

A

Admeasure

To measure the various dimensions, capacities, and tonnage of a ship for official registration.

Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) System

The Automated Mutual-assistance Vessel Rescue system is an international program run by the Coast Guard to provide resources to help any vessel in distress on the high seas. Participating merchant vessels provide sailing plans, periodic position reports, and a list of the vessels' capabilities to the Coast Guard. The AMVER center then provides a surface picture to rescue centers that contains the position of participating ships in the vicinity of an emergency that can be used to assist a vessel in distress.

Acceptable Presence

Forward presence by U.S. forces that regional countries do not find threatening or objectionable.

Aids to Navigation

Equipment used to assist mariners in determining position and warn of dangers and obstructions by providing references such as audio, visual, or electronic signals.

Armed Service

An organized military force of a nation or group of nations.

B

Battle Streamers

Battle streamers are 2 3/4-inch wide by 4-foot long cloth ribbons that are attached to the ceremonial version of our Coast Guard colors. They represent Coast Guard heroic actions in naval engagements throughout the history of our Service. Our earliest battle streamer is for the Maritime Protection of the New Republic from 1790–1797. The Coast Guard started using battle streamers in 1968.

C

Capability

The ability to execute a specified course of action.

Command and Control

The exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated commander over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission. Command and control functions are performed through an arrangement of personnel, equipment, communications, facilities, and procedures employed by a commander in planning, directing, coordinating, and controlling forces and operations in the accomplishment of the mission.

Commander's Intent

The commander's intent conveys the "end state" and the commander's desired course of action. The concept of operations details the commander's estimated sequence of actions to achieve this end state and contains essential elements of a plan—i.e., what is to be done and how the commander plans to do it. The commander's intent reflects the individual's vision and conveys the commander's thinking through mission-type orders, in which subordinates are encouraged to exercise initiative and are given freedom to act independently.

CQA

Commandant's Quality Award.

Culture

The beliefs, customs, and institutions of an organization.

D

Doctrine

Fundamental principles by which military forces or elements thereof guide their actions in support of national objectives. It is authoritative, but requires judgment in application.

Domestic

Pertaining to one's own or a particular country.

E

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

The Exclusive Economic Zone is composed of those waters seaward of a coastal state's territorial sea and extending no further than 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is drawn. In this zone, a coastal state may exercise jurisdiction and control over natural resources, both living and non-living.

Effective Presence

Having the right assets and capabilities at the right place at the right time.

Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs)

Those observable and measurable core competencies that enlisted personnel in each rating are required to successfully perform. EPQs are directly reflective of job tasks required for mission accomplishment. They are a foundational element to the enlisted advancement system.

F

Force-in-Being

Forces that are capitalized and in a sufficient state of readiness to respond as needed. As one of the nation's five Armed Forces, the Coast Guard is a specialized, capitalized, complementary, non-redundant force-in-being available to the National Command Authorities as a specialized instrument of national security.

Function

See **Roles**.

H

High Seas

The sea or ocean beyond the territorial waters and contiguous zone of a country.

Humanitarian

Having concern for or helping to improve the welfare of mankind.

Hyperlinks

Electronic links in electronic documentation that enable the user to quickly jump from one location or activity to another.



International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The International Maritime Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for improving maritime safety and preventing pollution from ships.

Intermodal

The relationship between different modes of transportation. An “intermodal connection” is a place where cargoes move from one mode of transportation to another, such as a container yard where shipping containers are transferred from ships to trucks or rail cars.

International

Between or among nations, or concerned with the relations between nations.



Job Task Analysis (JTA)

A type of performance analysis that determines the duties and tasks that are, or should be, performed by personnel occupying a given type of job or fulfilling a given function.

Joint

Activities, operations, or organizations in which elements of more than one armed service of the same nation participate.



Lightering

The process of discharging or loading vessels anchored offshore. In the United States, the term generally is used to describe the process of offloading liquid cargo from a large tanker located in a designated “lightering zone” into smaller coastal tankers or barges.

M

Mandate

To authorize or decree a particular action, as by the enactment of a law.

Maritime Defense Zone (MDZ)

In 1984, the Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of the Navy signed a memorandum of agreement establishing Maritime Defense Zone Commands to coordinate the defense of the coastal United States. Coast Guard Atlantic Area and Pacific Area Commanders are responsible to their respective Navy Fleet Commanders-in-Chief for coastal defense planning and operations, as well as for validating the requirements for naval coastal warfare missions. Since 1994, MDZ has expanded to include foreign harbor defense, port security, and coastal sea control in littoral areas. The MDZ Commanders employ forces composed of active and reserve units of the Coast Guard and Navy.

Memorandum of Agreement

An agreement between two or more agencies concerning mutually supporting services and responsibilities.

Missions

1. The mandated services the Coast Guard performs in pursuit of its fundamental roles.
Syn: Duties. The missions the Coast Guard performs in fulfilling its roles are:

- Search and Rescue
- Marine Safety
- Recreational Boating Safety
- Port and Waterways Security
- Maritime Law Enforcement—Drug Interdiction
- Maritime Law Enforcement—Living Marine Resources
- Maritime Law Enforcement—Alien Migrant Interdiction
- Maritime Law Enforcement—General
- Marine Environmental Protection
- Aids to Navigation
- Ice Operations
- Bridge Administration
- Vessel Traffic Management
- National Defense
- International Ice Patrol

2. Tasks or operations assigned to an individual or unit.

Marine Transportation System (MTS)

The Marine Transportation System consists of waterways, ports, and their intermodal connections, vessels, vehicles, and system users. Each component is a complex system within itself and is closely linked with the other components.

N

National Security

National Security:

1. A collective term encompassing both the national defense and foreign relations of the United States. Specifically, the condition provided by a military or defense advantage over any foreign nation or group of nations.
 2. A favorable foreign relations position.
 3. A defense posture capable of successfully resisting hostile or destructive action from within or without, overt or covert.
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O

Occupational Analysis (OA)

OA refers to a number of procedures to measure the job structure of an occupation. In most organizations, these procedures are referred to as “job analysis.” However, most analysts for military organizations examine “job” families such as those in the Coast Guard enlisted rating structure.

Oil Skimming Operation (OA)

All oil skimmers rely on specific gravity, surface tension, and a moving medium to remove floating oil from a fluid’s surface. Floating or sinking oil cling to skimming media more readily than water. Skimming media in the shape of a belt, disk, drum, etc. allows the media to pass through a fluid surface to pick up oil with very little water. The oil material is subsequently removed from the media with wiper blades or pinch rollers.

P

Port State Control Program

The Port State Control program exists under congressional mandate to eliminate sub-standard vessels from U.S. waters. It came about as a result of an increased number of non-U.S. flag commercial and passenger vessels arriving and departing U.S. waters. The program requires boardings of foreign flag vessels prior to their entry to U.S. ports to ensure compliance with international conventions such as SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) and MARPOL (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) and provides for detention of vessels found not in compliance with requirements.

Principles of Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW)

The principles of military operations other than war represent the best efforts of military thinkers to identify those aspects of the use of military capabilities across the range of military operations short of war that are universally true and relevant. Military operations other than war focus on deterring war, resolving conflict, and promoting peace, and may involve elements of both combat and non-combat operations in peacetime, conflict, and war.

Principles of War

The principles of war represent the best efforts of military thinkers to identify those aspects of warfare that are universally true and relevant. The principles of war generally focus on large-scale, sustained combat operations, during which the primary goal is to win as quickly and with as few casualties as possible.

R

Regulatory

Of or concerning a rule, law, order, or direction from a superior or competent authority regulating action or conduct.

Roles

The enduring purposes for which the Coast Guard is established and organized. Syn: Functions. Our fundamental roles are:

- **Maritime Security.** Protect America's maritime borders and suppress violations of federal law in the maritime region.
- **Maritime Safety.** Save lives and property at sea through prevention and response activities.
- **Protection of Natural Resources.** Protect the marine environment and the natural resources within it through prevention and response activities.

- **Maritime Mobility.** Provide essential services that undergird an effective, efficient, and safe marine transportation system.
 - **National Defense.** Defend the nation as a full partner with the Navy and the other U.S. Armed Forces in support of America's national security and military strategies and operations.
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S

Search and Rescue (SAR)

Search and Rescue is the use of available resources to assist persons and property in potential or actual distress. The Coast Guard is the lead agency for Maritime SAR. The Commandant has divided the Maritime SAR Area into two sections, the Atlantic Maritime Area and the Pacific Maritime Area. The Atlantic Area Commander is the Atlantic Area SAR Coordinator, and the Pacific Area Commander is the Pacific Area SAR Coordinator.

Skimming

See definition under Oil Skimming Operation.

Specialized Service

An armed service specialized for a certain type or class of duties. The Coast Guard operates as a specialized service when part of the Navy.

T

Tactical Level

The level at which the missions are actually executed. For example, a small boat responding to a search-and-rescue mission.
