



Acquisition Directorate



Coast Guard Recapitalization Fact Sheet

February 2008



Mission execution begins here.

"The American people expect the Coast Guard to respond to crises; to protect our natural resources and territorial interests; to provide for maritime homeland security; and to help defend the United States in time of war. The fundamental mission of the Coast Guard acquisition enterprise remains: to deliver the assets, systems and services that provide our customers (the operating forces) with the best means to accomplish their missions in the nation's service."

—RADM Gary T. Blore, Assistant Commandant for Acquisition

The US Coast Guard has never been more relevant than it is today—ensuring public safety, enforcing laws, protecting natural resources and providing for maritime homeland security. But the Coast Guard also has never faced a greater challenge in maintaining its materiel readiness. Fatigue, corrosion and obsolete technology all have taken their toll on the fleet, which must be ready to face the world's toughest environments, under its harshest conditions.

The challenge requires a commitment of resources and expertise that will deliver and support new generations of platforms and mission systems. The Acquisition Directorate (CG-9) and its partners at Coast Guard headquarters have backed this commitment with an annual investment of more than \$1.5 billion in a programs portfolio valued at approximately \$27 billion. This investment will upgrade and replace the Coast Guard's aging aircraft, ships and missions systems (including weapons, sensors and Command,

Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) electronics).

A major component of the programs portfolio is the 25-year, \$24 billion Integrated Deepwater System (Deepwater) program. Deepwater began in the mid-1990s when the Coast Guard recognized the need for a comprehensive and state-of-the-market approach to delivering new aircraft and cutters, modernizing legacy assets and providing a new generation of C4ISR mission systems for forces deployed and ashore. In 2002, following extensive study and consultation with stakeholders and partner organizations, the Coast Guard competitively awarded the Deepwater program as an independent acquisition to an industry consortium called Integrated Coast Guard Systems. Finding the use of a commercial lead systems integrator for such a complex acquisition problematic, at the end of the first five-year contract award period, the Coast Guard re-asserted its role as lead systems

integrator and decided to bring the Deepwater projects under the management of the Acquisition Directorate — a then-new organization that had been established July 13, 2007.

Deepwater is only part of the story, however. Today, the Acquisition Directorate is delivering mission capability in every operational domain. Two National Security Cutters (NSCs)—Bertholf and Waesche—are under construction at Pascagoula, Miss., with a contract for the third, Hamilton, awarded in August 2007. NSC 1 Bertholf is to be delivered in spring 2008. The most technologically advanced cutters in Coast Guard history, the NSCs will be flagships of the fleet, operating alongside modernized legacy ships as well as the new generation of Fast Response Cutters now being developed. Meanwhile, the Response Boat-Medium project is in production, and set to deliver a new generation of high speed craft for search & rescue, security and law enforcement operations.

The Acquisition Directorate has upgraded the propulsion plants of the Coast Guard's 102 HH-65C Dolphin helicopters, as part of the three-part Multi-Mission Cutter Helicopter (MCH) modernization project. MCH will deliver greater power, more effective C4ISR equipment and self-defense armament to these mainstays of Coast Guard aviation. New radar, direction finding sets and other systems are improving the mission capabilities of six HC-130J Hercules Long Range Search aircraft. And at Air Training Center Mobile, Ala., the Acquisition Directorate is delivering new HC-144A Ocean Sentry Maritime Patrol Aircraft. The MPA and its Mission Systems Pallet provide improved surveillance capabilities with radar and electro-optical/infrared sensors, patrol endurance and a powerful data voice and imagery communications suite to improve interoperability with Coast Guard and partner agencies.

C4ISR systems such as Rescue 21 already have improved situational awareness along more than 10,600 nautical miles of the US coastline. Rescue 21 replaces the aging National Distress and Response System with a technologically advanced suite of communications and direction-finding equipment to improve search & rescue capability out to 20 nautical miles from shore. Acquisition Directorate also is investing in the Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS), a maritime digital communication system that automatically transmits and receives vessel position and voyage data. These and subsequent generations of C4ISR projects will deliver to Coast Guard operating forces the decision-making tools they need to build situational awareness and operate more safely and effectively throughout the maritime domain.

Looking to the future, the Acquisition Directorate is exploring options for an eventual Offshore Patrol Cutter, and the benefits of moving into unmanned aerial systems. The Coast Guard's investment portfolio will continue to make important contributions by acquiring and delivering more-capable, interoperable assets and systems, and high quality, timely services in support of Coast Guard mission execution.



Homeland Security

The Coast Guard's cutters, aircraft and mission systems are on the front line of a layered strategy that addresses maritime homeland security, law enforcement and public safety, and national defense. Through its acquisition investment portfolio, the Coast Guard contributes a unique set of capabilities to each of the three objectives of the National Strategy for Maritime Security:

1. Preserving the freedom of the seas
2. Facilitating and defending commerce and
3. Facilitating the movement of desirable goods and people cross our borders, while screening out dangerous people and materials

The Coast Guard's assets improve border and transportation security, increase interoperability with the US Navy and other partner agencies, improve intergovernmental law-enforcement response and coordination, and guard critical maritime infrastructure. The USCG Acquisition Directorate is committed to delivering and supporting state-of-the-market platforms and systems that are affordable, efficient and mission-capable.

"The Coast Guard Acquisition Directorate is providing more capable, interoperable assets that will enable our forces to close today's operational gaps and to perform their demanding missions more effectively, efficiently, and safely."

Admiral Thad W. Allen
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard is a military, maritime, multimission service, with a proud history as America's "Shield of Freedom." The security of America's maritime domain – including 95,000 miles of coastline and all of the world's oceans – is a vital element of America's economic prosperity and homeland security. Even before the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Coast Guard faced an array of maritime security challenges – countering terrorist threats, rescuing mariners in distress, interdicting drug smugglers and illegal migrants, enforcing fisheries and protecting the marine environment – that posed direct threats to American safety and security. These critical missions demand forces with the capability to detect and intercept potential threats on America's maritime front lines before they reach our shores — a force that is ready for today, while preparing for tomorrow.