The Coast Guard is outfitting its fixed-wing surveillance aircraft with Minotaur mission system architecture. Minotaur integrates sensors; radar; and command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment and enables aircrews to gather and process surveillance information that can be transmitted to other platforms and units during flight. The system was originally developed by the Navy and is government-owned and operated across multiple Defense and Homeland Security department platforms.

The Coast Guard has worked with Naval Air Systems Command to develop Minotaur to meet Coast Guard mission requirements. Prototype installation for all aircraft began at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

**AIRCRAFT STATUS**

**HC-130J Super Hercules long range surveillance aircraft:** The first aircraft in the Coast Guard fleet outfitted with Minotaur, CGNR 2003, was delivered to the fleet in June 2017. The aircraft is based out of Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina, where it is currently used to train new mission system operators. It completed its first search and rescue case with Minotaur Aug. 7, 2017. The Coast Guard oversees Minotaur integration on the aircraft at L3 Technologies Integrated Systems Platform Integration Division in Waco, Texas.

**HC-144 Ocean Sentry medium range surveillance aircraft:** The first Minotaur HC-144, CGNR 2307, was delivered to the fleet in July 2017; it is now used for training at Aviation Training Center Mobile, Alabama. HC-144 Minotaur production began at the Aviation Logistics Center (ALC) in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, in July 2017. The first two HC-144 aircraft to undergo Minotaur modifications at the ALC will have received separate Ocean Sentry Refresh upgrades, which update the aircraft’s avionics. The Coast Guard will combine Minotaur and Ocean Sentry Refresh modifications into one conversion process in fiscal year 2018.

**C-27J Spartan medium range surveillance aircraft:** The service is also basing the C-27J missionization package on the Minotaur mission system. Mission system integration on the first C-27J will begin at Patuxent River in fall 2017.