# U.S. COAST GUARD

# Incident Command System

## Major Lessons Learned during Deepwater Horizon

# Major Lessons Learned

- **USCG has been using the Incident Command System (ICS) for 15 years.**

- **In Deepwater Horizon response the fundamental concepts, processes, and organization structures of ICS were found to be effective and appropriate.**

# Major Gaps

- **There are gaps in doctrine, training, tactics, and procedures that were highlighted during the response.**
  - Training
  - Information management
  - Unified Area Command
  - Air space management
  - Branch level planning

# Way Ahead

- **Area Command Guidance**

- **Revise the CG Incident Management Handbook**

- **Analyze and validate training methodology**

- **Certification of proficiency**

# Primary Features of ICS

- **Unity of Command**

- **Standard Organization, Terminology, and Forms**

- **Objectives, Strategies, and Tactics**

- **Incident Action Plan & Area Operating Guide**

- **Integrated Communications Planning**

- **Span of Control (1-7)**

# 3 Essential Elements

- **Flexibility**

- **Standardization**

- **Cost Effectiveness**

## The Basic Structure

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                    Command
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Operations  Planning  Logistics  Finance
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