



COAST GUARD CONNECTION

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A quarterly newsletter for retired senior leaders from the U.S. Coast Guard providing a focused sampling of current events and service initiatives. The product can be repurposed for a wider audience as necessary. The product is collated and championed by CG-0923.

INTRODUCTION

As Deputy Commandant for Operations, I am committed to ensuring our vital operational units are Ready, Relevant, and Responsive, both today and tomorrow. To do so we must not only respond to current needs, but also aggressively anticipate the demands of the future, and that demand signal has never been greater for your U.S. Coast Guard.



Without a doubt, our Coast Guard Reserve continues to be an essential force multiplier for the Coast Guard. The selfless service of the men and women who comprise the Coast Guard Reserve allows the Coast Guard to effectively respond to contingencies while continuing to provide the services the American people have come to expect from the Coast Guard. We are in the final stages of completing a comprehensive reform of the Service's Reserve workforce governance. Under the Vice Commandant's direction, an Integrated Project Team (IPT) evaluated the organization, policies, and governance of the Reserve Component to refocus our Reserve management from workforce administration to an operational capability. The IPT recommended the establishment of the Assistant Commandant for Reserves (CG-R) within the DCO organization, streamlining the Reserve management structure to better align mission requirements with reserve force capability. We will formally stand up CG-R this summer and move out to formalize just how we invest and employ the capability that is our Coast Guard Reserves.

America's prosperity is inextricably linked to maritime transportation, and our unique geography provides a key competitive advantage to advance commerce, generate capital, and drive the U.S. economy forward. With the release of the Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook in October 2018, we have doubled down on our efforts to ensure unrestricted access to the world's two largest oceans via America's natural navigable waterways, deep water ports, and protected harbors. Maritime commerce accounts for \$5.4 trillion in annual economic activity; this strategy emphasizes the critical need for a Ready, Relevant, and Responsive Coast Guard that maximizes America's economic prosperity through the maritime domain. This 10-year vision focuses on three lines of effort: 1) Facilitating Lawful Trade and Travel; 2) Modernizing Aids to Navigation and Mariner Information Systems; and 3) Transforming Workforce Capacity and Partnerships. A side benefit of the Outlook is its focus on the Coast Guard's inland waterways mission, where the average cutter is 50 years old and in need of recapitalization. We are also moving out on an aggressive Prevention Reform and Modernization campaign that will ensure our Service is prepared to keep pace with the

increasing complexity of the maritime environment due to emerging technologies, automation, interconnectivity, robotics, and networked systems.

Shifting focus north, our recently released Arctic Strategic Outlook reaffirms the Coast Guard's role as the nation's lead federal agency for homeland security, safety, and environmental stewardship in the Arctic. Much has changed since we viewed the Arctic through a strategic lens in 2013. This Outlook addresses these new realities through three lines of effort: 1) Enhance Capability to Operate Effectively in a Dynamic Arctic; 2) Strengthen the Rules-Based Order; and 3) Innovate and Adapt to Promote Resilience and Prosperity. Global strategic competition, coupled with dramatic changes in the physical environment, has elevated the region's importance in the national security/sovereignty conversation. As the nation's primary maritime presence in the region, the Coast Guard advances national interests through our unique capabilities, authorities, and international partnerships across the full spectrum of maritime governance. On April 23, 2019, those capabilities got a huge booster shot with the successful awarding of the contract for the Detail Design and Construction (DD&C) of the first Polar Security Cutter, with construction set to begin in 2021 and delivery planned for 2024. This is a significant investment in our nation's ability to protect national interests as new shipping lanes open in the Arctic. Ships alone, however, will not uphold American sovereignty. We are committed to working with like-minded international partners to establish and enforce rules-based order in the region.

Looking west, we continue to see an increasing demand signal for Coast Guard personnel, assets, and skillsets throughout the Pacific. Through engagement, partnerships, and presence, the Coast Guard serves as the bridge between lethality and diplomacy. As I write this, the CGC BERTHOLF is on a five-month deployment in the western Pacific. Our specialized capabilities and expansive network of international partnerships enables us to model the highest professionalism as a maritime law enforcement agency while demonstrating the values that support a free and open Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific region.

As you can see, your Coast Guard is in high demand, and there has never been a more exciting time to be in the Service. But the Coast Guard's distinctive competence remains its dedicated workforce. This workforce stands a diligent watch and does not hesitate to go in harm's way to protect man from the sea, to protect the sea from man, and to deny the sea as an avenue to do our nation harm. I am truly in debt to those who stood the prior watch – all of you – that passed on a broad array of operational assets and defined what it means to be "Always Ready."

Together, empowering Semper Paratus.
Vice Admiral Daniel Abel, Deputy Commandant for Operations



CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

FY20 Budget Hearings: In March and April, Admiral Schultz testified before four committees regarding the Coast Guard’s FY20 budget request: the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security; the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security; the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Subcommittee on Security; and the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security. During these hearings, the Commandant reinforced his message of readiness, saying “without question, building and sustaining readiness is my top priority. And we are at a critical juncture—a tipping point... [years of] flat-line Operations and Support funding is eroding our readiness—just like the other Armed Services.



However, we were excluded in the focused effort to rebuild the military... Again, we find ourselves on the outside looking in when it comes to plus-ups.” Additionally, he expressed appreciation to Congress for the FY19 appropriations and hurricane supplemental funding, but he emphasized that we must address the growing backlog of deferred maintenance on our capital assets and shore infrastructure while also expanding investments in human capital.

CG Authorization: CG-0921, CG-094, CG-821 and various CG programs are working closely to review preliminary versions of the Coast Guard Authorization Act for 2020–2021 for both the House and Senate. The House is aiming to markup a bill in May or June.

CG-8 Budget Status

Current and Future Status

As previously reported, on 15 February, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019. In total, the law provided just over \$12 billion, of which \$10.1 billion was discretionary funding, \$413 million (4.3%) more than requested. The law provided funding for the first Polar Security Cutter (PSC) and the Service just awarded a contract for detail design and construction of the lead PSC in late April. This contract also has options for two additional PSCs. The law also supported other ongoing modernization efforts, providing funds to construct the second Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), make vital investments in aviation capabilities and sustainment, and address shore infrastructure and major acquisition systems infrastructure priorities.

Since the last edition of CG Connection, the Coast Guard delivered the FY20 President’s Budget to Congress. The budget requests \$11.3 billion for the Coast Guard, including \$9.3 billion in discretionary funding. Most importantly, this budget begins to address the Service’s erosion of readiness through critical investments in the workforce, cybersecurity, and depot maintenance of legacy assets and infrastructure. The budget also supports the Service’s highest priority acquisition, with funding to construct the third OPC, and continues recapitalization efforts for the PSC and other capital assets and infrastructure. Since delivery of the budget, the Commandant has testified in four hearings before our appropriations and authorizing subcommittees and has one more budget hearing scheduled in late May. Detailed budget roll-out briefs were provided to committee staffs as well. In the coming months, appropriations subcommittees will draft their respective spending bills to ready them for committee markups. The specifics of the FY20 budget request are available on the Coast Guard’s budget website.

Finally, the Coast Guard just delivered our FY21–25 Resource Allocation Plan to the Department of Homeland Security in late

April. FY21 continues to advance the Commandant’s highest priority—Service readiness—and integrates many other priorities outlined in the Coast Guard Strategic Plan for 2018–2022. With the allocation plan delivered, DHS will start their program and budget review cycle, where the Coast Guard’s and other components’ budget submissions are evaluated. DHS is expected to issue a final Resource Allocation Decision in late July, which will set the baseline for the Coast Guard’s FY21 budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget in early September 2019.

CG-9 Input

Coast Guard Awards Polar Security Cutter Detail Design and Construction Contract

The Coast Guard and U.S. Navy awarded VT Halter Marine Inc. of Pascagoula, Mississippi, a fixed price incentive (firm) contract for the Detail Design and Construction of the Coast Guard’s lead Polar Security Cutter (PSC) April 23, 2019. The initial award is valued at \$745.9 million and supports non-recurring engineering and detail design of the PSC class as well as procurement of long lead time materials and construction of the first ship.

► <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/Latest-Acquisition-News/Article/1822054/acquisition-update-coast-guard-and-navy-integrated-program-office-awards-polar/>



■ Artist rendering of the Polar Security Cutter design courtesy of VT Halter Marine Inc.



Coast Guard Awards Contract for MH-65 Helicopter Components

The Coast Guard awarded a \$21.3 million contract to Tyonek Manufacturing Group Inc. of Madison, Alabama, March 12, 2019, to procure 89 wiring harness packages for its MH-65 Short Range Recovery helicopters.



Coast Guard crews at the Aviation Logistics Center in Elizabeth City, N.C., will replace the current wiring harnesses—delivered as part of the original

H-65 configuration in 1984—alongside previously scheduled work to complete the Service Life Extension Program, program depot-level maintenance, and MH-65E modernization activities.

► <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/Latest-Acquisition-News/Article/1800114/coast-guard-awards-contract-for-mh-65-helicopter-components/>

Final HC-130J with Legacy Mission System Inducted into Minotaur Missionization

The Coast Guard’s Long Range Surveillance (LRS) Aircraft Program reached a significant milestone March 18, 2019, when CGNR 2001 was inducted into the Minotaur Mission System Suite modification program at L3 Technologies Inc. Integrated Aerospace Systems in Waco, Texas. With this induction, the Coast Guard removed the final HC-130J aircraft configured with the legacy mission system from the Service’s operational fleet.

► <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/Latest-Acquisition-News/Article/1798397/final-hc-130j-with-legacy-mission-system-inducted-into-minotaur-missionization/>

Coast Guard Accepts 33rd Fast Response Cutter

The Coast Guard accepted delivery of the 33rd Fast Response Cutter



(FRC), JOSEPH DOYLE, in Key West, Florida, March 21, 2019. It will be the seventh FRC stationed in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and will be commissioned in June. Joseph Doyle, the cutter’s namesake, was known as one of the U.S.

Life-Saving Service’s most distinguished surfmen.

► <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/Latest-Acquisition-News/Article/1792843/coast-guard-accepts-33rd-fast-response-cutter/>

Steel Cutting Commences for First Offshore Patrol Cutter

The Coast Guard and Eastern Shipbuilding Group commenced cutting steel for the first Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), ARGUS, in Panama City, Florida, Jan. 7, 2019. The Coast Guard plans to acquire 25 of the Heritage-class OPCs. This milestone marks the beginning of production activities for the first OPC, and the Coast Guard has ordered long lead time materials for the second OPC.

► <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/Latest-Acquisition-News/Article/1751028/commencement-of-steel-cutting-for-first-offshore-patrol-cutter/>



Public Affairs (CG-0922)

Washington Post | New Coast Guard strategy for the Arctic calls for ‘projecting sovereignty’ to contest China and Russia

► https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2019/04/22/new-coast-guard-strategy-arctic-highlights-projecting-sovereignty-china-russia-look-north/?utm_term=.49817c89292f

Washington Post | Mississippi shipyard gets \$746M contract for icebreaker

► https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/mississippi-shipyard-gets-746m-contract-for-icebreaker/2019/04/23/b076b326-6621-11e9-a698-2a8f808c9cfb_story.html?utm_term=.4a2e2577dc64

U.S. Naval institute | The U.S. Coast Guard’s Mission to Africa

► <https://news.usni.org/2019/04/22/the-u-s-coast-guards-mission-to-africa>

Navy Times | Coast Guard offloads seized drugs worth \$62.5 million

► <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/04/18/coast-guard-offloads-seized-drugs-worth-625-million/>

Military.com | Why Are so Many Women Leaving the Coast Guard?

► <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/03/30/why-are-so-many-women-leaving-coast-guard.html>

Military.com | ‘The Night Is Ours:’ Inside the Elite World of Coast Guard Ship-Boarding Teams

► <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/04/04/night-ours-inside-elite-world-coast-guard-ship-boarding-teams.html>





Personnel Readiness Task Force

Surge staffing to support parental leave

To support our Coast Guard families and their decision to grow, whether through pregnancy or adoption, a centrally-funded pilot program to backfill gaps due to members on parental leave has been created! The RAND Women’s Retention Study and Holistic Analysis found that members weigh their decision to become parents against unit and mission needs. The ability to seek backfills has always existed, but now units can request support without absorbing the large cost.

Commands may contact the Personnel Service Center (PSC) Surge Staffing Section, through existing channels, to request augmentation for members who are using non-chargeable parental leave exceeding 41 consecutive days. Developed by CG-13, PSC, and the Personnel Readiness Task Force, the program’s goal is to support members, ensure workforce readiness, and evaluate long-term implementation.

Additional information is available in ALCOAST 124/19 and the All Hands Blog. For more information, contact the pilot program lead at HQS-SMB-PSC-Maternity@uscg.mil.



More Support Now Available for In-Home Child Care Businesses

The Coast Guard is dedicated to offering more child care resources for its members (active duty, civilian and reserve) and has expanded the Family Child Care (FCC) Service Program. The FCC program helps Coast Guard spouses living in Coast Guard-owned family housing open a child care business in their home. Here are two key updates to the program:

1. To participate in the FCC program, members can now request Coast Guard-owned family housing that exceeds their actual bedroom qualification by one bedroom. This change is effective immediately and will be reflected in the next revision of the Coast Guard Housing Manual, COMDTINST M11101.13G.
2. A grant from the Coast Guard Foundation will cover many start-up expenses for new FCC providers. The initial grant will fund a two-year pilot program to support up to five spouses at each of the following locations: TRACEN Petaluma, TRACEN Cape May, Base Kodiak, and Sector New York.

To be an approved for the FCC program, spouses must complete a background check and meet the service’s certification requirements,

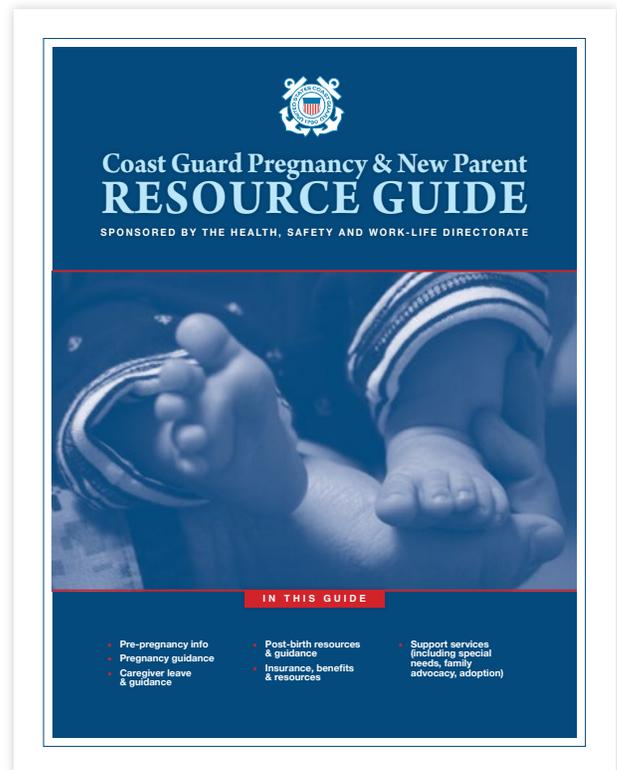
which are more stringent than state certifications. Coast Guard active duty, reservists, civilians, and retirees, as well as DOD active duty, can use child care provided by FCC-approved providers.

For more information about the FCC program, contact your Family Resource Specialist or Child Development Service Specialist and visit the FCC website. For more information about the grant, visit the CG Foundation grant website.

Parent Guide

The recent Women’s Retention Study and Holistic Analysis (WR-SHA) provided recommendations that would assist the Coast Guard in communicating initiatives that are intended to address concerns that affect the total workforce. This includes concerns for the member’s personal life when starting and/or expanding a family. Three outstanding members of our service are credited with the creation of the locally generated New and Expectant Parent Resource Guide. Due in large part to their ingenuity and initiative to assist Coast Guard members becoming new parents, the Health, Safety and Work-Life Directorate (CG-11) teamed with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion (CG-127) to the expand on their stellar work and create the Coast Guard Pregnancy & New Parent Resource Guide for members to use Coast Guard-wide.

While not all-inclusive, this guide will serve as a reference for the entire Coast Guard workforce and their families. The policies and resources described in this guide, for Commands and members, are designed to ensure the health and well-being of expectant and new parents as they navigate pregnancy and parenting.





■ **USCG Band Director LCDR Adam Williamson guest conducts the Army Field Band at the Warner Theater in Torrington, Conn., on March 21, 2019. The Field Band was on day 8 of a 35-day tour throughout the Northeast.**

U.S. Coast Guard Band

This past March, Coast Guard Band Director, LCDR Adam Williamson, had the privilege to guest conduct the Army Field Band in concert at the Warner Theater in Torrington, Connecticut. He conducted the “Cowboys Overture” by John Williams.

“It’s a piece that the Field Band and I both know very well. We only had about a 4 minute rehearsal before the concert, even though the piece is about 10 minutes long,” stated LCDR Williamson. “After the first few notes, I thought, ‘yeah, they know this, and I know this; we don’t need to do the whole thing, lets save it for the concert.’ It made for a very energetic and engaging performance. The Army musicians—who are brilliant professionals—were exceptionally attentive since we essentially did most of the piece for the first time at the concert.”

The Field Band is the U.S. Army’s premier touring band. They were on their eighth day of a 35-day tour through the Northeast. The Field Band typically spends more than 100 days a year touring, and takes 94 members out on the road. The Coast Guard Band maintains a strong relationship with its DOD premier band counterparts, and it has welcomed the directors of the President’s Own Marine Band and the Air Force Band as guest conductors. This Memorial Day weekend, the Coast Guard Band will give a joint concert with the Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, Maryland.

BAND SCHEDULE

May 5 | 1400

CG Band Concert at the Coast Guard Academy, Leamy Hall.

May 25 | 1900

Joint concert with Naval Academy Band, Annapolis, MD.

May 27

Memorial Day Observation Ceremony at Arlington Nat’l Cemetery.

June 4-10

Coast Guard Band Saxophone Quartet in Normandy, France, D-Day 75th commemoration.

June 9 | 1400

CG Dixieland Band in Springfield, MA.

June 11 | 0930

CG Woodwind Quintet in Clinton, CT.

June 15 | 1800

CG “Guardians” Big Band in Windham, CT.

June 16 | 1600

CG “Guardians” Big Band in Ft. Griswold, CT.

June 22 | 1200

CG “Guardians” Big Band in Stonington, CT.

June 29 | 1900

CG Band Concert in Woodstock, CT.

June 30 | 1400

CG Band Concert at the Coast Guard Academy, Leamy Hall.

July 03 | 1830

CG Band Concert in Windham, CT.

July 04 | 1800

CG Band Concert in Hampton Falls, NH



■ *Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz delivers remarks during the Sea Service Chiefs Leadership panel and the Coast Guard Breakfast held during the Sea-Air-Space 2019 events at National Harbor, Maryland. Adm. Schultz discussed the U.S. Coast Guard’s role in upholding American sovereignty, providing national security, and promoting economic prosperity in the Arctic. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jetta Disco.*

Upcoming Events

On Friday, May 24, Coast Guard Headquarters will host the third annual Memorial Day Observance Ceremony. This year’s ceremony will include relatives of crewmembers from the USS TAMPA who will accept posthumously-awarded Purple Heart Medals to their ancestors. As a backdrop to this solemn event, the newly minted panels of the Coast Guard Purple Heart Memorial Wall, which lists the names of all Coast Guard members who were awarded the Purple Heart, will be introduced. If you would like to attend this solemn event, please RSVP at: <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=444584&k=0665460C7353>

On Thursday, June 6, the Historian’s Office will host a commemorative event in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Allied landings on the coast of northern France, commonly known as D-Day. Activities include a presentation by Dr. Mark Snell, CG Auxiliary Chief Historian, on the Coast Guard’s role on that momentous day. For more information please visit the Historian’s Office website.



■ *When the Allied Forces landed on Normandy Beach, the U.S. Coast Guard took part in the greatest amphibious operation the world had ever seen. On June 6, 1944, the Coast Guard joined the other U.S. military branches and Allied Forces in the operation code-named Overlord. As the world commemorates the 70th anniversary of D-Day, we bring you five facts you may not know about the Coast Guard at Normandy.*