A Force at Sea

Meet the U.S. Coast Guard

This week, the United States Coast Guard celebrates its 223rd birthday! The Mini Page spoke to a Coast Guard historian to find out more about this important branch of the U.S. military.

A costly war

Our young country’s Revolutionary War left the government with many unpaid bills. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton was looking for ways to collect money. He thought a force on the seas could help the U.S. collect tariffs and customs fees (money from ships from other countries bringing goods to the United States) and prevent smuggling.

In 1790, the Department of the Treasury established the U.S. Revenue Cutter* Service. Until 1797, when the first U.S. warships were launched, the Revenue Cutter Service was our only armed force on the seas.

As time went on, the Revenue Cutter Service began doing other jobs, including protecting the environment, providing security for our coasts and serving during wartime.

*A cutter is a light, fast coastal patrol boat.

Becoming the Coast Guard

The Revenue Cutter Service also helped ships in distress. During the mid-1800s, many ships crossed from Europe with immigrants aboard. The Revenue Cutter Service helped save people whose ships had gone down.

In 1878, Congress set up the U.S. Life-Saving Service. This civilian service manned lifesaving stations along the coasts to help survivors of shipwrecks.

In 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service were joined together to form the U.S. Coast Guard. Today, it is part of the Department of Homeland Security during peacetime. During war, the Coast Guard becomes part of the Department of the Navy.

Coast Guard missions

Do you know what a “mission” is? It is an important assignment, or job. The Coast Guard has 11 missions:

• Security for U.S. ports, waterways and coasts
• Preventing illegal drugs from coming into the U.S.
• Aiding in navigation
• Search and rescue
• Enforcing fishing laws
• Marine safety
• Defending our coasts
• Enforcing laws about immigration
• Protecting our marine environment
• Icebreaking
• Law enforcement on the seas

Coast Guardsmen from the Coast Guard Station in Gulfport, Miss., rescue a kayaker. The kayaker contacted the Coast Guard after his kayak overturned.

Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Oyler
Coast Guard Facts

An important force

Today, more than 43,000 men and women are on active duty in the Coast Guard. Both men and women are called Coast Guardsmen.

They do many different types of jobs, including flying airplanes and helicopters, scuba diving, observing ice conditions, law enforcement, setting **buoys** and maintaining lighthouses.

Coast Guard uniforms include these non-dress versions. There are also dress uniforms and working uniforms. Coast Guardsmen wear different badges depending on what type of job they do.

Coast Guard values

**Values** are goals for behavior. For example, one of your values might be honesty — that you try not to lie. The Coast Guard has three **core**, or basic, values:

- **Honor.** Coast Guardsmen try to show good moral behavior in everything they do. They are loyal.
- **Respect.** Coast Guardsmen treat each other fairly and work as a team.
- **Devotion to duty.** Coast Guardsmen are responsible and try to be successful. They are proud of their service.

Coast Guard equipment

The Coast Guard uses several types of ships and aircraft, including:

**USCGC Waesche** demonstrates quick maneuvers in the Gulf of Mexico. This ship is a national security cutter.

**An MH-60** helicopter, known as a Jayhawk, prepares a basket rescue during training off the coast of Kodiak Island, Alaska.

**The HC-144A Ocean Sentry airplane** is used to patrol the seas and assist in search-and-rescue missions.

Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week’s topics.

**On the Web:**
- uscg.mil/history/articles/LighthouseCurriculum.pdf
- uscg.mil/history/kidsindex.asp
- boatsafe.com/kids
- boatingsidekicks.com/ty1440.htm

**At the library:**
- “Today’s Coast Guard Heroes” by Joyce Markovics
- “The U.S. Coast Guard” by Matt Doeden

The U.S. Coast Guard parade flag. The Coast Guard’s motto, Semper Paratus, means “Always Ready.”

*A buoy is an anchored floating object that helps boats navigate and avoid underwater hazards.

**The U.S. Coast Guard**

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Mini Spy . . .

Meet Keith Terry

Keith Terry is the founder of the band Crosspulse Percussion Ensemble. The band’s latest CD is “I Like Everything About You (Yes I Do!).” The band plays on several percussion instruments, or instruments that are played by being struck. The instruments include drums, bells and the human body.

Keith was the musical director for a band at Disney World’s Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Fla. He teaches percussion and body music to other musicians. He taught college courses on the relationship between music and dance in different world cultures. He also teaches teachers how to teach body music.

Keith has been drumming since he was 3 years old. Throughout elementary, middle and high school, he played drums in concert, marching and jazz bands. He studied music in college.

About six years ago, he started the International Body Music Festival. He and an elementary school teacher co-wrote a book and co-produced a DVD on the “Rhythm of Math.”

Rookie Cookie’s Recipe

Zucchini Bread

You’ll need:

- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup canola oil
- 2 cups grated zucchini squash
- 3 cups flour (whole-wheat or all-purpose)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

What to do:

1. Mix beaten eggs with sugar, then oil.
2. Add grated zucchini, then flour 1 cup at a time until mixed.
3. Stir in the remaining ingredients.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes until center of loaf springs back.
6. Cut into slices and serve with butter or cream cheese.

You will need an adult’s help with this recipe.

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Randy: Why is skating on Rollerblades good for people?
Rachelle: It keeps them in-line!
Richie: What do we call an inexpensive pair of skates?
Rose: Cheap-skates!

Teacher: Why are you so late?
Student: I sprained my ankle Rollerblading.
Teacher: That’s a lame excuse!

Gus Goodsport’s Report

Supersport: Clint Dempsey

Height: 6-1  Birthdate: 3-9-83
Weight: 170  Hometown: Nacogdoches, Texas

On the soccer field, Clint Dempsey dazzles. He does it with nifty dribbling, deft passing and sharp shooting. In three seasons — 2007, 2011 and 2012 — the attacking midfielder/forward was voted U.S. Soccer’s Male Athlete of the Year.

His stellar career started at an early age in Texas, continued at Furman University and expanded to the pros in 2004. A tough competitor, Dempsey currently plays for Tottenham (England) Hotspur in the English Premier League and captains the U.S. Men’s National team.

In international competition, “Deuce” — his nickname — has scored 35 goals. And at age 30, Dempsey is still revving up, not letting up. His agenda includes doing some rap music along with thumping soccer balls into the net.

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The Coast Guard at Work

Looking out for lights

Have you ever visited a lighthouse? These structures help sailors navigate at night by using unique signals of lights, and during the day by looking for each lighthouse’s shape and distinct paint pattern. They also warn of dangerous areas in the water.

One of the most important jobs of the Coast Guard is to maintain our nation’s lighthouses. The Coast Guard got this job in 1939.

Today, all lighthouses are automated, or run by machines — except one. The Boston Light, which was built in 1783 and is the oldest lighthouse site in the United States, still has a lighthouse keeper who lives on the property and takes care of the lighthouse.

Working together

The Coast Guard works with other branches of the military in many ways.

For example, Coast Guardmen help with national security through work against terrorism. The Coast Guard monitors shipments of cargo before they even reach U.S. shores and inspects cargo in ports.

The Coast Guard also helps out during natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy and other natural disasters.

Breaking the ice

Imagine trying to make an important delivery with your bike. But everywhere you turn, deep mud stops you in your tracks.

This same problem happens to ships trying to deliver their loads in northern areas, where cold weather causes ice to form.

Coast Guard icebreakers help by moving ahead of other ships, breaking up ice and creating a lane so that vessels can move through the sea or Great Lakes without being damaged.

Safety on the water

The U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division works to keep people safe and alive while enjoying boating.

While boating can be really fun, it also can be dangerous. The Coast Guard works with boaters to prevent accidents and make sure people are obeying the laws.

For instance, in an accident, you are six times more likely to drown if you are not wearing a life jacket than if you are.

Did you know? The Statue of Liberty is also a lighthouse!

Next week, The Mini Page is all about the elements of art.