



Officers

# The United States Coast Guard

**T**he United States Coast Guard is a new name for an old American military unit, which has operated continuously since its inception in 1790. It is almost as old as the American government and is the first Federal armed force.

It has been known as the Revenue-Cutter Service, Revenue Marine, Revenue-Marine Service, and Revenue Service.

The continental navy was disbanded after the Revolutionary War. There was no sea-power operating to protect the New Country's coasts and her interests at sea. To discharge this duty the first Congress authorized the Revenue Cutter Service, and President Washington approved the organization August 4, 1790. The same Congress had a year earlier established the Lighthouse Service.

In 1785 the Massachusetts Humane Society was organized. One of its duties was to give relief to persons in vessels in distress. This organization established the first lifeboat station in 1807. Forty years later Congress made its first appropriation to the Society's work, and thus began Federal interest in Life-Saving Service.

In 1915 the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service



Warrant