

A Coasties Call

A Poem by: Steven Riddell

T'was twenty-one hundred hours the night
before deployment,
not a Coastie was stirring not even a pooch.

Their uniforms were hung by the lockers
with care,
in hopes that deployment soon would be
there.

The boots were all polished and right by
their beds,
while thoughts of rescues played in their
heads.

The captain all dressed and ready to go,
sat down at the watch, awaiting the call.

The moon was so bright and the night was
so calm,
the idea of deployment not even a thought.

When over the radio, crackled that first call,
he jumped from his chair and answer the
call.

He ran down the hall and pushed open the
doors,
the crew all asleep and awaiting the call.

He sounded the alarm to alert the crew,
it's time to go and answer the call.

And what to his startled eyes did he see,
a crew all ready and rearing to go.

They ran from their barracks right down to
the dock,
to board the rescue boat, all ready to go.

With the coxswain at the helm and the
captain in charge,
the crew was given the order "full speed
ahead" let's go.

The engines were started and the throttle
engaged,

the crew took positions and over sea and
surf they would go.

Out of the harbor they went over sea and
surf they did go,
to find the distressed ship awaiting the crew.

But what to their wondering eyes did they
see,
a crew of 20 and a ship at sea.

The ship on fire, half sunk and taking on
water,
they pulled alongside to rescue the crew.

After rescuing the crew, they pulled away
slow,
only to see the ship go under.

Heading back to port with 20 on board,
over sea and surf did the rescue boat go.

When arriving in port, they all were met,
by family and friends, the rescuers wet.

The call "all finished" and home they did go,
only to find another awaiting call.

This is the story of a Coast Guard crew,
ready for deployment no matter the call.

With Honor, Respect and Devotion to duty,
the Coasties respond no matter the call.

