

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CCG//
TO ALCOAST

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SUBJ: COMMANDANTS INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE – STANDING THE WATCH

1. SHIPMATES, INDEPENDENCE DAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE OUR NATIONS BIRTHDAY, REFLECT UPON THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE, AND THOSE CURRENTLY STANDING THE WATCH AROUND THE WORLD PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM. THEIR TIRELESS AND SELFLESS SERVICE MAKES OUR CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH OF JULY POSSIBLE, AND EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL.

2. TODAY COAST GUARD MEN AND WOMEN ARE DEPLOYED PROTECTING THE GULF COAST FROM OIL, SUPPORTING OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, COMBATING PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF AFRICA, CONDUCTING COUNTER-DRUG PATROLS IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND AT COAST GUARD UNITS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD KEEPING OUR CITIZENS, PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFE AND SECURE.

3. I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD OF OUR RESERVE AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS WHO ARE STANDING THE WATCH. YOU HAVE BEEN OUR BENCH STRENGTH IN OUR BACK TO BACK RESPONSES IN HAITI AND THE GULF OF MEXICO.

4. ON THE FOURTH, MY FAMILY, ALONG WITH MASTER CHIEF LEAVITTS FAMILY WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF REPRESENTING OUR SERVICE AT THE WHITE HOUSE SALUTE TO HEROES. AT THIS EVENT, MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE ARMED FORCES, INCLUDING 200 COAST GUARDSMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE.

5. IF YOU ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SPEND THE HOLIDAY WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY, TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER YOUR SHIPMATES ON WATCH, AND PLEASE CELEBRATE IN A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER—RESPECT YOUR SHIPMATES BY LOOKING OUT FOR THEM.

6. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT THE COAST GUARD HOME PAGE AND VIEW MY INDEPENDENCE DAY VIDEO MESSAGE AT: WWW.USCG.MIL

7. SEMPER PARATUS. ADMIRAL BOB PAPP, COMMANDANT, SENDS.

8. INTERNET RELEASED AUTHORIZED.

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