



Military Corner

United States Coast Guard

The roots of the Coast Guard lie in the United States Revenue Cutter Service established under the Department of the Treasury in 1790. Until the establishment of the United States Navy a decade later, the Cutter Service was the only naval force of the early U.S. The modern Coast Guard can be said to date to 1915, when the Cutter Service merged with the United States Life-Saving Service and Congress formalized the existence of the new organization. In 1939, the U.S. Lighthouse Service was brought under its purview. In 1942, the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation was transferred to the Coast Guard. In 1967, the Coast Guard became part of the Department of Transportation, an arrangement that lasted until it was placed under the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. In times of war, the Coast Guard may operate as a service in the Department of the Navy. This arrangement has a broad historical basis, as the Guard has been involved in wars as diverse as the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and the American Civil War, in which the cutter *Harriet Lane* fired the first naval shots at Fort Sumter. The last time the Coast Guard operated as a whole under the Navy was in World War II. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Coast_Guard]

I have the Coast Guard in the Miscellaneous Military listing, because it comprises only a small portion of the over 8,000 listed Military covers. Currently, there are 153 listed. There are a few Coast Guard ship covers regarded as part of 'Navy Ships', so those have not been included under the Military heading, used here.

