



COAST GUARD CONNECTION

AUGUST 2017 EDITION

A quarterly newsletter for retired senior leaders from the U.S. Coast Guard providing a focused sampling of current events and service initiatives.

Introduction: VCG – 227 and OPC Letter for Retirees

THIS WEEK, WE CELEBRATE the United States Coast Guard's 227th birthday. Just as you and others have done for more than two and a quarter centuries, Coast Guard men and women stand watch far and wide – from the far reaches of our planet to the Heartland of America. Regardless of where they are, these men and women are guided by our Core Values—Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty.

Alongside Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft, I spend my time addressing the evolving challenges our organization faces. Challenges both familiar and new: from stopping illicit networks in the western hemisphere to adapting to the evolving cyber domain.

To meet these challenges, now and into the future, we are recapitalizing like never before. We are moving out on retiring the fleet that both you and I served on. Our cutters, both old and new, are no longer patrolling in pre-determined boxes hoping for a chance to stop the illegal drugs poisoning our communities. Instead, we are leveraging these new platforms and capitalizing on vast intelligence networks to end the uncertainty. I am proud to say that it is working; in 2016 we achieved a record removal of cocaine—201 metric tons. Further, we detained 585 smugglers for prosecution—bringing 156 cases here, in the United States, where we have a nearly 100 percent prosecution rate.

The *Heritage Class Offshore Patrol Cutter* will be the next link in our modern operational network. Just as you dutifully answered the call while serving in the Coast Guard, the OPC will address these evolving threats for decades to come.

As we celebrate this 227th year of the Coast Guard I am pleased to share the names of the first eleven Offshore Patrol Cutters in our new fleet:

OPC 1: USCGC ARGUS

OPC 2: USCGC CHASE

OPC 3: USCGC INGHAM

OPC 4: USCGC RUSH

OPC 5: USCGC PICKERING

OPC 6: USCGC ICARUS

OPC 7: USCGC ACTIVE

OPC 8: USCGC DILIGENCE

OPC 9: USCGC ALERT

OPC 10: USCGC VIGILANT

OPC 11: USCGC RELIANCE

The OPC will promote governance and provide capability on our oceans—the gateway for U.S. economic growth, opportunity and prosperity. It is here, beyond 50 nautical miles from U.S. shores, where national interests in the U.S. maritime domain require the Coast Guard's unique blend of authorities. It is the OPC, along with our new and legacy cutters, that will ensure national security, safeguard economic prosperity and we keep our maritime borders secure.



I am proud and honored to lead the best Coast Guard the world has ever known. Nations may attempt to emulate us, but none can replicate what we cherish most—our dedicated and talented workforce. Our identity today is undeniably linked to our legacy that reaches back to the founding of our Nation. As members of the retiree community, you are part of this legacy of Coast Guard excellence. Thank you.

Semper Paratus

Admiral Charles Michel, Vice Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

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Budget (CG-82)

Current and Future Status

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Appropriations Act became law on May 5, 2017, providing funding through the remainder of FY 2017. The appropriation sustains current operations while also creating a cyber security "Program of Record," providing personnel to administer the requirements of the Blended Retirement System (BRS), accelerating recapitalization efforts (e.g., icebreaker, WLR, and Hurricane Matthew priorities), making a significant investment in R&D for land-based UAS, and growing the Coast Guard by 348 positions. On May 23, 2017, the FY 2018 President's Budget was delivered to Congress. The budget provides a 4.3% increase in the Operating Expenses appropriation, maintains planned recapitalization efforts, and adds 295 positions to the Coast Guard. Most notable, the FY 2018 budget includes funds for production of the first Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) and long lead time materials for the second OPC, a historic step in recapitalizing the medium endurance cutter fleet. The House Appropriations Committee (HAC) presented and approved their FY 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations bill on July 18, 2017. Current information indicates the Senate



will not take up their Homeland Security bill until after the August recess. Coast Guard leadership continues to engage with the Administration on the Service's role in supporting Presidential initiatives, including Rebuilding the Armed Forces, Securing the Border, and Combating Transnational Criminal Organizations.

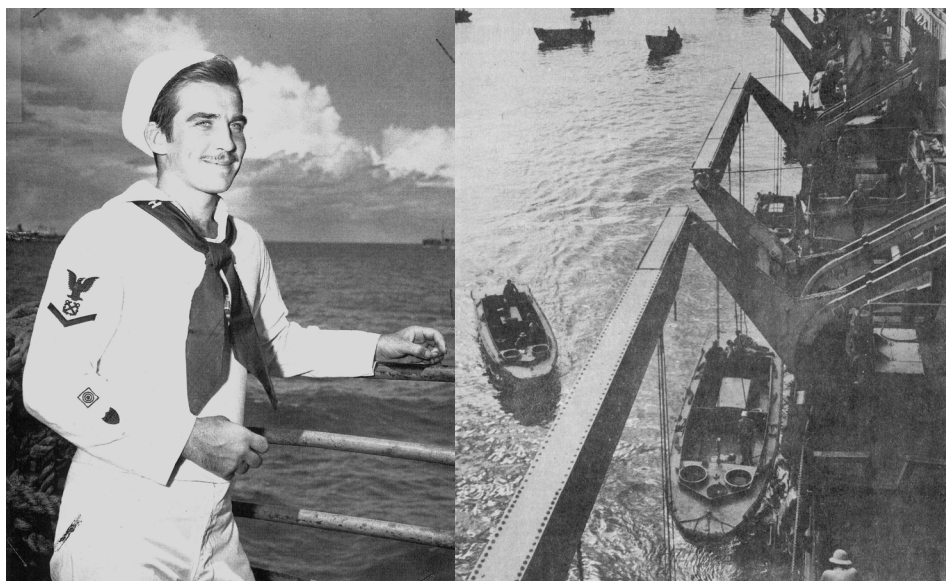
► <https://www.uscg.mil/budget>

Human Capital Strategy (HCS) Update (CG-1)

In year two of this long-term strategy, we have gleaned some recent successes to include outcomes from the Aviation Survival Technician (AST) Active Duty Entry Integrated Project Team (IPT), the launch of a women's retention study Coast Guard-wide, and the upcoming establishment of a Culinary Support Activity (CSA) in Yorktown, VA.

The Aviation Survival Technician (AST) Active Duty Entry IPT was chartered to address the gaps in the AST workforce in recruiting and preparing candidates to meet the "A" School mission. Solutions developed include attracting and assessing viable AST candidates from the general population to meet Service needs; providing pre-"A" school preparatory endeavors such as unit engagement, individual mentorship, and use of the Aviation Training Technical Center's formalized preparation program; and, improving the training environment in terms of diet, sleep conditions, and access to personal trainers. These recommendations have been implemented and impacts will be measured to assess the success.

As part of our broader diversity and inclusion efforts, we have gained recent approval from the Commandant to launch a women's retention study Coast Guard-wide, the first since 1990. This study, done in partnership with RAND, will take a comprehensive look at women in the Service. This year-long study is part of our greater effort to recruit, train, and retain a diverse workforce.



COXSWAIN BOB CANAVAN'S DEADLY ODYSSEY AT GUADALCANAL 75 YEARS AGO

"In August 1942, during the initial stages of the World War II's Guadalcanal campaign, the waters of Iron Bottom Sound concealed numerous Japanese submarines. Coast Guard-manned landing crafts carried out nightly anti-submarine patrols to defend against this silent but deadly menace. Coxswain Robert "Bob" Canavan volunteered to pilot one of the anti-submarine patrol boats along with three other Coast Guardsmen and two U.S. Marines. Only one man would return from the journey."

► <http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/04/the-long-blue-line-coxswain-bob-canavans-deadly-odyssey-on-iron-bottom-sound-guadalcanal/>

On 15 September, the Coast Guard will establish its first-ever Culinary Support Activity (CSA) in Yorktown, VA. The galley will be converted from a contract-operated facility to a fully sourced Culinary Specialist (CS)-run operation, and serve in three ways: one, it will offer greater quality of food as prepared by our own CS-rated members; two, it will provide a large galley scenario with a mix of junior and senior CSs to foster training and professional development; and three, allow us to address the challenges associated with the ship-to-shore ratio for the CS rating.

Legislative (CG-0921)

Fiscal Year 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations

In July, the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee released its

draft Fiscal Year 2018 legislation. The bill contains \$10.5 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard – an increase of \$31.7 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The bill provides for a 2.1 percent military pay increase, \$7.2 billion for operations and training, military personnel costs, aviation and cutter hours, and maintenance of assets required to sustain readiness and response capabilities; and \$1.3 billion – \$95 million above the request – for modernization and recapitalization of vessels, aircraft, and facilities. This includes funding for the Polar Ice-breaking Vessel program, the acquisition of an Offshore Patrol Cutter, an HC130-J aircraft, four Fast Response Cutters, and facility improvements at multiple locations throughout the United States. The Senate has not yet released its version of the Homeland Security Appropriations.



Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017 / Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017

In Spring 2017, the House and Senate Coast Guard authorizing committees introduced their versions of Coast Guard Authorization bills to provide authorization of appropriations for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. Both bills provide a two year authorization, set appropriations and strength levels, and provide direction on hiring authority, Coast Guard health care professionals licensure portability, advisory committees, marine safety and certain technical corrections to previous authorization acts, and other provisions. The Senate bill, in addition to the authorities noted above, would allow for survey and design work for the construction or acquisition of a new Coast Guard icebreaker, and would allow the Coast Guard to fund a museum. In June, the House version of the Coast Guard Authorization Act was incorporated into the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act (DHSAA) in accordance with an agreement between the two committees with jurisdiction: the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Homeland Security Committee. The House passed the DHSAA on July 20. [In addition to the provisions noted above, the DHSAA clarifies Coast Guard acquisition authorities, amends a variety of Coast Guard regulatory authorities, authorizes funding for six additional Fast Response Cutters, ice trials of ice breaker vessels, and shore-side infrastructure improvements. The DHSAA also requires port cybersecurity improvements.] It is not known if the Senate will consider the House-passed bill. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee plans to introduce a DHS authorization bill after the August recess that will have a more narrow scope than the House bill. The bill is expected to focus on streamlining the number of committees with jurisdiction over the department.

■ **USCG Honor Guard presenting the colors while MU1 Megan Weikleenges sings and the Band plays the National Anthem in Kauffman Center—Helzberg Hall**



The legislative process takes time and many more steps must be completed before the bills discussed are enacted. All are asked to refrain from commenting on active legislation or speculating about potential legislative outcomes.

Outreach (CG-0923)

Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) 87

JCOC is the Department of Defense's (DOD) oldest and most prestigious orientation program. This year's 87th convening will again provide American business and community leaders an opportunity to engage with DOD and Coast Guard senior leaders and service members. JCOC attendees are non-DOD civilians, who are influential in their professions, organization, and communities at large. This year's JCOC will be held in the Northeast. If you know someone who would benefit from getting an up-close and intimate look at our Armed Forces and is in a position to take that knowledge back to his or her community and become an advocate, please contact Joshua Buck (Joshua.M.Buck@uscg.mil or 202-372-4609) for more information on how to nominate someone for JCOC 88.

► <http://jcoc.osd.mil/>

USCG Band Heartland Tour

The United States Coast Guard Band is the premier band representing the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. After a prolonged hiatus, the U.S. Coast Guard Band got back on the road, touring through the Heartland of the United States. Hitting stops in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, the Band performed before thousands, many of whom have no immediate connection to the Coast Guard. The Band is a key outreach tool whose mission is to promote public goodwill toward the Coast Guard and the country we serve; preserve and honor the heritage, traditions, and history of our nation and the Coast Guard; and to perform for official functions, enhance pride within our service, and support Coast Guard recruiting activities. If you are interested in having the Band perform in your community, please contact MUCS Heather Doughty (Heather.B.Doughty@uscg.mil or 860-701-6827).

► <http://www.uscg.mil/band/default.asp>

Douglas Munro Birthday Celebration

On 11 October, Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro would have been 98. As the only Coast Guardsman to receive



the Medal of Honor, Munro has been recognized and honored in countless ways. Yet, we have never celebrated his life. This year at Coast Guard Headquarters, in a building that bears his name, the Deputy Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard will preside over a ceremony and party that will celebrate Munro's birth and his life. If you are in the National Capital Region and are interested in attending, please contact LCDR Rachel Stryker (Rachel.A.Stryker@uscg.mil or 202-372-1160).

Public Affairs CG-0922

Currently, Dan Lamothe of the *Washington Post* is embedded on the CGC Healy for Arctic Shield icebreaking operations. The focus of his story will be to expand understanding of the Coast Guard's icebreakers and our push to get more of them. We have a PA2 deployed aboard the CGC MAPLE in support of its Northwest Passage transit (21 Jul - 23 Aug).

We had two good budget stories come out in the *New York Times* and *The Hill* (links below):

► https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/04/us/politics/coast-guard-faces-challenges-at-sea-and-at-the-budget-office.html?_r=0

► <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/344213-16-billion-for-a-wall-lets-spend-it-on-a-sure-thing>

National Coast Guard Museum

The National Coast Guard Museum Association released its 2016 annual report earlier this season. To obtain a copy and learn more about our forthcoming national museum, please visit

► <http://coastguardmuseum.org/the-museum/ncgma-annual-report/>

Acquisitions (CG-9)

Heavy Polar Icebreaker.

The Coast Guard on July 26 participated in an icebreaker model testing demonstration at the National Research Council of



Canada (NRC) in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The U.S. and Canadian governments established a partnership earlier this year, enabling the U.S. Coast Guard heavy polar icebreaker acquisition program to test and validate potential heavy polar icebreaker design models at the NRC's ice tank facility.

► <https://dcms.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/icebreaker072717/>

Medium Range Surveillance Aircraft

Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento, California, is operating with its full complement of aircraft following delivery of the sixth C-27J Spartan medium range surveillance aircraft May 1.

► https://dcms.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/MRS_062017/

National Security Cutter

The Coast Guard exercised a contract option, worth \$14 million, with Vigor Marine LLC for the structural enhancement drydock availability (SEDA) for the second national security cutter (NSC), Coast

Guard Cutter Waesche, July 13. These structural enhancements will prevent long-term fatigue damage, which would result in additional life cycle maintenance costs.

► https://dcms.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/NSC_071417/

Long Range Surveillance Aircraft

The Coast Guard's program to integrate the Minotaur Mission System Suite across the long range surveillance aircraft fleet reached a major milestone with the return of the HC-130J Super Hercules Minotaur prototype to the operational fleet June 6.

► https://dcms.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/HC130J_062117/

The Coast Guard exercised a contract option June 30, worth approximately \$3.3 million, with L3 Technologies Integrated Systems Platform Integration Division in Waco, Texas, for Minotaur missionization of one HC-130J Super Hercules long range surveillance aircraft.

► https://dcms.uscg.afpims.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/HC130J_071117/