



Station Bellingham

Personnel Attached: 44
Active Duty Billets: 32
Title 10 Reservists: 8
Reservists: 17
Auxiliary Personnel: 60

Station Assets:

One 25' Response Boat (RB-S)
Two 27' Law Enforcement Special Purpose Craft (SPC-LE)
One 47' Motor Lifeboat (MLB)
Three Auxiliary Flotillas

Mailing Address:
Officer in Charge
USCG Station Bellingham
28 Bellwether Way
Bellingham, WA 98225-2947 (360) 734-1692

For more information on the Coast Guard, visit the Internet at <http://www.uscg.mil>. For recruiting information call 1-877-NOW-USCG.

Established: The Coast Guard has had a permanent presence in the Bellingham area since 1947. The first units in Bellingham were an 83-foot Coastal Patrol Boat with a crew of 14 and a 50-foot Harbor Patrol Boat with a crew of eight. In 1966 the patrol boats were replaced by the 65-foot Harbor Tug BITT, which was later transferred to Valdez, Alaska. The first station was commissioned in 1977 with a crew of six. As mission definitions expanded, and the personnel increased, new station facilities were built in 1986 and again in 1999. The present day station was commissioned July 9, 1999 and can accommodate up to 48 people. The new station also provides offices for a Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) detachment and a Recruiter's office. In January 2004 Station Bellingham welcomed the USCGC SEA LION, an 87' Coastal Patrol Boat. USCGC SEA LION was placed into service on March 13, 2004 with a crew of 10.

With its proximity to Canada, Station Bellingham also conducts Homeland Security patrols in cooperation with federal, state, local, and Canadian law enforcement agencies to provide a presence and deter threats. Personnel and resources from Station Bellingham also support numerous other Coast Guard missions including aids to navigation, marine environmental protection, fisheries conservation enforcement, and port safety and security.

Accomplished Operations: Because of the proximity to the Canadian border and due to the ever-present occurrence of drug smuggling Station Bellingham has joined forces with other local and Canadian law enforcement agencies as part of the Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET). In 2003 Station Bellingham was responsible for 13 drug related arrests, the seizure of 1,385 lbs. of BC Bud, 170 lbs of ephedrine, and \$713,000 in US currency.

What we do: Station Bellingham is the northern-most station in the district. Its area of responsibility includes the San Juan Islands north to the Canadian Border. During the “new normalcy” and since Sept. 11, 2001 Station Bellingham averages 150 search and rescue cases, and 300 maritime law enforcement boardings per year. Every year station personnel assist approximately 150 people, saving dozens of lives and almost a half a million dollars in property.



USCG file photo. High resolution copy can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/images.html>

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