Coast Guard Launches Operation River Wall to Control Border Along Rio Grande



Coast Guard crews patrol the Rio Grande near Mission, Texas Oct. 18, 2025. The Coast Guard is taking immediate and decisive action to control, secure, and defend U.S. borders and maritime approaches, as well as facilitate commerce vital to economic prosperity and strategic mobility and successfully respond to crises or contingencies that may come with little or no warning. (U.S. Coast Guard video)

From Headquarters, U.S. Coast Guard, Oct. 20, 2025

WASHINGTON – The Coast Guard announced today the deployment of additional forces to the Rio Grande River in eastern Texas, starting on Oct. 9, 2025, to ensure operational control of the

border where the President has declared a national emergency. This surge operation – known as Operation River Wall – will bolster ongoing Coast Guard efforts to control, secure and defend approximately 260 miles of the Rio Grande River that makes up the U.S. border there. Leveraging its unmatched expertise, authorities and capabilities, the Coast Guard will deter, interdict, and defeat illegal immigration, drug smuggling, and other threats to our communities.

“U.S. Coast Guard is the best in the world at tactical boat operations and maritime interdiction at sea, along our coasts, and in riverine environments,” said Adm. Kevin E. Lunday, Acting Commandant of the Coast Guard. “Through Operation River Wall, the Coast Guard is controlling the U.S. southern border along the Rio Grande River in eastern Texas.”

As part of this mobilization, the Coast Guard is deploying additional response boats, shallow watercraft, command and control assets, and tactical teams in support of national security objectives. This represents an unprecedented commitment of Coast Guard personnel and resources to the Rio Grande region.

The Coast Guard is leading operations, working with U.S. Border Patrol and the Department of War under U.S. Northern Command, to control, secure, and defend the U.S. border along the Rio Grande River in Cameron and Hidalgo counties in eastern Texas, extending to the sea.