



Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton will be the first National Security Cutter to be based on the East Coast and will be joined by Coast Guard Cutter James, currently in production, next year at their new homeport in Charleston, South Carolina. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Carlos Vega.

Acquisition Update: Fourth National Security Cutter Delivered To Coast Guard

Sept. 15, 2014

The Coast Guard accepted delivery of the fourth National Security Cutter, Hamilton, in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Sept. 15, 2014. With today's acceptance, Hamilton officially becomes an asset of the Coast Guard, and custody is turned over from the shipyard to its commanding officer and crew.

"I'd like to thank Huntington Ingalls Industries and the craftsmen here at Ingalls for building a fantastic ship," said Rear Adm. Bruce D. Baffer, the Coast Guard's assistant commandant for acquisition and chief acquisition officer. "I agree that this is the best National Security Cutter yet. It is an awesome ship, and it's going to serve us for decades to come."

The Legend-class NSC is the largest multipurpose cutter in the Coast Guard fleet and is replacing the 378-foot high endurance cutter, which has been in service since the 1960s. The NSC is 418 feet long and has a top speed of 28 knots and a range of 12,000 nautical miles. It is capable of performing 60- to 90-day patrols.

"After three years of fabrication and expert craftsmanship, Ingalls shipyard has delivered a great ship to the Coast Guard," said Capt. Douglas Fears, the prospective commanding officer of Hamilton. "The Coast Guard's Project Resident Office has fastidiously overseen the production of Hamilton through all key acquisition milestones. Finally, Hamilton's crew has prepared over six months for this day, and we are both honored and humbled to be entrusted with the task of bringing this great ship to life and readying her

for decades of service to our nation.”

The Hamilton is the sixth cutter in Coast Guard history named after Alexander Hamilton, who as the first Secretary of the Treasury prompted Congress to create the Revenue Marine, a precursor to the modern Coast Guard.

Hamilton will be the first of two NSCs homeported in Charleston, South Carolina. The cutter will be commissioned into service Dec. 6.

The first three NSCs – Coast Guard Cutters Bertholf, Waesche and Stratton – are performing operations from their Alameda, California, homeport. The fifth NSC, James, is scheduled to be delivered in the summer of 2015. The keel laying for the sixth, Munro, is scheduled for later this fall, with delivery scheduled for 2016. The seventh, Kimball, is under production, and long lead time materials for the eighth, Midgett, have been ordered.