



Safety of Life at Sea: Rescue 21 - USCG Rescue System in the 21st Century

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I mentioned in a prior column that we'd get to such topics as "Rescue 21" and here we are. Well, what is it? It is many things and it has, in fact, been late aborning. But, when the secretary of Homeland Security pulled FEMA out of the Katrina rescue and recovery efforts and gave it to the USCG one week after the disaster cascaded into pandemonium, the 21st century had arrived for search and rescue. In the days and weeks that followed, USCG Forces rescued over 33,500 souls - from roof-tops, trees and hospital beds. The new system, called Rescue 21, is now the nation's primary maritime emergency system for the more than 78 million boaters and 13 million vessels that navigate coastal and inter-coastal waters.

Rescue 21 - What Is It?

Last August, on the 217th birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard, we learned from a long-toiling USCG historian, who used source documents, that USCG Forces had saved over 1.1 million lives since inception in 1790. The system, however, had not had a major overhaul since the National Distress and Response System (NDRS) was built during the 1970s. Rescue 21 is it. It entails several integrated capabilities:

- Direction-finding capability
- Reduction of coverage gaps along the coast

- Enhanced playback capability improving clarity of calls
- Digital archiving of calls
- Increased (and simultaneous) channel monitoring capacity, ensuring all calls get through

While still being deployed along the entire U.S. coastal area (that's 95,000 miles of coverage), it is already on duty and at the ready in over 13,500 of those miles, including ours.

Rescue 21 is operational in the following regions:

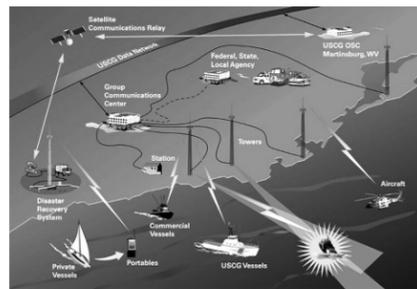
- Sector Mobile
- Sector St. Petersburg
- Sector Seattle
- Group/ Air Station Port Angeles
- Sector Delaware Bay
- Sector Long Island Sound (yes, that's us!)
- Sector New York
- Sector Jacksonville
- Sector Hampton Roads
- Sector Miami

Rescue 21 - How Does it Work?

Well, to start with, here is a list of all the equipment you need to be part of it:

1. a standard VHF radio
2. nothing else

If it is a "DSC" radio, that will certainly help (more on that in the weeks ahead), but, bottom line, all you need to be able to call for help and have it responded to in 21st century fashion is a standard VHF radio...



Courtesy: USCG and General Dynamics

Here's what happens:

1. You send your distress/May-day call. It is automatically recorded and digitized by the station receiving it.
2. Direction finding (DF) equipment from one or more high sites computes the direction from which the signal originated, or line of bearing (LOB). Recall reading about 400' radio towers being installed at USCG stations in the area? This is why.
3. Your distress audio and the LOB are sent to the closest Ground Center(s).
4. Appropriate resources (planes, helicopters, boats) are dispatched to re-

spond immediately - even across regional boundaries. No turf wars in our surf. You're in danger. We're coming.

You might say, "Well, direction finding technology has been around for decades. What's the big deal?" While true, and I've used it, this new digital technology is accurate to within +/- 2 degrees. Like a trusty pointer, USCG resources will fly down that Line of Bearing - and find you.

Who knows, with Rescue 21 in place, what the future holds - but greater safety of life at sea is part of it.



Courtesy: USCG and General Dynamics

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2008@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members' matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

CA Opens the Door to the Internet for Over 800 Children with Developmental Disabilities at DDI

Over 800 children with autism and other developmental disabilities at Long Island-based Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) will benefit from the generosity of CA, Inc., one of the world's largest enterprise IT management software companies. The Islandia company has contributed nearly \$100,000 to support a project placing a computer with wireless connectivity to the Internet in each of DDI's educational program classrooms to serve children with very special needs.

CA's initial contribution of 55 computers and \$5,000 for software gave DDI the tools to pilot computer connectivity in the classrooms at its Young Autism Program in Medford, engaging teachers and children in a real-time examination of how technology can benefit all of DDI's educational programs. Subsequently, CA pledged \$50,000 to DDI to help the organization reach its goal of "All-Classroom Access," wirelessly connecting each DDI pre-school and school-age classroom to the Internet.

"As one of Long Island's leading technology companies, CA has opened a new world of communication for children with autism and other developmental disabilities through their generosity and expertise," stated Peter Pierri, DDI's executive director. "CA's continued support ensures that the individuals

we serve are provided with the tools needed to enjoy an independent lifestyle."

Information technology already plays a vital role in our everyday lives, and DDI recognizes that it can literally open up the world and the future for children with autism and other developmental disabilities. Computer skill goals have been integrated into each student's Individualized Education Plan, including turning on the monitor, using a mouse, activating cause-and-effect games, typing and using touch screens, running web-based programs and more.

Computer and Internet access not only serves educational purposes, but also provides a new outlet for expression for the many DDI students who are currently non-verbal. The voice output devices used by these students will be greatly augmented by additional programs and back-up that are available through the Internet.

The addition of more computers, software and adaptive equipment made possible through CA's generous gift to DDI will significantly enhance the educational progress and success of hundreds of children with autism and other developmental disabilities. Computers in every classroom will allow DDI students to practice their skills more frequently and earn computer time for positive



CA representatives Kevin Long and Anne Marie Agnelli join Young Autism Program students in the new computer lab at the Medford campus.

behavior or task completion. Many students have computers at home, and the teaching staff works with parents and family members to reinforce and facilitate the carryover of skills learned during the school day to ensure consistency in the child's educational experience and to prevent regression.

"CA is committed to partnering with organizations like DDI to improve the education of children and young people around the world," said Anne Marie Agnelli, vice president of North American Communications and Community Affairs at CA. "As a company, CA is proud to support DDI to help Long Island children

with special needs enjoy better, happier lives."

CA (NYSE: CA), one of the world's largest independent software companies, provides software solutions to unify and simplify™ IT management. With CA's Enterprise IT Management (EITM) vision and expertise, organizations can more effectively govern, manage and secure IT to optimize business performance and sustain competitive advantage. Founded in 1976, CA serves customers in virtually every country in the world. For more information, please visit www.ca.com.

DDI is a not-for-profit agency headquartered in Smithtown, with more than 30 locations throughout Suffolk and Nassau counties. Serving nearly 1,000 children and adults with a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), DDI is the largest provider of services for individuals with autism on Long Island. It provides educational, vocational and residential programs, as well as medical and dental services for over 1,500 children and adults with autism or other developmental disabilities. DDI was founded in 1961 by a group of parents to address the special educational and therapeutic needs of their children with autism or other developmental disabilities. DDI is a member agency of the United Way. For more information about DDI, please visit www.ddi-info.org.