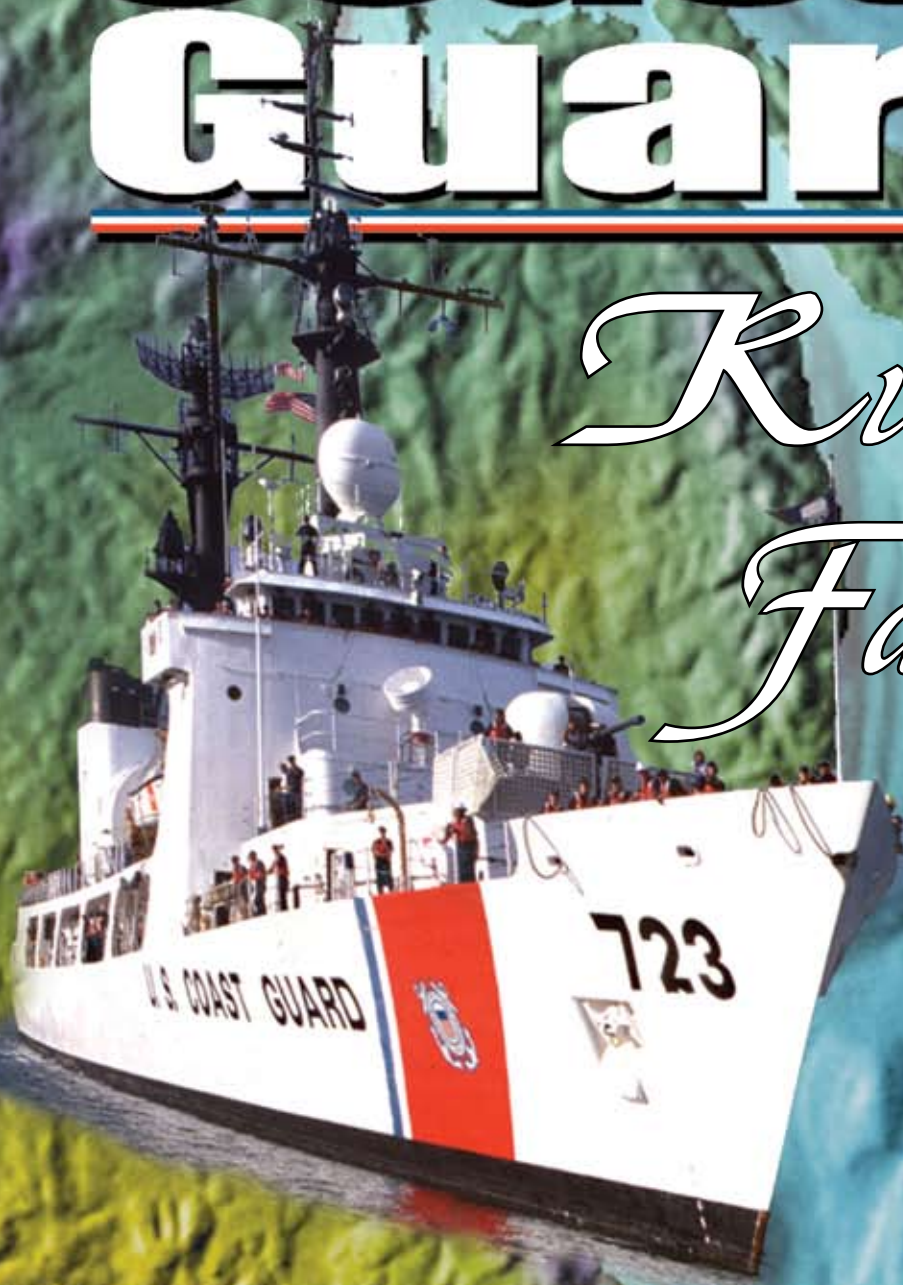


# Coast Guard

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## *Rush to the Far East*



**YOKOHAMA, JAPAN**

**BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA**

**QUINGDAO, CHINA**

**INTO  
THE FRAY**

**KATRINA  
RESCUERS  
REWARDED  
PG. 30**



# ON TARGET

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LT. J.G. ANDREW MUNOZ, CGC STORIS

## WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY, THE COAST GUARD SHREDS THE COMPETITION AT THE 2006 U.S. NAVY FLEET FORCES PACIFIC RIFLE AND PISTOL MATCHES

**I**n a sea of Navy woodland and Marine Corps digital camouflage were 13 blue uniforms representing the Coast Guard from units in California, Colorado, Oregon, and Alaska.

The 2006 U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Pacific Rifle and Pistol Matches were held at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., the first week of May. The event attracted over 180 competitors and some of the best shooters on the West Coast.

The matches give commands and individual Coast Guardsmen the opportunity to participate in both marksmanship training and competition.

### REPRESENTING THE BLUE

"It's awesome shooting with so many blue suits," said CWO Brad Wise, the main propulsion assistant aboard the CGC Storis. "I have been competing since the '90s, and I have never competed with this many Coasties!"

AVT2 Dan Ramsey, Air Station Astoria, Ore., echoed the sentiment, "It was great to drive into the parking lot and see a lot of other blue uniforms." Ramsey drove more than 1000 miles to compete.

Six members from CGC Storis, homeported in Kodiak, Alaska, were by far the farthest traveled. The Storis' commanding officer and team captain, Cmdr. Jim McCauley, said they had been preparing all

year for the matches. "Last year we came away as the first place pistol team in the small command category. I am glad to say the effort we put forth in practicing for this year paid off."

The Storis team took first place overall, winning the Pacific Fleet Pistol Team Championship trophy. This was an historic moment, as no other Coast Guard team has accomplished this achievement.

"I am proud. Proud of the team and proud to have represented the Coast Guard," said McCauley. The Storis team was able, in part, to make it to the competition through grants from Coast Guard Morale Welfare and Recreation.

Lt. j.g. Vince Jansen, an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter pilot from Sector San Diego, was awarded the trophy for First Place Grand Aggregate for the highest combined pistol and rifle scores among Navy and Coast Guard competitors.

Lt. Jim Knapp, Coast Guard Headquarters, took the 2nd Place Grand Aggregate Trophy. The team representing the 11th District, drawing members from Sector San Diego and Air Station Los Angeles, took the Third Place Pistol Team Trophy.

Coast Guard domination is not confined to the West Coast competitions. Weeks after the Storis' win, a team of Coast Guardsmen took the pistol team championship trophy at the Atlantic Fleet Matches held at Dam Neck, Va.

**NO ALIBIS** Ensign Joshua Boyle fires from the 300-yard line during the 2006 U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Forces Rifle and Pistol Matches, held at Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 4.

## ABOVE THE CUT

Wise, a distinguished pistol shooter, is working toward his distinguished rifle badge. His rifle scores this year earned him a silver medal for scoring among the top ten percent of Navy and Coast Guard shooters.

Few know about the awards available to Coast Guardsmen who compete at Fleet matches, All Navy matches, interservice matches and the National Championships held at Camp Perry, Ohio. During these matches, members have the opportunity to shoot the Excellence-in-Competition match, or EIC as it is better known, where they have the chance to “leg.” Those who earn medals also earn leg points toward becoming recognized as a distinguished pistol shot or distinguished rifleman.

“The way it works, you can only compete in three EIC matches a year – four if you also participate in the EIC at Nationals. So you only get a couple of chances to leg a year,” said Wise. “You need 30 leg points total to be

distinguished. A gold medal will get you ten points, a silver eight and a bronze will get you six. And there’s a limit on how many medals that can be awarded at each match. For a competition of 100 people, one gold, three silver and six bronze medals will be awarded.”

Wise is working on becoming double distinguished. He says that since records have been kept dating back almost 80 years, fewer than 40 Coast Guardsmen have been distinguished in both the rifle and pistol.

## A SHOOTING COMMUNITY

“At work or even after work we are either officers or enlisted. But when we cross the line at the range, we are all just shooters,” explained Ramsey.

Navy and Coast Guard competitors shoot together as members of the U.S. Navy Marksmanship Team. The only requirement to become a member is to compete in a match. The sense of camaraderie that spans all ages, experience levels, and branches of service is


demonstrated by an always open invitation for new shooters and the continuous sharing of techniques and information.

“Shooting is as much competing against yourself as it is against others,” said Wise. “Why not help the other guy improve? More power to them!”

To help new shooters get involved in the sport, the U.S. Navy Marksmanship Team, the organizers of the Fleet and All-Navy matches, makes match grade .45-caliber service pistols and AR-15 rifles available for loan to Coast Guard members on the day of the competition. Distinguished shooters provide how-to clinics for new competitors as well as one-on-one coaching for inexperienced shooters.

Sometimes it is literally hit or miss for new shooters, although some even surprise themselves as AMT2 Randy Martin, Sector San Diego, did. He competed for the first time in pistol and earned recognition with

the highest score for new pistol shooters.

“It’s a good time! Everybody should give it a try,” an enthusiastic Martin said with a smile. 

*Coast Guard members who are interested in competitive shooting should visit the U.S. Navy Marksmanship Team web site at <http://www.usnst.org>. To apply for MWR sports grants visit the MWR web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/mwr/>.*



▲ **FIRING LINE** Lt. j.g. Jennifer Leong, CGC Storis, fires from the 50-yard line in a national course pistol match.

▲ **RECOIL** Ensign Joshua Boyle, CGC Storis, fires from the 50-yard line in a national course pistol match.

◀ **TEAM COAST GUARD** Shooters pose with the Pacific Fleet Pistol Team Championship Trophy and show off the individually awarded 1st and 2nd place Grand Aggregate Awards.

