



Linda Kapral Papp, wife of Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp, christens the newest Coast Guard's National Security Cutter, Hamilton. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.

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### **Acquisition Update: Fourth National Security Cutter Christened**

Oct. 26, 2013

The U.S. Coast Guard on Oct. 26, 2013, christened the fourth National Security Cutter (NSC), Hamilton, at Ingalls Shipyards in Pascagoula, Miss. Mrs. Linda Kapral Papp, the cutter's sponsor, marked the occasion with the time-honored tradition of breaking a champagne bottle on the cutter's bow, officially giving NSC 4 the name "Hamilton." Mrs. Papp was accompanied by her husband Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Robert J. Papp, Jr, who served as the keynote speaker for the event.

Hamilton is named for Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury and the driving force behind the establishment of the Revenue Cutter Service, a precursor to the modern U.S. Coast Guard. NSC 4 is the sixth cutter associated with the Coast Guard to bear the name Hamilton. The 75-foot United States Revenue Cutter Hamilton was the first, commissioned in 1830.

Hamilton was launched Aug. 10, 2013, and is scheduled for delivery to the Coast Guard in September 2014. Hamilton will be homeported in Charleston, S.C. Following christening, production work on Hamilton will continue into 2014 at Ingalls Shipyard.

"Today was an exciting day because we are one step closer to bringing Cutter Hamilton to her new home in Charleston," said Capt. Doug Fears, Hamilton's prospective commanding officer. "This exceptionally capable ship is the first major cutter to enter the Coast Guard's Atlantic fleet in more than 25 years, and it will serve our national security interests for decades, along with providing economic opportunities through ship maintenance and technical support to the greater Charleston area. Hamilton's crew is eager to test the ship's capabilities, and equally thrilled to become part of the Charleston community."

Three NSCs have been delivered to the Coast Guard and commissioned into service. These cutters, Coast Guard Cutters Bertholf, Waesche and Stratton are currently performing operations in support of Coast Guard missions.

Three NSCs, including Hamilton, are in production at Ingalls Shipyards. The fifth NSC, James, is scheduled for delivery in 2015. The sixth NSC, Munro, is scheduled for delivery in 2016. A contract option for long lead time materials for NSC 7, Kimball, was exercised June 14, 2013. Long lead time materials includes main propulsion and navigation systems, generators, electrical switchboards, major castings, and other items needed for production.

The NSC is the most technologically sophisticated cutter in the Coast Guard fleet, capable of performing critical homeland security, law enforcement and national defense missions in the most demanding open ocean environments. The cutter is 418 feet long, has a top speed of 28 knots, a range of 12,000 miles and endurance to perform 60- to 90-day patrols.