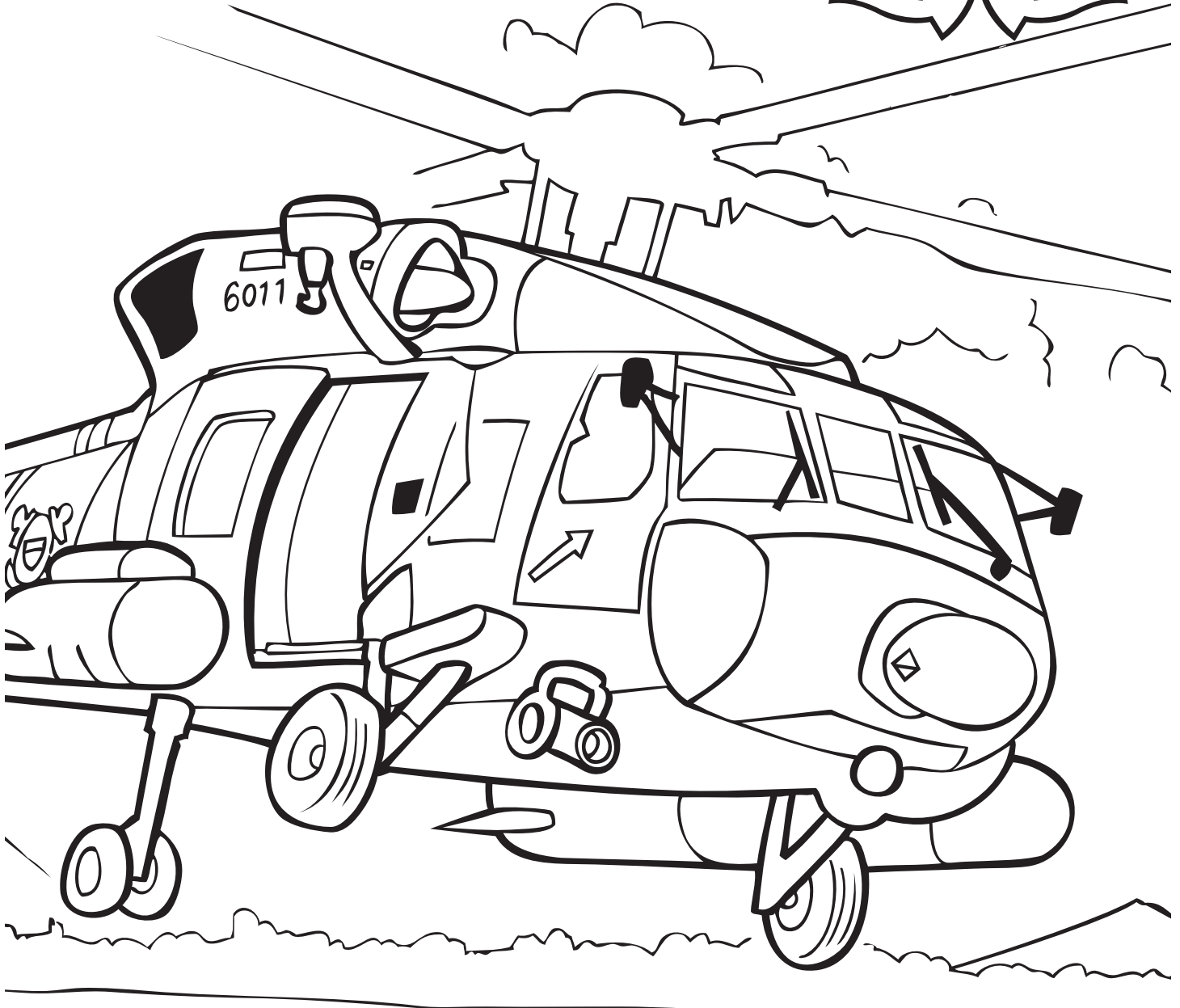
FOR THEM I AM SEMPER PARATUS.

I LIVE THE COAST GUARD CORE VALUES.

I AM PROUD TO BE A COAST GUARDSMAN.

WE ARE THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

Learn About the **United States Coast Guard**

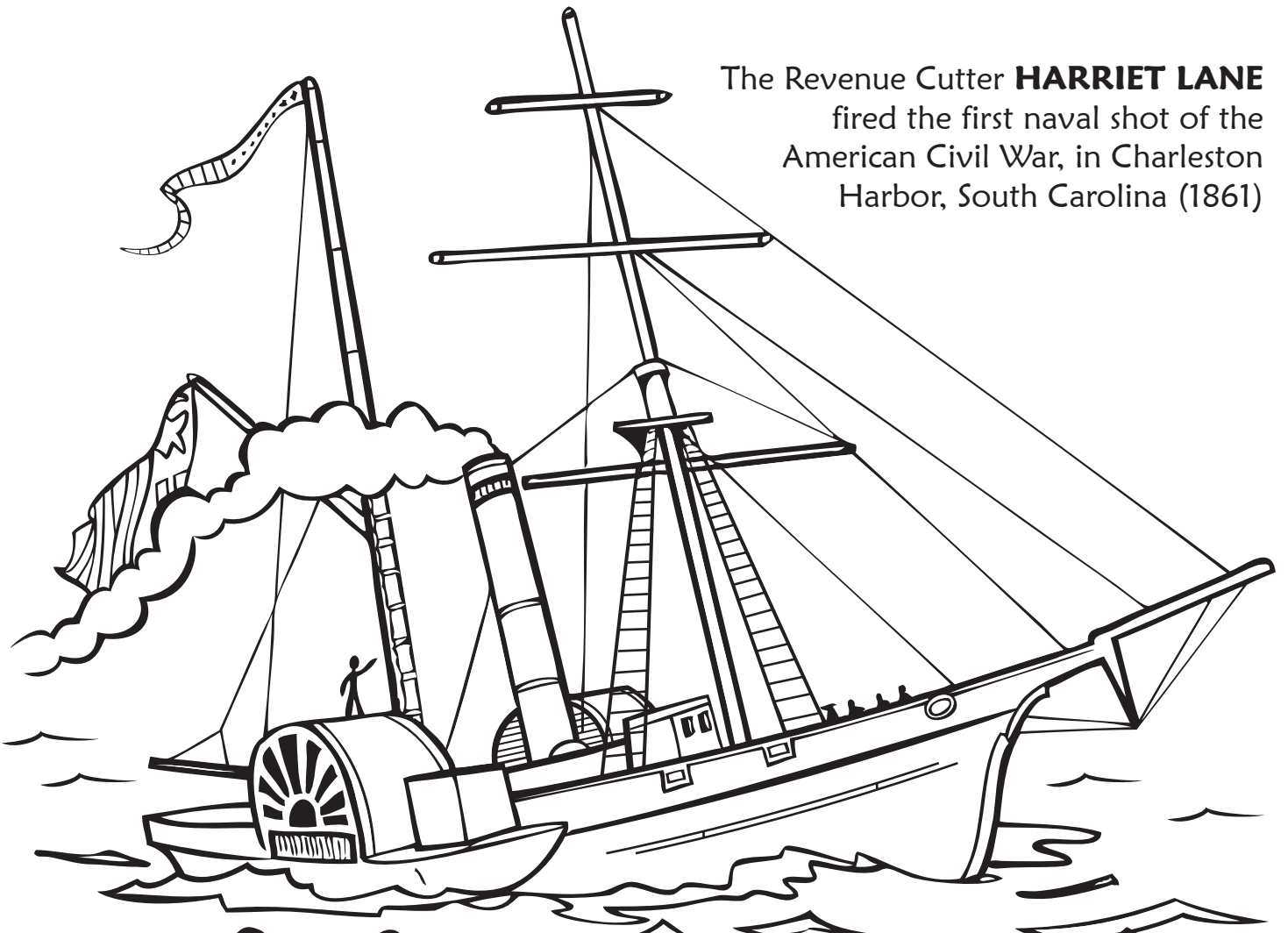


Produced by U.S. Coast Guard Community Relations

Concept and illustrations by Rob Green, former Coast Guard officer (robgreendesign.com)
Cover art courtesy of Bryan Snuffer (bryansnuffer.com)

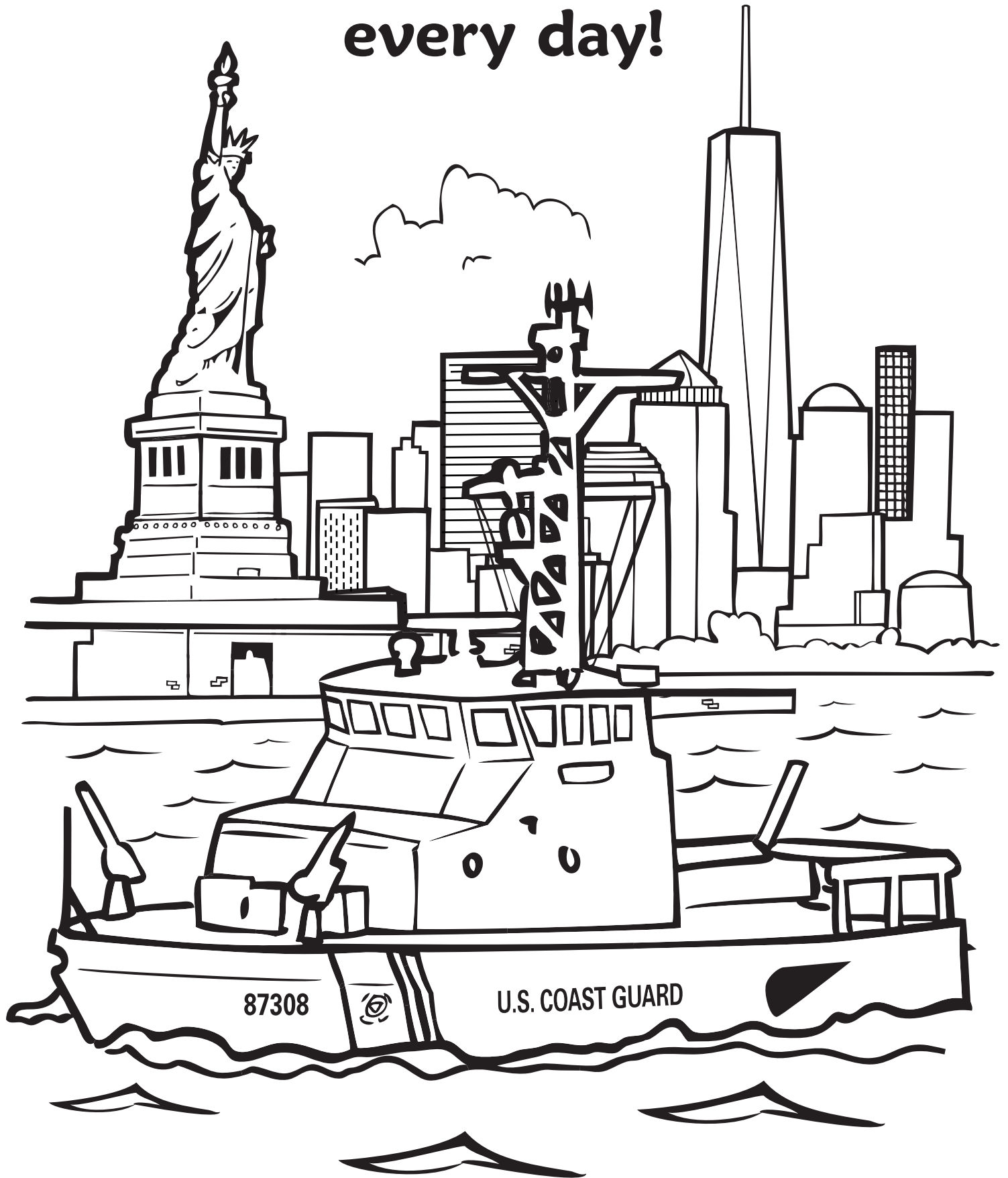
We've guarded our coasts for a long time...

The Revenue Cutter **HARRIET LANE**
fired the first naval shot of the
American Civil War, in Charleston
Harbor, South Carolina (1861)



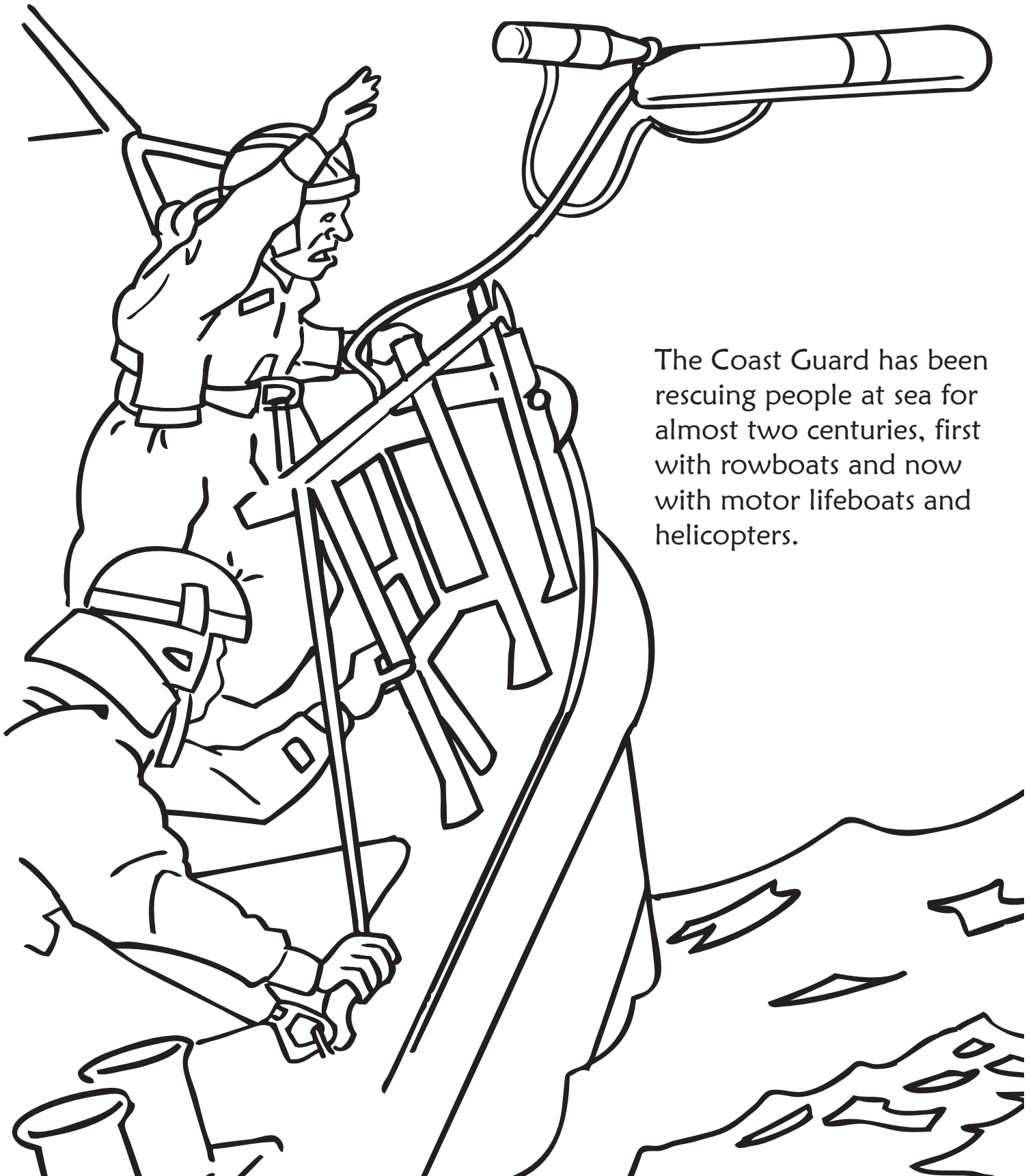
The **Revenue Cutter Service** was founded in 1790 and joined with the
U.S. Lifesaving Service in 1915 to become today's **U.S. Coast Guard**.

**...and we protect America
every day!**



USCGC CHINOOK ON PATROL IN NEW YORK HARBOR

We rescue people in danger.



The Coast Guard has been rescuing people at sea for almost two centuries, first with rowboats and now with motor lifeboats and helicopters.

On the water, it's important to be prepared! Here's some equipment boats and ships carry to help them get rescued in an emergency:



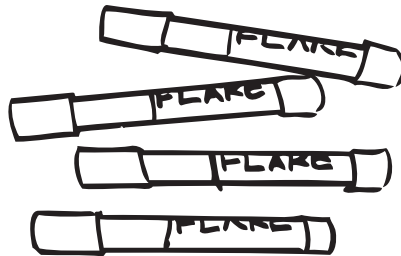
Air Horn



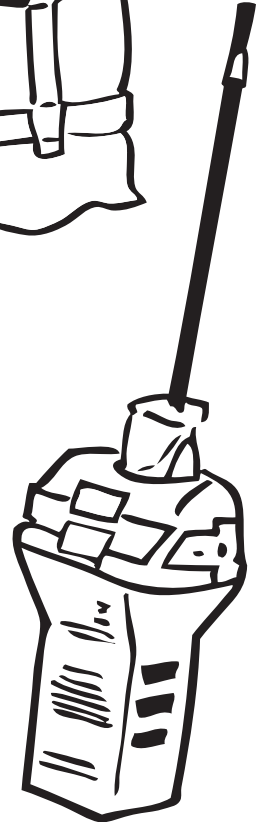
Rescue Whistle



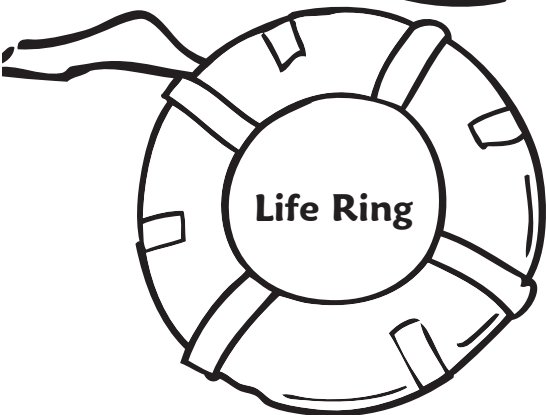
Lifejacket



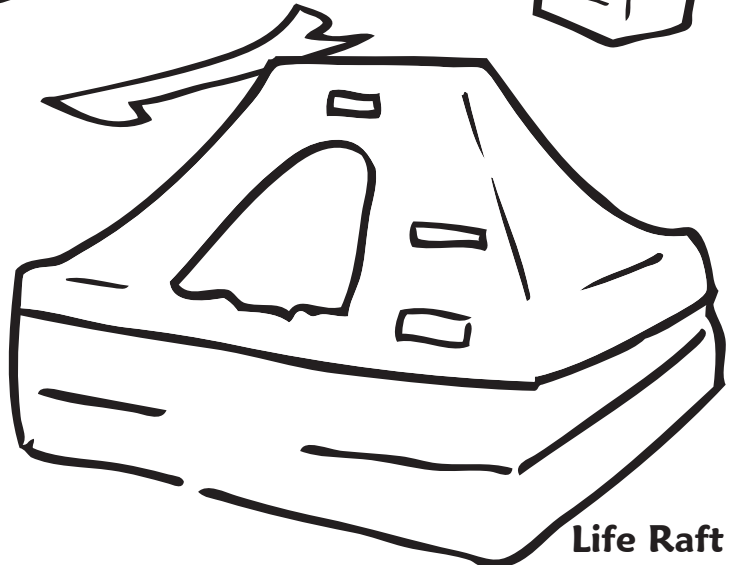
Flares



EPIRB*



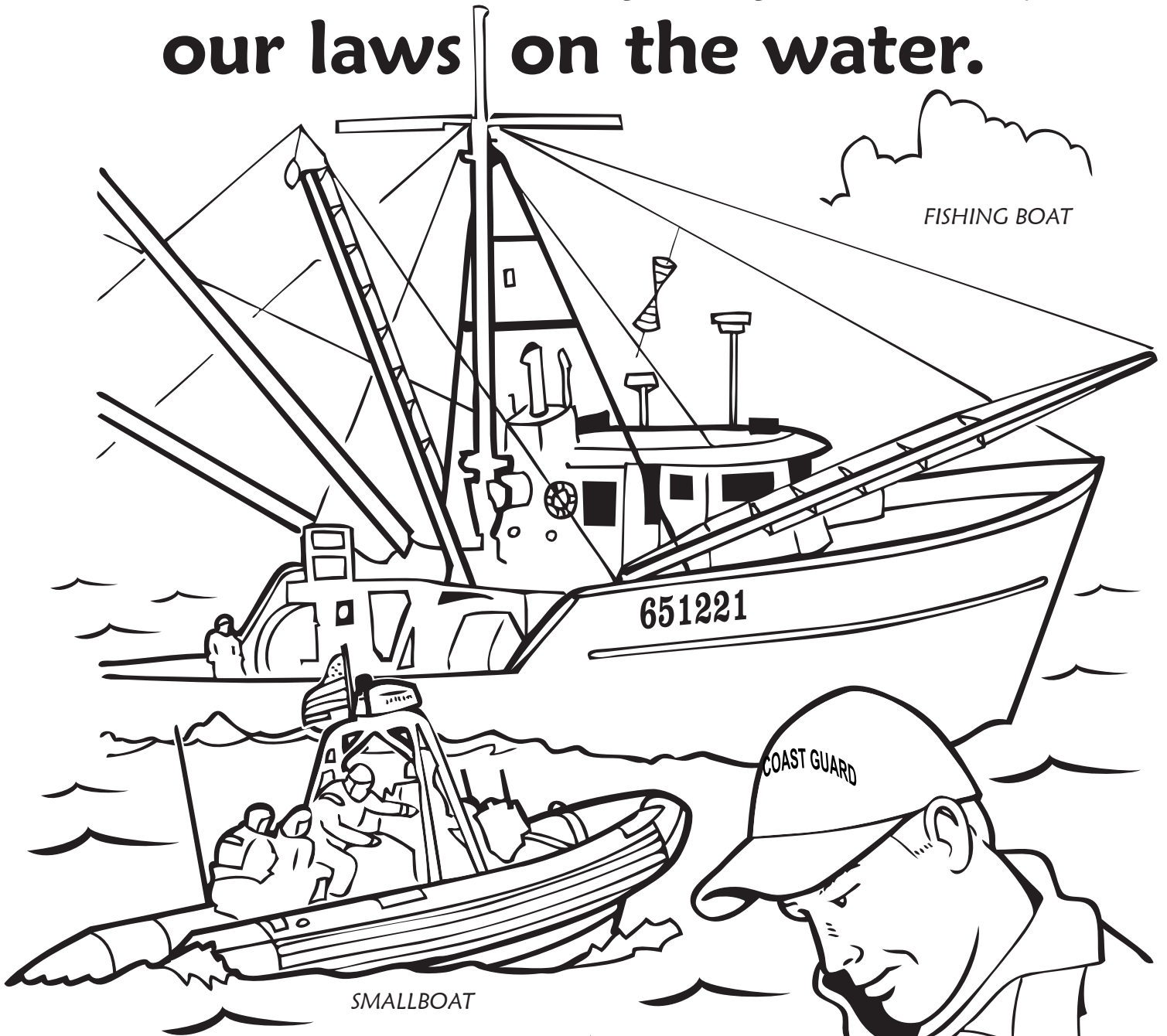
Life Ring



Life Raft

*Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon

We make sure people obey our laws on the water.



Coast Guardsmen conduct **boardings** of boats and ships to ensure they're obeying Federal law.

We make sure fishermen are catching only the kinds of fish they're supposed to!



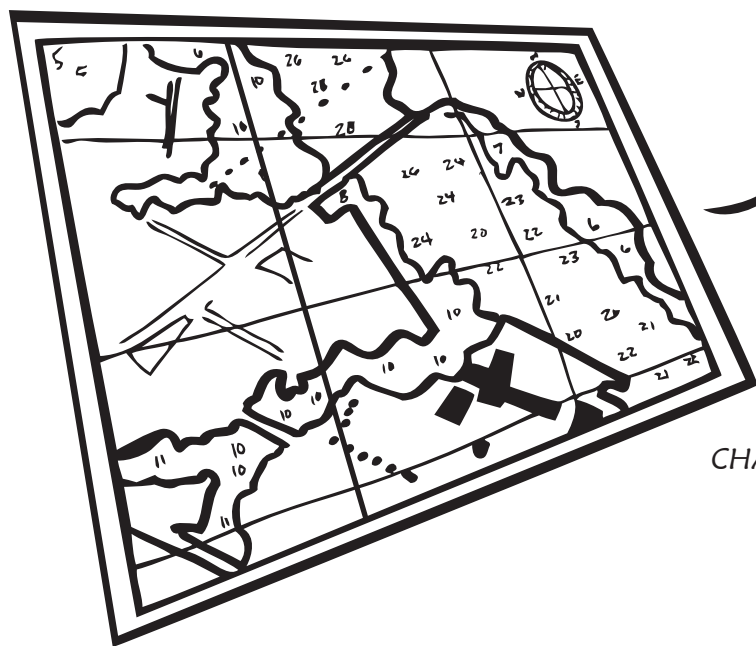
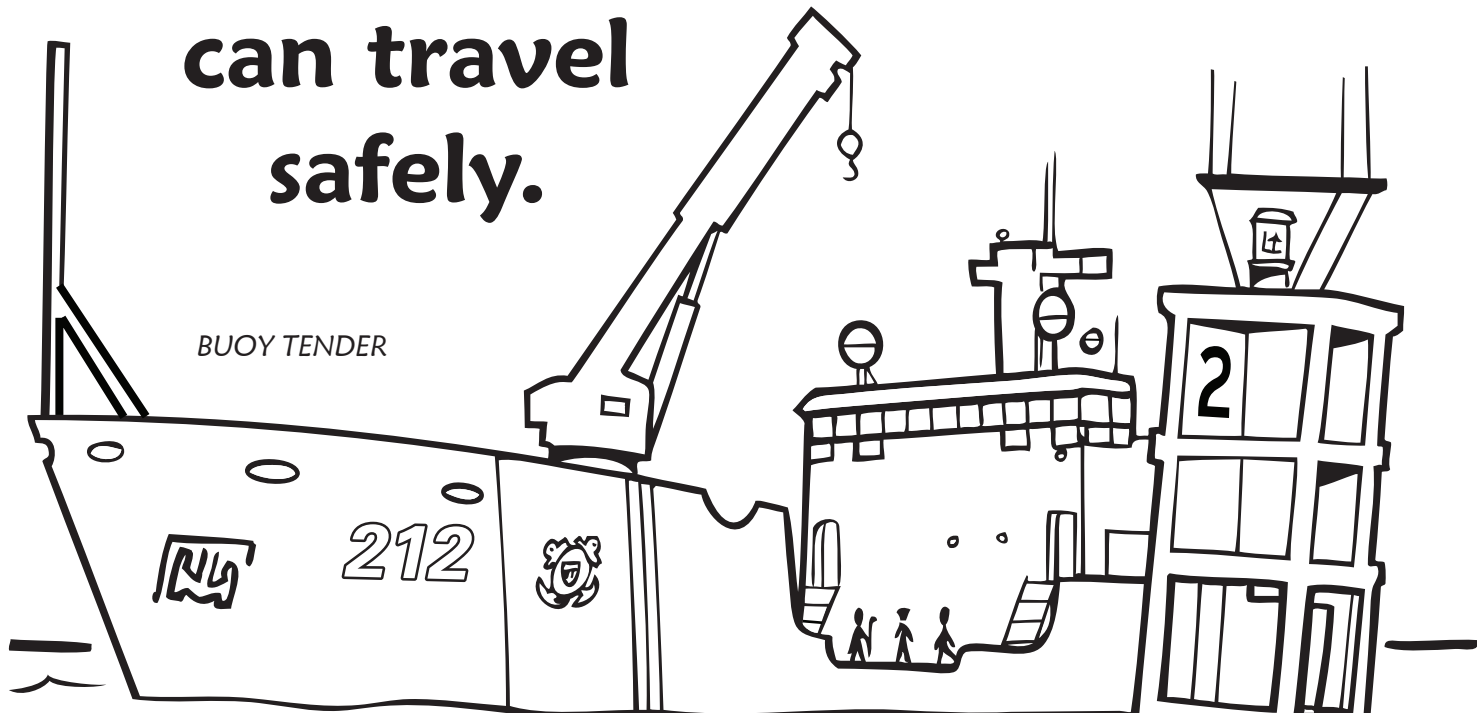
BOARDING OFFICER

**We keep drugs off America's
streets...**



...and safeguard our borders.

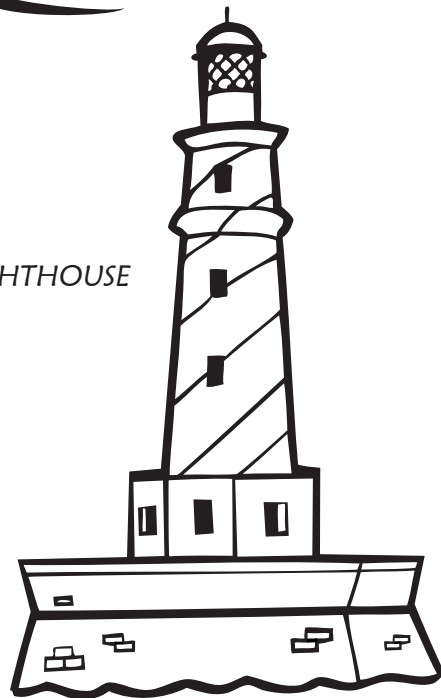
We mark waterways so ships can travel safely.



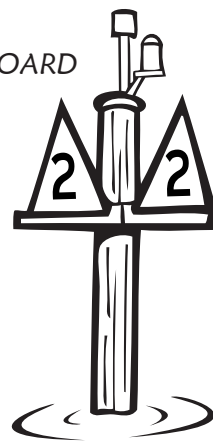
CHART



LIGHTHOUSE

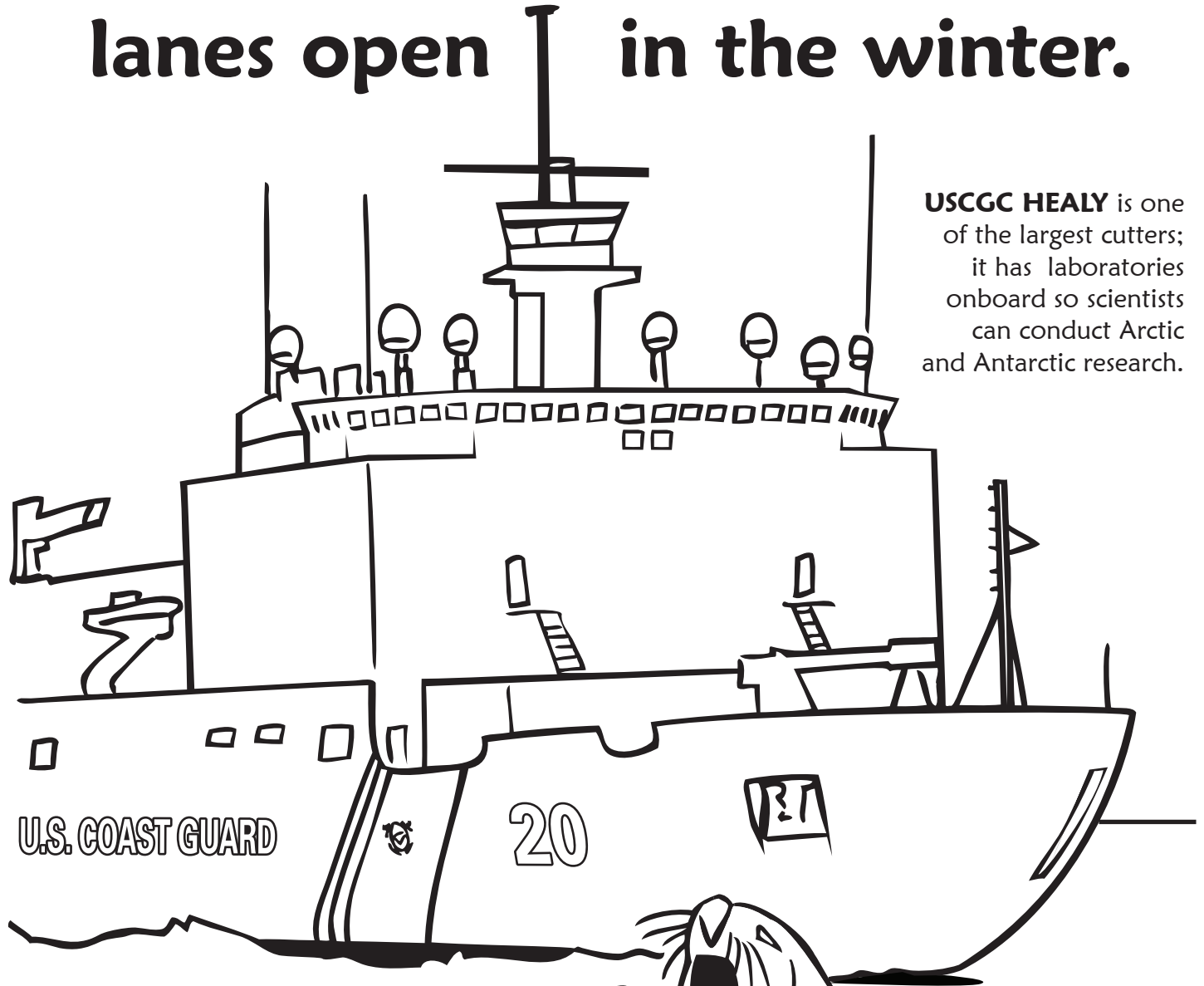


DAYBOARD



The Coast Guard keeps the nation's **Aids to Navigation** (ATON) working properly. These include **buoys, dayboards, and lighthouses**. Aids are shown on charts to help mariners know where they are!

We break ice to keep shipping lanes open in the winter.



USCGC HEALY is one of the largest cutters; it has laboratories onboard so scientists can conduct Arctic and Antarctic research.

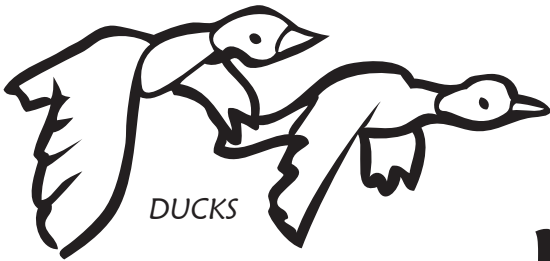
The Coast Guard's **polar icebreakers** travel to Antarctica each year to break ice so large ships can reach **McMurdo Research Station** with supplies!

ICE SHELF



ANTARCTIC SEALS

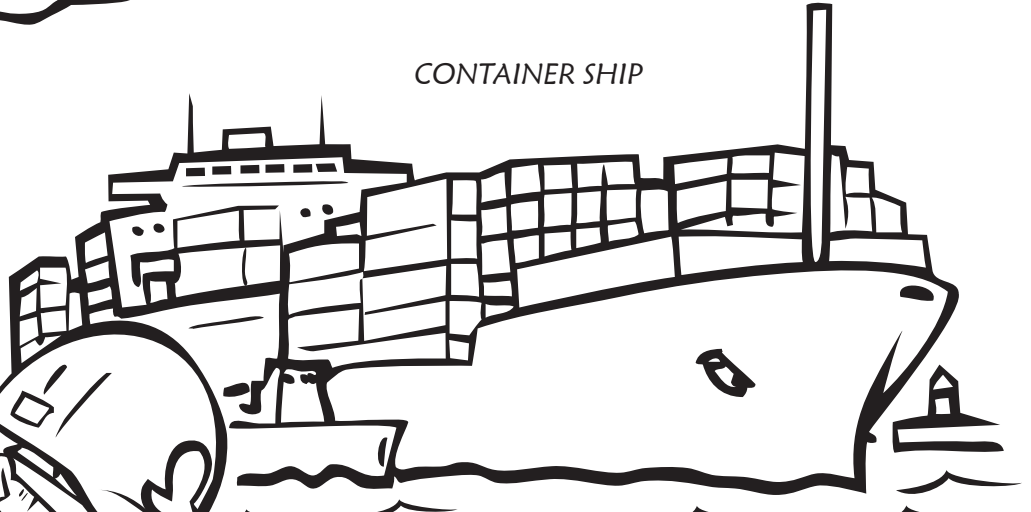
**We inspect ships
for safety and
license mariners...**



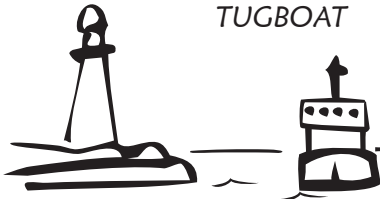
DUCKS



CONTAINER SHIP



TUGBOAT



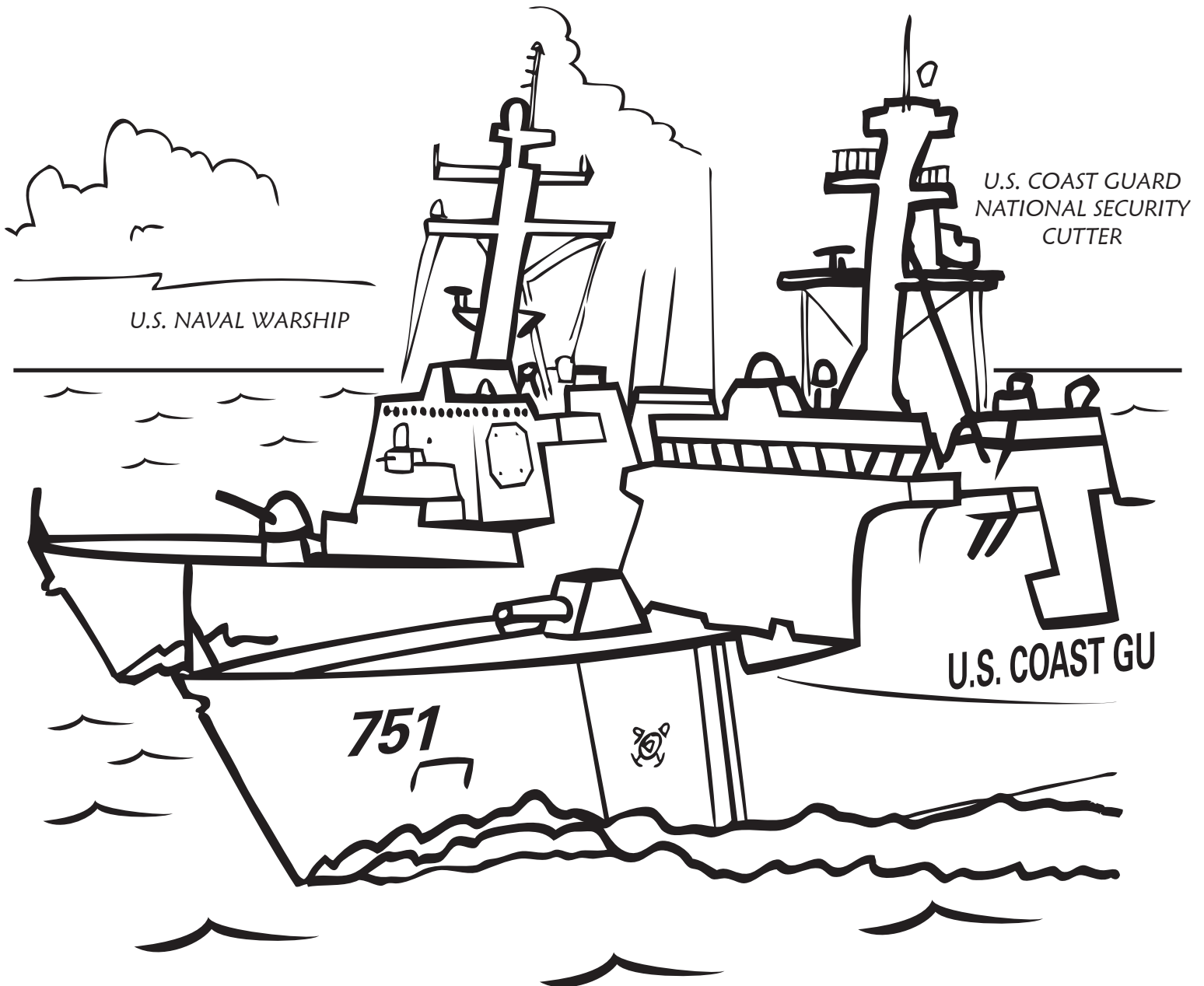
**...and we also
fight pollution!**



Marine Safety Qualification Badge

MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN TAKING A WATER QUALITY SAMPLE

**We defend the country in
times of war.**

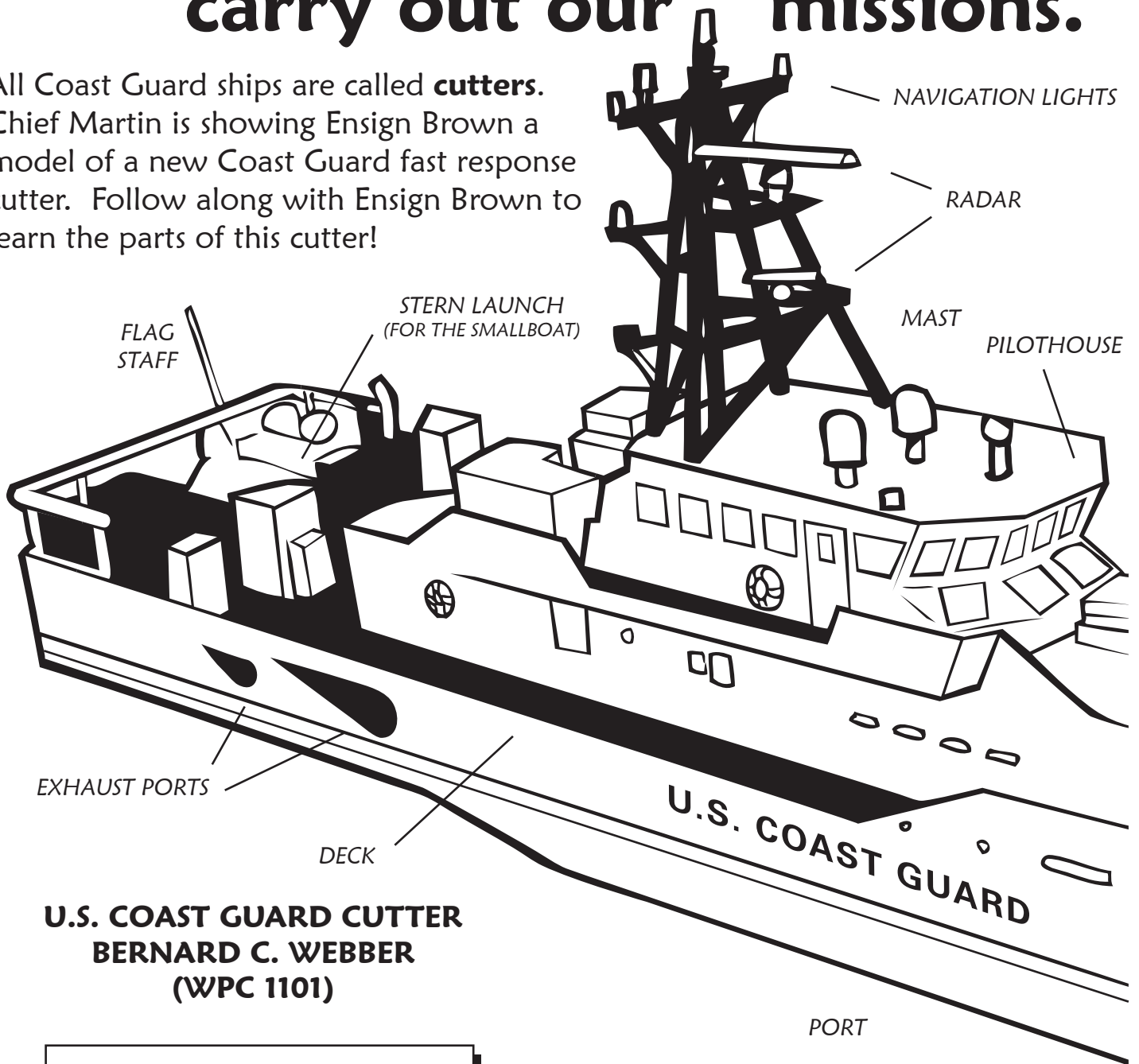


FIVE BRANCHES OF THE U.S. MILITARY:

**U.S. ARMY • U.S. NAVY • U.S. MARINE CORPS
U.S. AIR FORCE • U.S. COAST GUARD**

Our cutter fleet helps us carry out our missions.

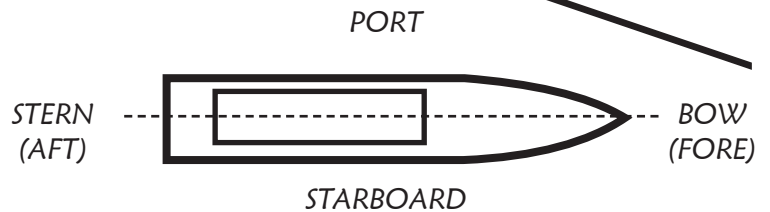
All Coast Guard ships are called **cutters**. Chief Martin is showing Ensign Brown a model of a new Coast Guard fast response cutter. Follow along with Ensign Brown to learn the parts of this cutter!



**U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER
BERNARD C. WEBBER
(WPC 1101)**

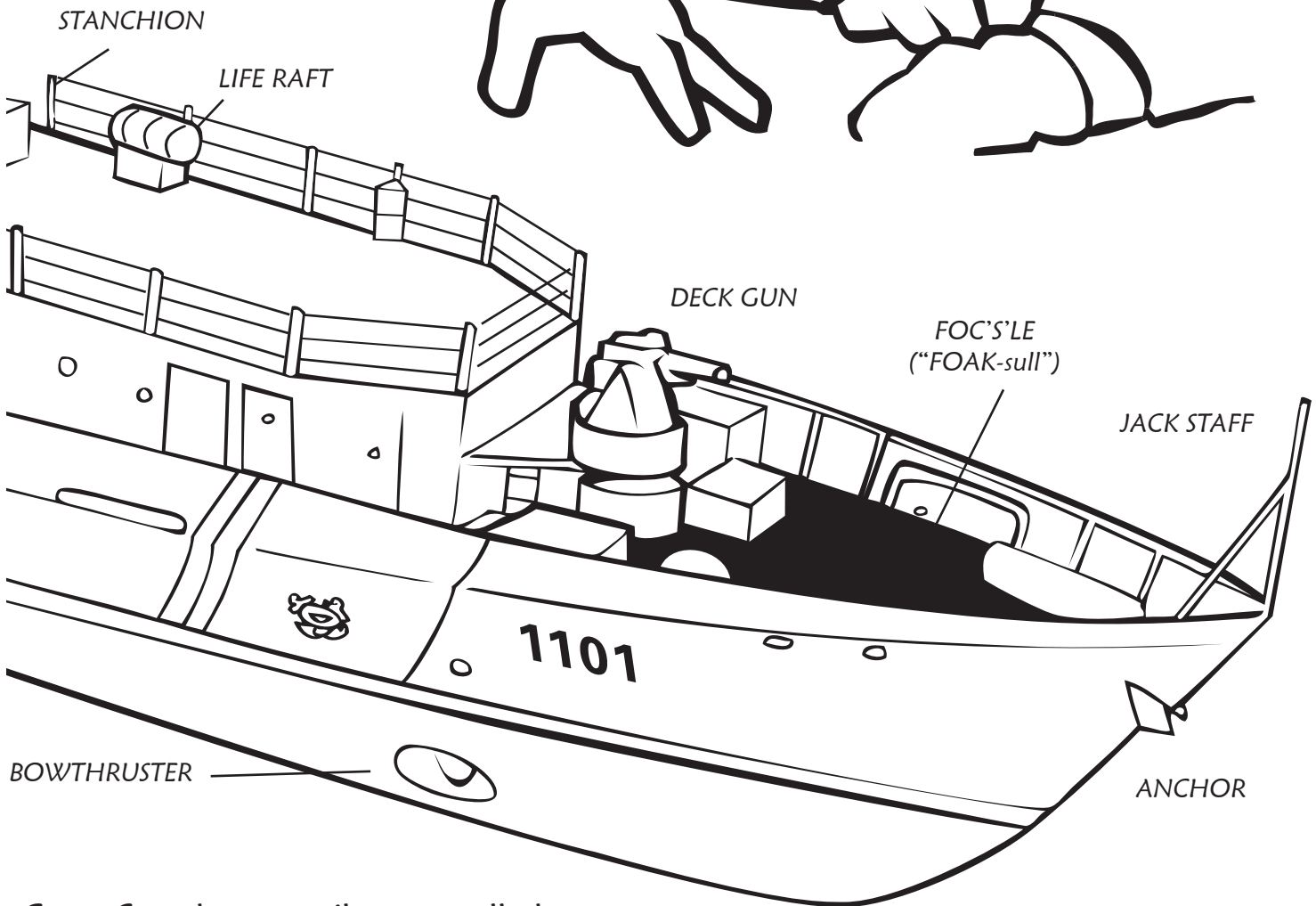
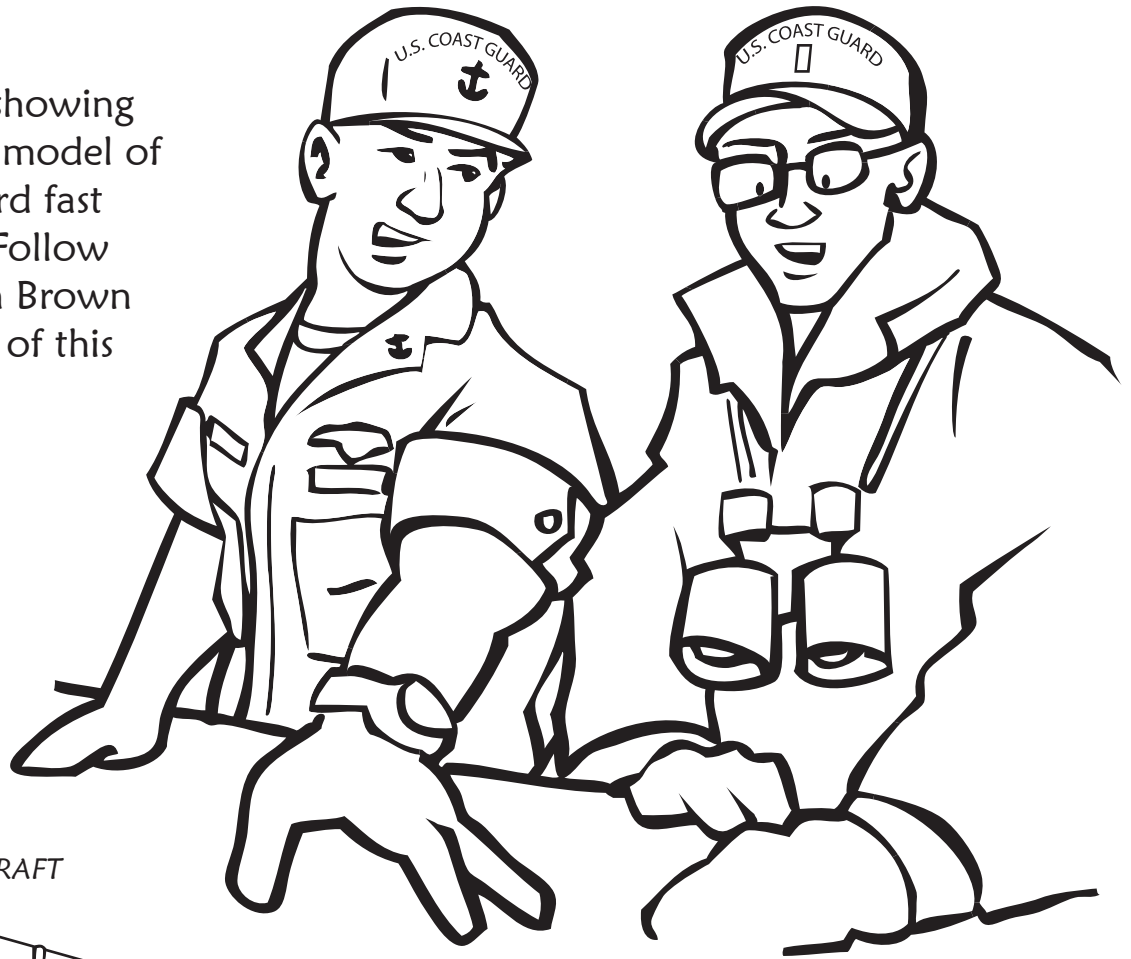
USEFUL CUTTER WORDS!

- LADDER** = STAIRS
- PORT** = LEFT
- STARBOARD** = RIGHT
- HEAD** = RESTROOM
- RACK** = BED
- BULKHEAD** = WALL
- DECK** = FLOOR
- OVERHEAD** = CEILING
- PORTHOLE** = WINDOW



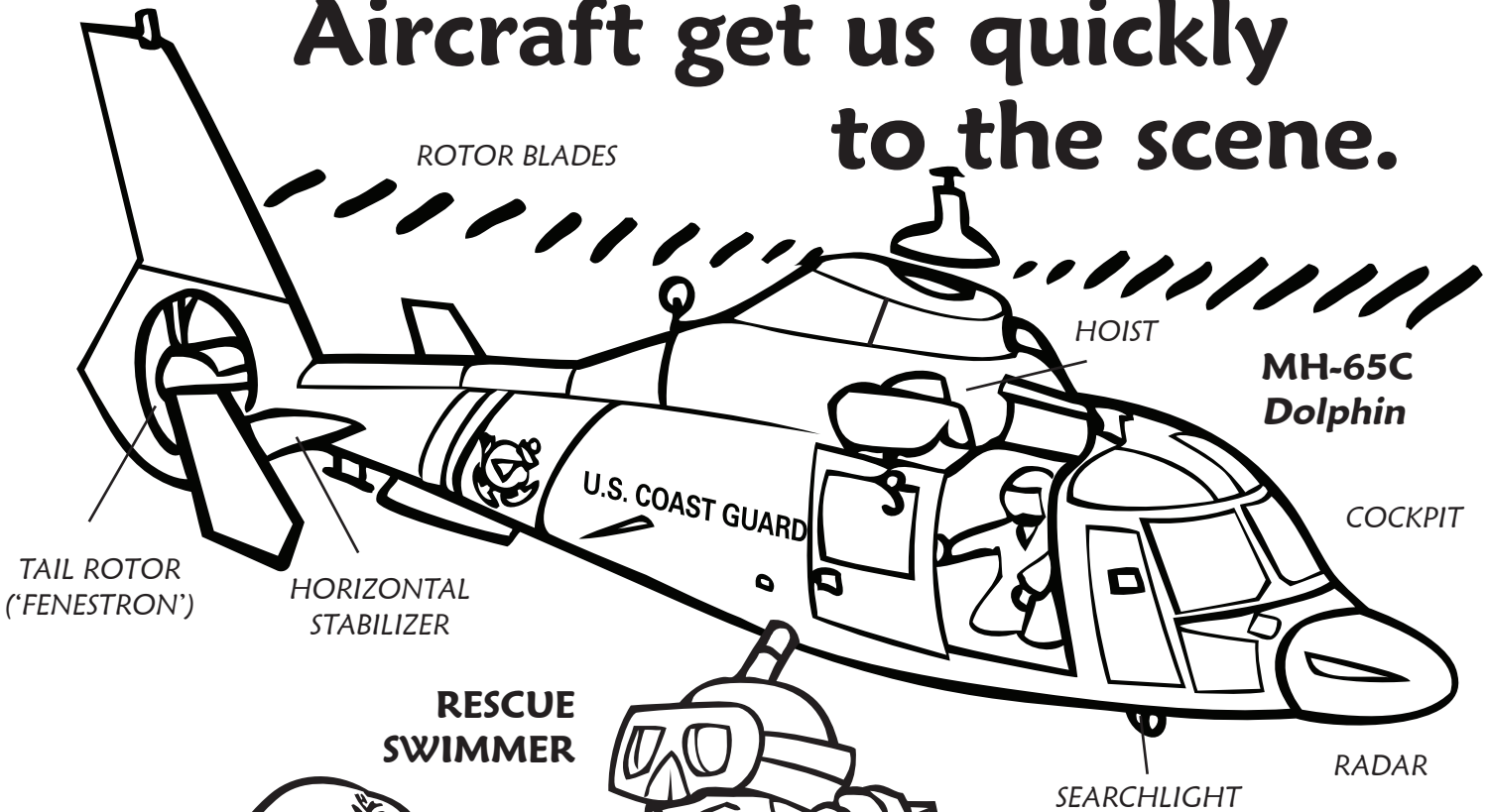
Cutterman's Pin

Chief Martin is showing **Ensign Brown** a model of a new Coast Guard fast response cutter. Follow along with Ensign Brown to learn the parts of this cutter!



Coast Guard cutter sailors are called **Cuttermen**. They trust each other and work closely together at a team to carry out the Coast Guard's many missions. They can be out at sea for weeks or months!

Aircraft get us quickly to the scene.



RESCUE SWIMMER

PILOT

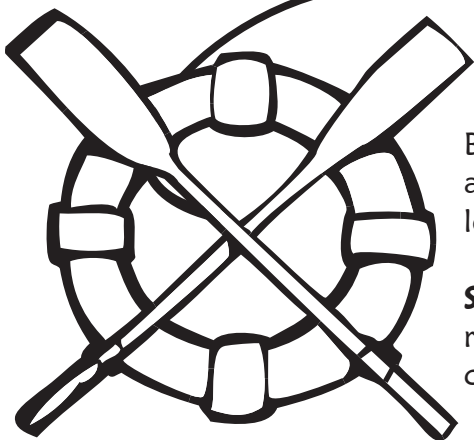
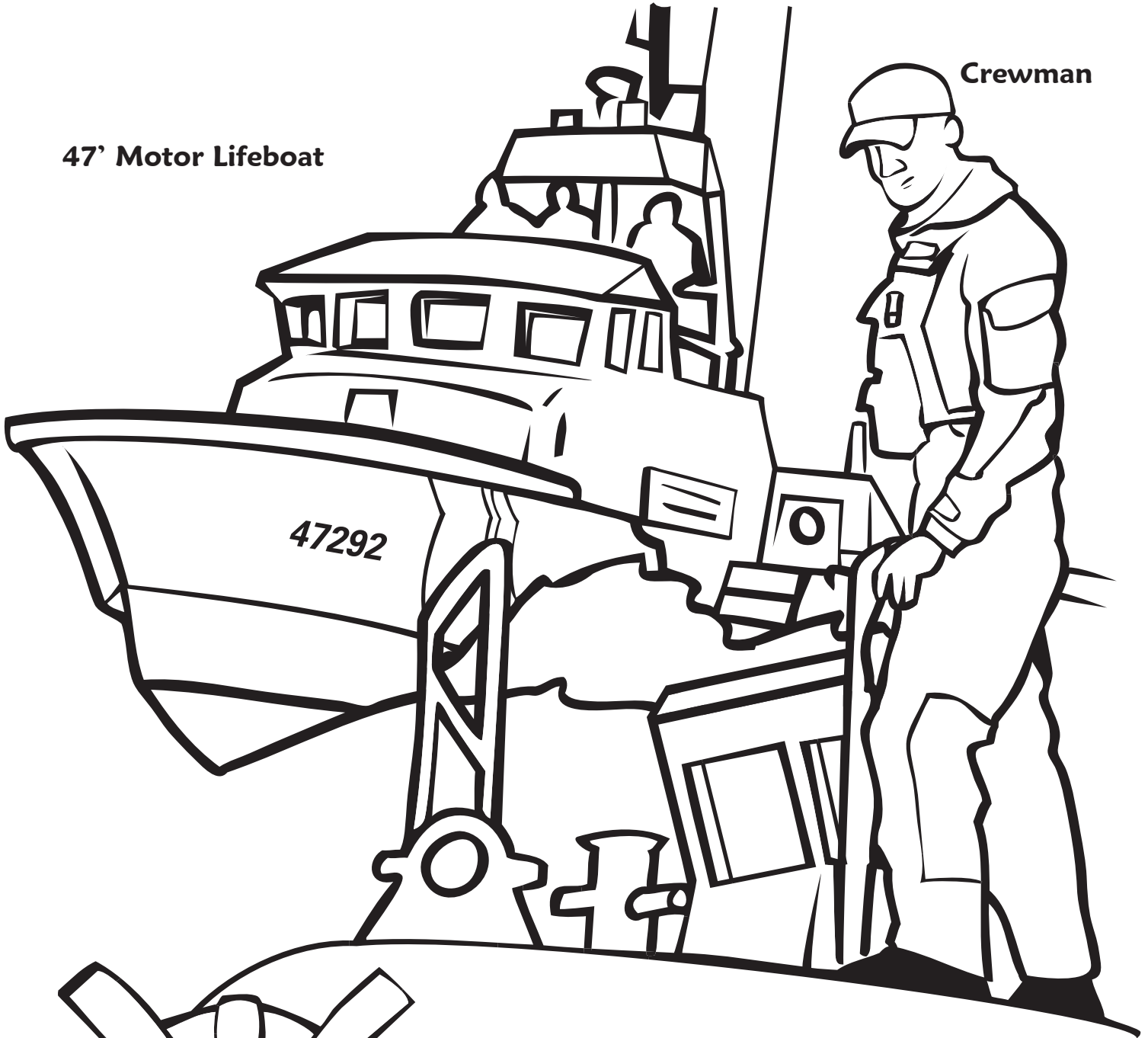
Pilots fly the aircraft, and the **aircrew** operate the hoist, make repairs, and monitor the equipment. **Rescue swimmers** deploy from helicopters to pull people out of the water.



Our rescue boats launch from stations on shore.

47' Motor Lifeboat

Crewman

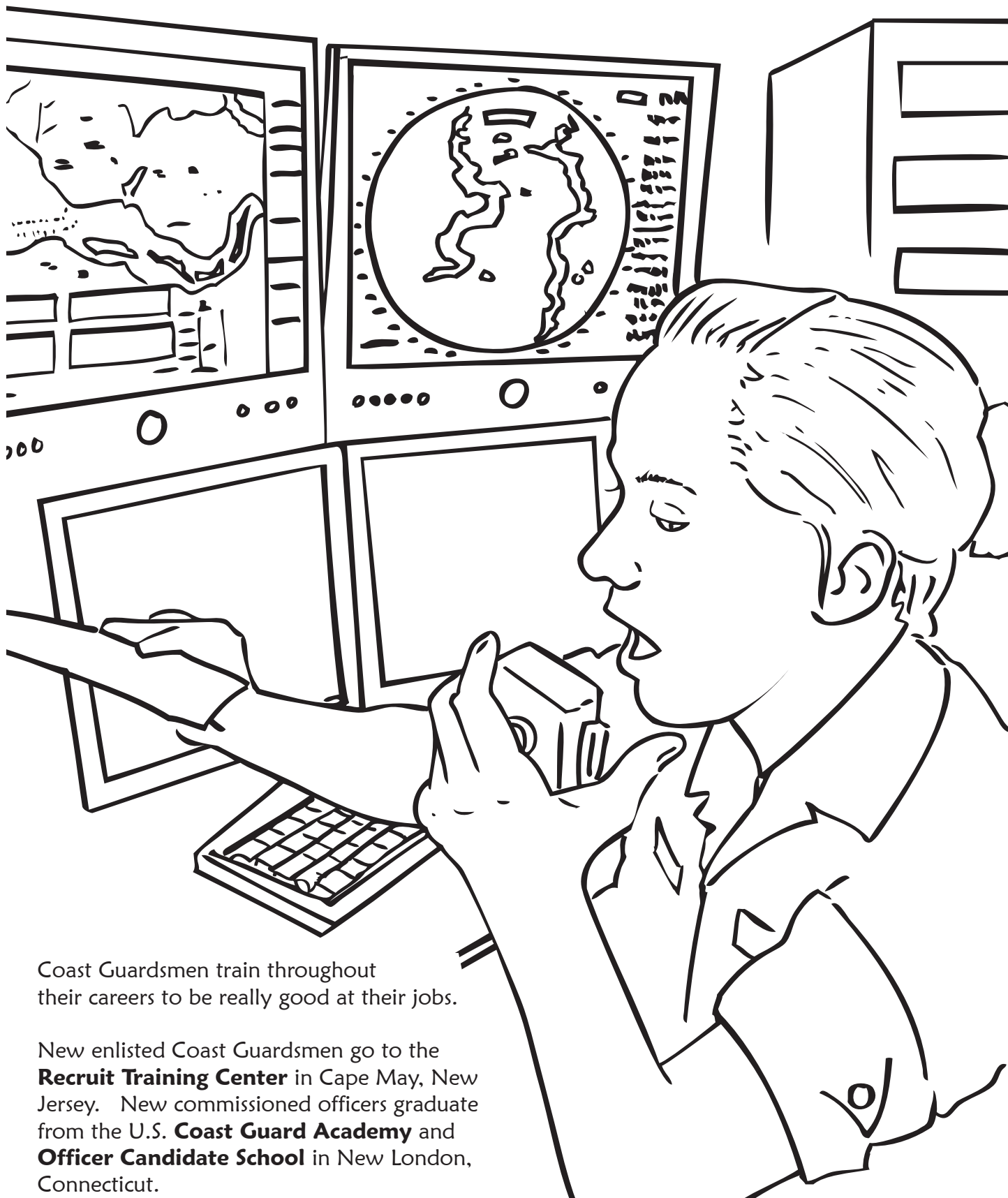


Surfman's Pin

Boat drivers are called **coxswains**. They have lots of experience and training, and normally start out as a **crewman** -- watching, learning, and helping the coxswain.

Surfmen are trained to take boats into very dangerous waves to rescue people. These rescue boats, called Motor Lifeboats, can completely roll over in the waves, and still come back upright!

It takes lots of special training to be a Coast Guardsman!



Coast Guardsmen train throughout their careers to be really good at their jobs.

New enlisted Coast Guardsmen go to the **Recruit Training Center** in Cape May, New Jersey. New commissioned officers graduate from the U.S. **Coast Guard Academy** and **Officer Candidate School** in New London, Connecticut.

Can you find words we use in the Coast Guard every day?



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUXILIARY | <input type="checkbox"/> ENVIRONMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PILOT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOAT | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> RESCUE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CUTTER | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFERING | <input type="checkbox"/> RESERVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DUTY | <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICER | <input type="checkbox"/> SAFETY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED | <input type="checkbox"/> PATROL | |

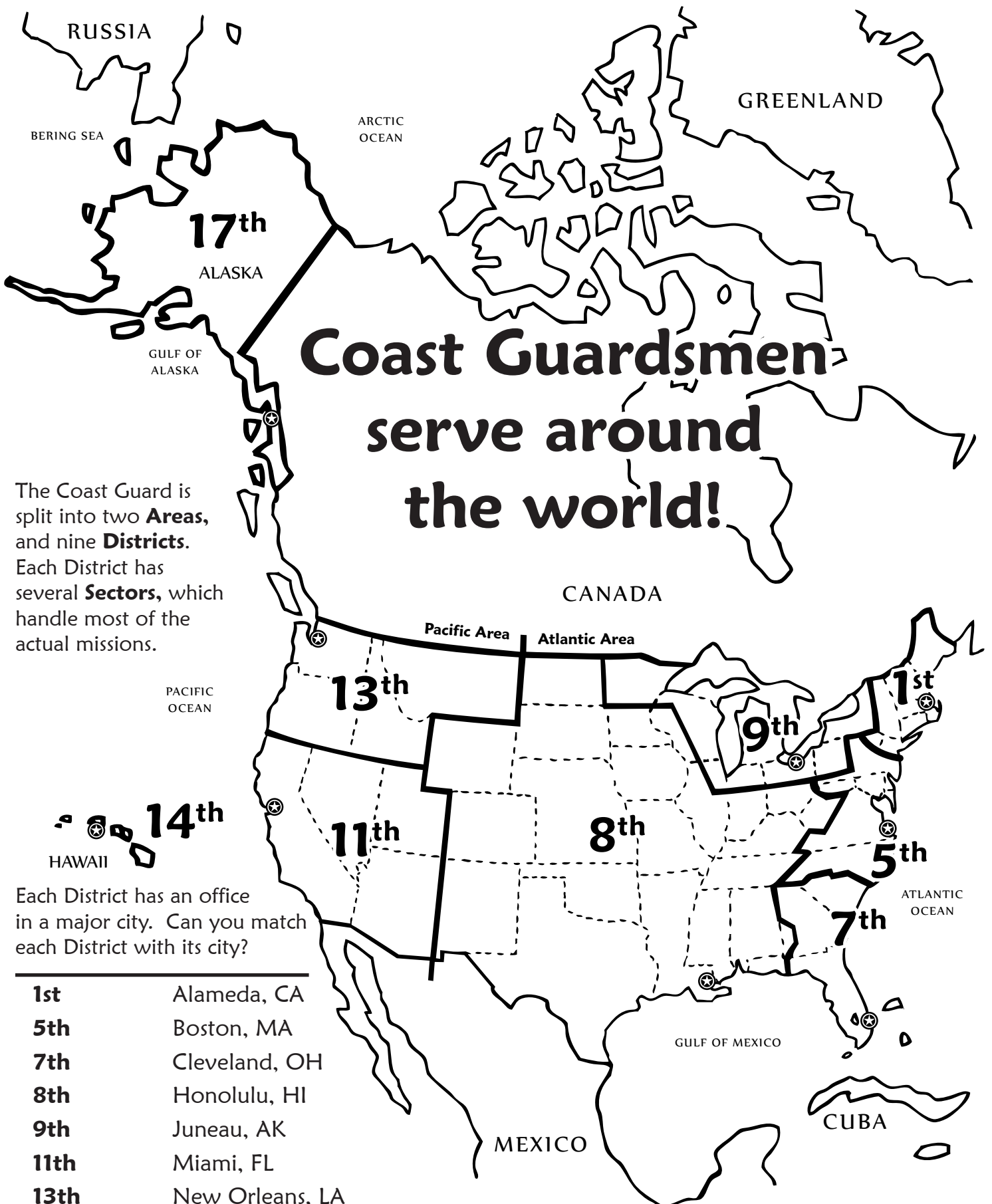
The Coast Guard is made up of different kinds of people.



People with lots of different backgrounds, skills and interests are part of the Coast Guard.

Everyone works together as a **team** to make sure the Coast Guard can complete its missions.

**ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS & ENLISTED • USCG RESERVE
CIVILIANS • COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**



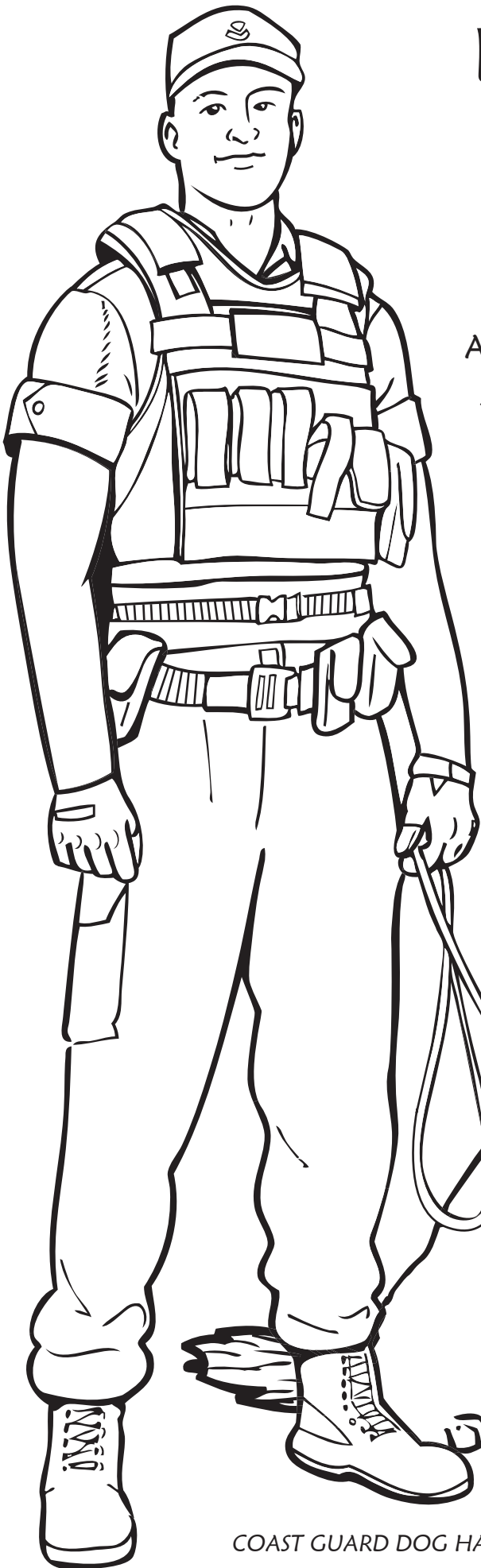
Coast Guardsmen serve around the world!

The Coast Guard is split into two **Areas**, and nine **Districts**. Each District has several **Sectors**, which handle most of the actual missions.

Each District has an office in a major city. Can you match each District with its city?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Alameda, CA |
| 5th | Boston, MA |
| 7th | Cleveland, OH |
| 8th | Honolulu, HI |
| 9th | Juneau, AK |
| 11th | Miami, FL |
| 13th | New Orleans, LA |
| 14th | Portsmouth, VA |
| 17th | Seattle, WA |

The Coast Guard also has offices and units all over the world, and we send our cutters to every continent for training, disaster relief, and other Coast Guard missions.

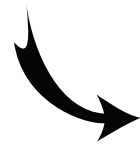


Do you have what it takes to be a Coast Guardsman?

As you can see, the U.S. Coast Guard has a big job to do! And we need exceptional people to carry out our missions. You might make an excellent Coast Guardsman if you're:

- **Respectful of Others**
- **Disciplined**
- **Physically Active and Fit**
- **A Creative Problem-Solver**
- **An Enthusiastic Learner**
- **Highly Trustworthy**
- **A Great Team Member**

Learn more about joining the U.S. Coast Guard by contacting a Recruiting Office, or by visiting www.GoCoastGuard.com!



COAST GUARD DOG HANDLER AND GERMAN SHEPHERD

COAST GUARD MISSIONS

- Ports, Waterways & Coastal Security (page 3)
- Search and Rescue (page 4 & 5)
- Living Marine Resources (page 6)
- Drug Interdiction (page 7)
- Migrant Interdiction (page 7)
- Other Law Enforcement (page 7)
- Aids to Navigation (page 8)
- Ice Operations (page 9)
- Marine Safety (page 10)
- Marine Environmental Protection (page 10)
- Defense Operations (page 11)

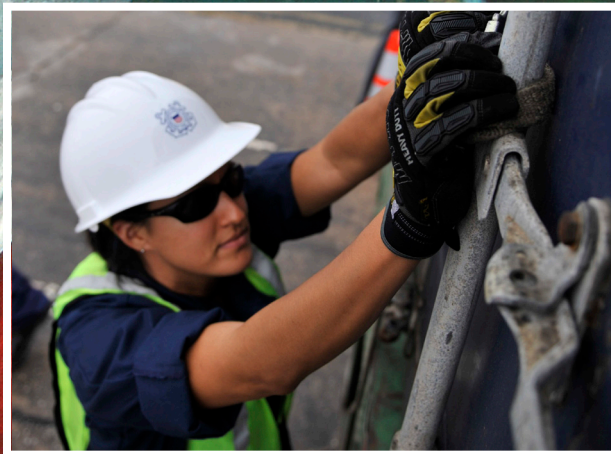


Our service motto is
Semper Paratus...
in Latin it means
Always Ready!

The Coast Guard's **core values** are
Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty!

- **Honor:** Honesty, fairness, and integrity in your beliefs and actions.
- **Respect:** Showing that you care about others' feelings and well-being.
- **Devotion to Duty:** Being willing to carry out the work or tasks you know you have to do, even when they're *really* hard.

Learn About the United States Coast Guard!



On an average day, the United States Coast Guard saves 12 lives, responds to 64 search and rescue cases, interdicts over 800 lbs of cocaine, and services 116 buoys. This book describes the equipment, people, and missions that make this possible.



Homeland Security

For additional copies, visit:
www.uscg.mil/community