



Acquisition  
Directorate

## CHARACTERISTICS

**Length:**

418 feet

**Beam:**

54 feet

**Draft:**

22 feet 6 inches

**Displacement:**

4,500 long tons

**Maximum Speed:**

28 knots

**Range:**

12,000 nautical miles

**Endurance:**

60- to 90-day patrol cycles



# NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTER

The national security cutter (NSC) acquisition addresses the Coast Guard's need for open-ocean patrol cutters with the seakeeping, habitability, endurance and technological advancement to serve as command and control centers in the most demanding maritime environments. Each NSC is built to serve as operational-level headquarters for complex law enforcement, defense and national security missions involving Coast Guard and multiple partner agency participation.

The NSCs feature advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; aviation support facilities; stern cutter boat launch; and long-endurance station keeping. The ships replaced the 378-foot high endurance cutters, which had been in service since the 1960s.

NSCs enable valuable international partnerships through Joint Interagency Task Force activities. For example, Coast Guard Cutter Wausau offloaded more than \$275 million in cocaine, the result of 11 separate suspected drug smuggling vessel interdictions or events off the coasts of Mexico and Central and South America from December 2024 through February 2025.

There are 10 Legend-class NSCs in service. Coast Guard Cutters Calhoun, Hamilton, James and Stone are stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. Coast Guard Cutters Bertholf, Wausau, Stratton and Munro are stationed in Alameda, California. Coast Guard Cutters Kimball and Midgett are stationed in Honolulu.

## FEATURES

- Automated weapons systems capable of stopping rogue vessels
- Large flight deck and hangar space for multiple manned and unmanned aircraft
- State-of-the-art command and control equipment to support cooperation with other units and agencies
- Detection and defense capabilities against chemical, biological or radiological attack
- Advanced sensors and tactical equipment to contribute intelligence to a common operating picture and provide enhanced maritime domain awareness
- Standardized long range interceptor II (LRI-II) and over the horizon IV (OTH-IV) cutter boats with stern and side davit launch and recovery capabilities

## National Security Cutter Locations



For updates on the **national security cutter**, visit the program's website at [www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition](http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition)

# SPECIFICATIONS

## C5ISR Systems

### Coast Guard SeaCommander

- AN/SPS-79 surface search radar
- AN/SPS-75 air search radar
- AN/SPQ-9B ASCM radar
- Identification friend or foe transponder
- Electro-optical/infrared sensor system
- Automatic Identification System
- AN/SLQ-32 electronic warfare suite
- Tactical Data Link (Link 11/16)
- Navigation Distribution System (NAVSSI)

### Communications

- Communications Management System (Symphony)
- MILSATCOM
- COMSATCOM
- Line of Sight (LOS)

## Hull, Mechanical and Electrical Systems

### Propulsion System

- Two MTU 20V 1163 marine diesel engines
- One General Electric LM2500 main gas turbine

### Electrical System

- Three Caterpillar 3512B ship's service diesel generators

### Weapons System

- One Mk 160 gun fire-control system
- One Mk 110 57-mm naval gun system
- One Phalanx 20-mm close-in weapon system
- Two Mk 53 Nulka decoy launching systems
- Two Mk 36 Super Rapid Blooming Offboard Countermeasures chaff launching systems
- Four .50-caliber machine guns
- Two M240B 7.62-mm machine guns

### Shipboard Collective Protection System

## Extended Operations

### Aviation

- Two MH-65 helicopters
- or
- One MH-60 (blade fold/tail fold) and small unmanned aircraft system

### Cutter Boats

- Two OTH-IVs
- One LRI-II



Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf (WMSL 750)



Coast Guard Cutter Waesche (WMSL 751)



Coast Guard Cutter Stratton (WMSL 752)



Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton (WMSL 753)



Coast Guard Cutter James (WMSL 754)



Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755)

