



With its successful launch at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Sept. 12, the sixth national security cutter is one step closer to its delivery, scheduled for 2016. The ship's next milestone – its christening as Munro – is scheduled for Nov. 14, 2015. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

Acquisition Update: Sixth National Security Cutter Launched

Sept. 15, 2015

The sixth national security cutter, Munro, was launched at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Sept. 12.

The cutter's christening is set for Nov. 14, 2015, with delivery scheduled for 2016.

The NSCs have the endurance, seakeeping and command and control equipment to conduct complex law enforcement, defense and national security missions in harsh maritime environments. Each cutter is 418 feet long, with a top speed of 28 knots, a range of 12,000 miles and endurance for 60- to 90-day patrols. The NSCs are replacing the 378-foot high endurance cutters, some of which have been in service for nearly 50 years.

The sixth NSC is named after Douglas A. Munro, a signalman first class during World War II. He volunteered to evacuate a group of Marines from Guadalcanal Sept. 27, 1942, and was fatally wounded by enemy fire while maneuvering his boat to cover the last troops as they evacuated. Munro is the only member of the Coast Guard to receive the Medal of Honor.

Five NSCs are in service. Coast Guard cutters Bertholf, Waesche and Stratton are stationed in Alameda, California. Coast Guard cutters Hamilton and James are stationed in Charleston, South Carolina.

The seventh NSC, Kimball, began fabrication in January, with delivery expected in 2018.
The eighth NSC, Midgett, was put on contract in March, with delivery expected in 2019.