



Acquisition Directorate



NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTER

CHARACTERISTICS

Length:

418 feet

Beam:

54 feet

Draft:

22 feet 6 inches

Displacement:

4,500 long tons

Maximum Speed:

28 knots

Range:

12,000 nautical miles

Endurance:

60- to 90-day patrol cycles

The national security cutter (NSC) acquisition addresses the Coast Guard's need for open-ocean patrol cutters with the seakeeping, habitability, endurance and technological advancement to serve as command and control centers in the most demanding maritime environments. Each NSC is built to serve as operational-level headquarters for complex law enforcement, defense and national security missions involving Coast Guard and multiple partner agency participation.

The NSCs feature advanced command, control, communication, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; aviation support facilities; stern cutter boat launch; and long-endurance station keeping. The ships are replacing the 378-foot high endurance cutters, which have been in service since the 1960s.

The NSCs continue to show the value of their capabilities to mission execution. They removed over 29 metric tons of cocaine – valued at \$870 million – and apprehended 108 suspected smugglers in fiscal year 2020. NSCs continue to contribute to the nation's defense – one example is Coast Guard Cutter Stone's support of Department of Defense operations in the South Atlantic in early 2021, which included a focus on countering illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

There are nine Legend-class NSC in service. Coast Guard cutters Hamilton, James and Stone are stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. Coast Guard cutters Bertholf, Waesche, Stratton and Munro are stationed in Alameda, California. Coast Guard cutters Kimball and Midgett are stationed in Honolulu.

There are 10 Legend-class NSC in service. Coast Guard Cutters Hamilton, James, Stone and Calhoun are stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. Coast Guard Cutters Bertholf, Waesche, Stratton and Munro are stationed in Alameda, California. Coast Guard Cutters Kimball and Midgett are stationed in Honolulu.

An 11th NSC is in production.

FEATURES

- Automated weapons systems capable of stopping rogue vessels
- Large flight deck and hangar space for multiple manned and unmanned aircraft
- State-of-the-art command and control equipment to support cooperation with other units and agencies
- Detection and defense capabilities against chemical, biological or radiological attack
- Advanced sensors and tactical equipment to contribute intelligence to a common operating picture and provide enhanced maritime domain awareness
- Standardized long range interceptor II (LRI-II) and over the horizon IV (OTH-IV) cutter boats with stern and side davit launch and recovery capabilities

For updates on the national security cutter, visit the program's website at www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition

National Security Cutter Locations



SPECIFICATIONS

C5ISR Systems

Coast Guard SeaCommander

- AN/SPS-79 surface search radar
- AN/SPS-75 air search radar
- AN/SPQ-9B ASCM radar
- Identification friend or foe transponder
- Electro-optical/infrared sensor system
- Automatic Identification System
- AN/SLQ-32 electronic warfare suite
- Tactical Data Link (Link 11/16)
- Navigation Distribution System (NAVSSI)

Communications

- Communications Management System (Symphony)
- MILSATCOM
- COMSATCOM
- Line of Sight (LOS)

Hull, Mechanical and Electrical Systems

Propulsion System

- Two MTU 20V 1163 marine diesel engines
- One General Electric LM2500 main gas turbine

Electrical System

- Three Caterpillar 3512B ship's service diesel generators

Weapons System

- One Mk 160 gun fire-control system
- One Mk 110 57-mm naval gun system
- One Phalanx 20-mm close-in weapon system
- Two Mk 53 Nulka decoy launching systems
- Two Mk 36 Super Rapid Blooming Offboard Countermeasures chaff launching systems
- Four .50-caliber machine guns
- Two M240B 7.62-mm machine guns

Shipboard Collective Protection System

Extended Operations

Aviation

- Two MH-65 helicopters
- or
- One MH-60 (blade fold/tail fold) and small unmanned aircraft system

Cutter Boats

- Two OTH-IVs
- One LRI-II



Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf (WMSL 750)



Coast Guard Cutter Waesche (WMSL 751)



Coast Guard Cutter Stratton (WMSL 752)



Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton (WMSL 753)



Coast Guard Cutter James (WMSL 754)



Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755)

