

Secretary BOYD. It is a great pleasure to present Admiral Smith, Commandant of the Coast Guard.

**STATEMENT OF ADM. WILLARD J. SMITH, COMMANDANT,
U.S. COAST GUARD**

Admiral SMITH. I have a short prepared statement here that will give you a rundown.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the bulk of the Coast Guard's statutory authority lies in title 14, United States Code, which charges us with the responsibility for saving lives and property; providing navigational aids to maritime commerce; enforcing maritime law, including safety of ports and waterfront facilities; maintaining a state of military readiness to serve as part of the Navy in time of war or national emergency; and promoting the safety of the American merchant marine. In addition, title 50, United States Code provides the authority for the Coast Guard Reserve training program.

As you can see, the Coast Guard is greatly concerned with safety in the marine environment and with being "always ready" to assist in the Nation's military efforts. We carry out these responsibilities through a series of programs as delineated in the budget.

Our search and rescue program objective is primarily safety and might be thought of as the corrective side rather than the preventive side of safety. This program utilizes vessels, aircraft, rescue stations, radio stations, and rescue coordination centers located so as to afford the greatest protection and the least delay in responding to calls for assistance from water and airborne commerce.

Our merchant marine safety and law enforcement programs also have a primary interest in safety, but from the preventive side. The merchant marine safety program pursues this through the development of standards for ship construction and equipments, and for technical competence of merchant marine personnel. These standards are enforced through inspection, testing, and licensing procedures. The law enforcement program also uses standards and inspection methods to promote the safety of U.S. ports and waterways. In addition, education is employed extensively as a tool in promoting safety in the realm of the recreational boatman. In this respect, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, our volunteer civilian arm, has been most helpful and effective.

Our aids to navigation program objective is primarily economic efficiency and thus directs its efforts toward assisting the expeditious and safe movement of all types and classes of watercraft and aircraft. We currently have responsibility for about 45,000 Federal aids and 24,000 private aids.

The Coast Guard participates in the national marine sciences program which is coordinated by the National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development. This national program is supported by our oceanography, meteorology, and polar operations program to operate in consonance with national objectives, thereby contributing to these ends in virtually all of the maritime areas, including the Arctic and Antarctic.

Our military preparedness and operations program and the Reserve training program permit the Coast Guard to respond to the