



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Coast Guard personnel from Air Station Astoria participate in a rescue exercise near Cape Disappointment.

COAST GUARD CREWS TAKE TO THE SKIES

By COLIN MURPHEY
The Daily Astorian

Visitors to the North Head Lighthouse near Cape Disappointment can usually count on Mother Nature to put on a show with the area's high cliffs, overlooks and expansive views of the coast and the Pacific Ocean. What they might not expect is for the Coast Guard to show up with helicopters and put on a show of their own. That's what happened last week when aircraft and crews from Air Station Astoria flew to the area for two days of rescue training.



A Coast Guard rescuer lifts a mock victim to safety during a training exercise.



A Coast Guard helicopter lowers a rescuer down to retrieve a mock victim.



Public affairs specialist Trevor Lilburn, left, takes photos as a rescuer flies overhead during an exercise.



A Coast Guard helicopter crew keeps a close eye on a colleague dangling below the aircraft.



A helicopter reels in a rescuer after safely delivering a mock victim to high ground.