



Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton, the fourth Legend-class National Security Cutter, was launched Aug. 10, 2013, at Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula, Miss. Huntington Ingalls Inc. photo by Steve Blount.

---

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

Aug. 13, 2013

Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton (WMSL 753), the fourth of eight planned Legend-class National Security Cutters (NSC), was launched at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss., Aug. 10, 2013. The launch, which notes the first time that Hamilton entered the water, is a milestone in the life of the cutter leading to the formal christening ceremony and eventual commissioning of the cutter into service.

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.

The first three ships in the class, Waesche, Bertholf and Stratton, have been commissioned and have displayed the NSC's enhanced mission capabilities, including a recent demonstration of a cutter-launched unmanned aircraft system that supported the interdiction of nearly 600 kilograms of cocaine this spring.

The ship will be the latest in a storied line of Coast Guard cutters named for Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the Treasury and the founder of the Coast Guard. Hamilton's keel was laid on Sept. 6, 2012. The ship will be christened in October 2013 by Mrs. Linda Kapral Papp, wife of Adm. Robert J. Papp Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Hamilton is scheduled to be delivered in the fall of 2014.