

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Cutter Waesche Completes Combat System Ship Qualification Trials

Sept. 8, 2015

Coast Guard Cutter Waesche, the service's second national security cutter, completed Combat System Ship Qualification Trials at the Naval Air Warfare Center Point Mugu, California, test range Aug. 14, confirming the cutter's ability to operate its newest technology in a combat environment.

Lt. Cmdr. Steve Myers, test director for the Coast Guard's Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance acquisition program, oversaw the CSSQT execution by Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division to test the upgraded NSC electronics configuration, installed in July

2015, which includes gun weapon system integration for the cutter. Tests included air tracking of F-18s and business jets, a Coast Guard MH-60 helicopter, and one of the NSC's cutter boats. Additionally, an evaluation of Waesche's tactical data link system – which enables the ship to transmit and receive real-time sensor data – was conducted with the USS Howard. CSSQT culminated in live-fire events using the gun weapon system to engage targets at various ranges, including high-speed maneuvering surface targets.

The successful completion of this CSSQT event paves the way for the C4ISR acquisition program to continue installation of this combat system as the new C4ISR baseline for the NSC class.



A high-speed maneuvering surface target takes a hit from Coast Guard Cutter Waesche's main gun during Combat System Ship Qualification Trials at the Naval Air Warfare Center Point Mugu, California, test range Aug. 13. Photo courtesy of Naval Air Warfare Center Point Mugu.