United States Coast Guard

History
On August 4, 1970, President George Washington signed the Tariff Act which would authorize ten vessels to enforce federal tariff, trade laws, and prevent smuggling. Known through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as “revenue cutters,” The Revenue Marine and finally Revenue Cutter Service. This group increased in size and the responsibilities as the nation grew.

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government. With the establishment of the Navy in 1798, it served the nation's only armed force afloat. The U.S. Coast Guard has protected the nation throughout its long history and has served in the majority of nations conflicts.

Where does the Coast Guard personnel train?
Male and female Coast Guard recruits will spend 8 weeks at Cape May, New Jersey for basic training. The Navy has their basic training at the Great Lakes. The Marine Corps has three spots for basic training such as San Diego, Camp Pendleton, and Parris Island.

Symbolism of the Coast Guard flag, Symbols, and Insignia
The official United States Coast Guard Flag has a white background with an eagle in dark blue. Above the eagle they saying, “United States Coast Guard.” Below the eagle the words, “Semper Paratus 1790,” which mean “Always Ready.” The year identifies to when the Revenue Cutter Service was founded.

The flag bears a blue eagle with its wings spread wide open. One foot holds a bundle of wheat and in its mouth a scroll. The eagle’s chest is consisted of banner with red and white stripes.

The official Coast Guard Seal does not appear on the flag today. The flag consists of two anchors crossed and pointing down. The Middle appears a circle with the words, “United States Coast Guard, 1790.” The center consists of a banner with red and white stripes. Some versions of this flag can include “Semper Paratus.”

“The Coast Guard doesn’t belong to the Department of Defense
The United States Coast Guard is the only branch of the military forces that does not belong to the Department of Defense. It is part of the Department of Homeland Security. Before the creation of Homeland Security it previously belonged to the Department of Transportation. And before that the Treasury Department. However, during declared war, the Department of Defense will take operational control of the Coast Guard.