CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY 4 AUGUST 2006

The United States Coast Guard has the distinction of being America's oldest maritime agency. For more than two centuries, the Coast Guard has played a critical role in our national defense, and for that the country is grateful.

Especially since September 11th 2001, the US Coast Guard has been hard at work, day and night, protecting our fellow Americans. The Coast Guard's flexibility and dynamic mix of talent have contributed greatly to the War on Terrorism. Whether conducting sea based operations abroad, security operations within our own ports or maritime rescue missions worldwide, the Coast Guard embodies the motto of *Semper Paratus* ... always ready! The men and women of the US Coast Guard can be proud of their exemplary performance and their dedication to the strengthening of our national security.

The Joint Chiefs and I wish the men and women of the US Coast Guard a happy birthday and thank you for your selfless contributions to our great Nation.

VR/Pete Pace

PETER PACE
General, United States Marine Corps
Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff