

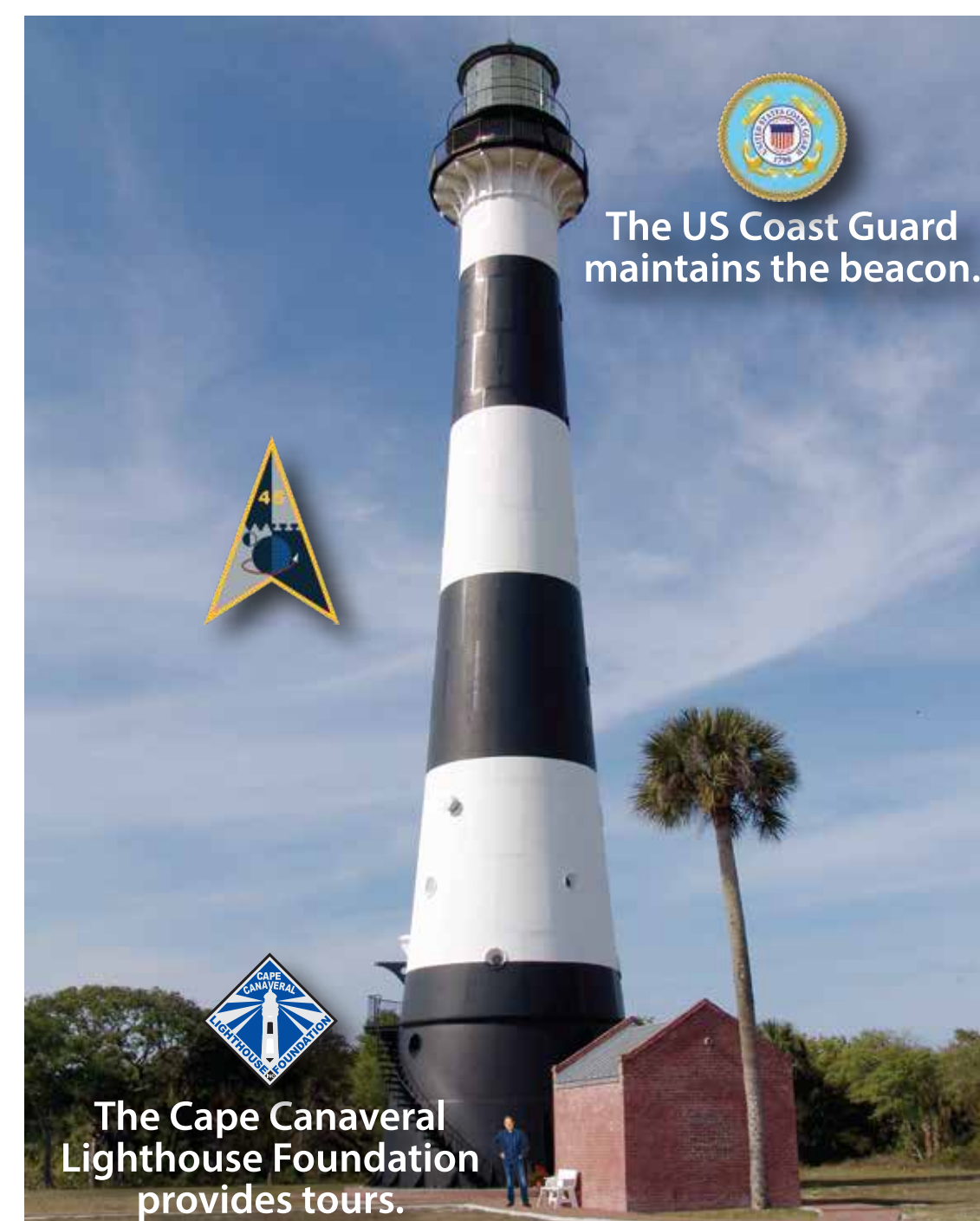
1945 - Now

Learning to Live with the New Neighbors

Who's Got the Ball?

The Coast Guard became part of the Department of the Navy from the outset of World War II in 1941 until it was transferred to the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. Official ownership of the Lighthouse was transferred from the Coast Guard to the Air Force in 2000, then to the Space Force, when created in 2020. The Coast Guard still maintains the light.

The Space Force holds the responsibility to maintain the Lighthouse itself and the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation was created in 2002 to help preserve, protect and interpret the Lighthouse for visitors.



The US Air Force 45th Space Wing owns the Lighthouse and its Property.

Living Next To Rockets Isn't Easy!



The Fresnel lens found a new home at Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Museum

In the 1940s and 1950s, the US Government acquired about 15,000 acres of land surrounding the lighthouse, relocating the residents in order to safely establish the Eastern Test Range for its missile program. The light itself was automated in 1960 and the last Coast Guard keeper left at that time. The keepers' cottages fell into disrepair and were burned down by the Air Force in 1967.

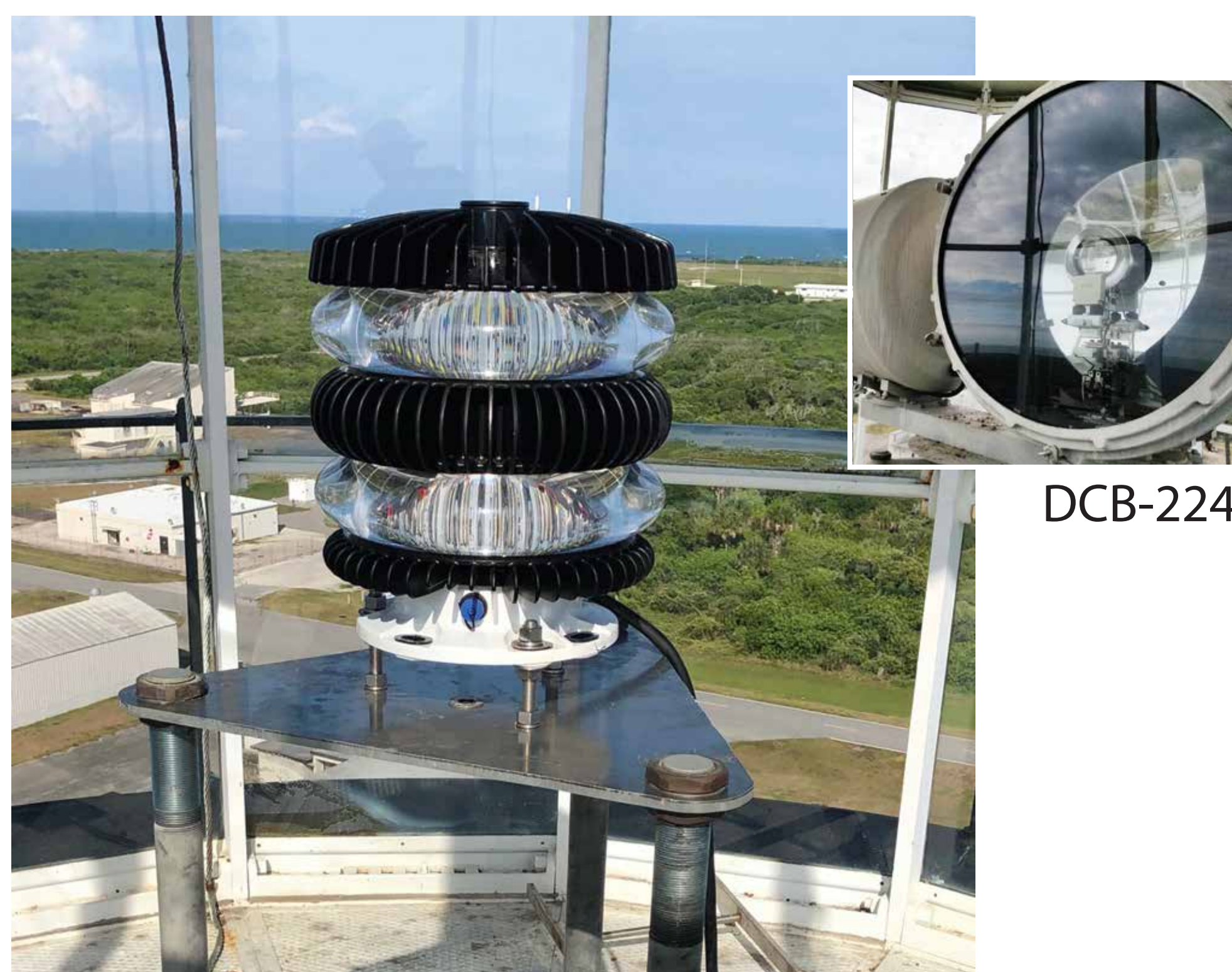
For several decades, starting in 1969, a sea surveillance radar was mounted on the Lighthouse to allow range control officers to monitor small boats entering the launch danger area.

In 1993, it was decided the vibrations from the rocket launches were too much for the fragile 1st Order Fresnel lens and it was replaced with a DCB-224 rotating searchlight beacon.

A New Light Shines

The DCB-224 beacon was replaced with a Sealite (SL-300-2D5) long range marine lantern (dual configuration) in 2021 and can be seen at a distance of 19 miles.

The Sealite 300 has the same characteristic as the previous light; flashing twice every 5 seconds, dark for 15 seconds. Unlike previous rotating beacons, it's stationary, blinking on and off in a "group flash" – visible 360 degrees at the same time. The Sealite 300 has a service life of 50,000 hours, is easier to maintain and is more resistant to rocket launch vibrations.



DCB-224

SL-300-2D5 long range marine lantern