

Coast Guard Awards Contract to support Mariner Credentialing Program Modernization



WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard awarded a blanket purchase agreement Sept. 12 to Stealth Solutions Inc. to modernize the service's Mariner Credentialing Program (MCP) information technology system and support revitalization of the maritime

workforce and industry.

The MCP is essential to vetting and denying criminals access to critical maritime infrastructure and supporting the Marine Transportation System (MTS). The National Maritime Center (NMC) processed nearly 75,000 credential requests and 66,000 medical certificate applications in 2024. These actions underscore the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to facilitating commerce through operations to control, secure, and defend ports, waterways, and shipping in the physical and cyber domains, and to restore U.S. maritime dominance.

The blanket purchase agreement, with a total potential value of \$49.6 million and a five-year period of performance, will include comprehensive efforts to update and streamline the merchant mariner credentialing process and other mariner credentialing requirements.

Concurrent with the award, the Coast Guard issued a \$3.8 million order for development of the first release of NAVITA™, a modernized system for issuing merchant mariner credentials and medical certificates to U.S. merchant mariners. This new system will replace the current labor-intensive manual process with a modern, user-friendly automated system, making the application process faster and more efficient. Mariners will benefit from on-line applications, mariner profiles, and self-service features supporting the timely issuance of mariner credentials.

"The Navita™ system represents a transformative leap forward in supporting America's maritime industry, providing our merchant mariners—who are vital to our nation's economy and security—with a streamlined process to receive their credentials with speed and focus," said Rear Adm. Wayne Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy. By improving our service delivery, we are advancing the effort to Restore American Maritime Dominance and supporting the flow of commerce vital to economic prosperity and strategic mobility

through our Marine Transportation System.”

These efforts are supported in part by the historic investments made through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Modernization of the MCP aligns with Force Design 2028, the Coast Guard’s strategic plan to leverage advanced technology, modernize operations to improve service delivery, and transform into a more agile, capable and responsive force.

For media inquiries contact mediarelations@uscg.mil.

About the U.S. Coast Guard

With more than 95,000 miles of shoreline, 25,000 miles of navigable rivers and 4.5 million square miles of U.S. exclusive economic zone, the U.S. Coast Guard defends the Nation, protects the marine transportation system, regulates and safeguards ports and waterways, leads the Nation in drug interdiction and secures the maritime border. As a member of the joint force, a law enforcement organization, a regulatory agency and a member of the U.S. intelligence community, the Coast Guard employs a unique mix of authorities to ensure the safety and integrity of the maritime domain to protect the economic and national security of the nation. The more than 55,000 members of the Coast Guard operate a multi-mission, interoperable fleet of more than 250 cutters, 200 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, 1,600 boats and its own dedicated cyber command to protect critical maritime infrastructure.

More information about the U.S. Coast Guard can be found at www.uscg.mil. Follow @USCG on [X](#) and [Instagram](#), like us on [Facebook](#), subscribe on [YouTube](#) and follow [LinkedIn](#) – connect with us.

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Coast Guard Cutter Alert Returns to Florida Following 58-Day Patrol



Illicit contraband sits on the deck of the Coast Guard Cutter Alert (WMEC 630) during transfers with Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton (WMSL 753), off the coast of Haiti, Aug. 11, 2025. During their patrol, Alert's crew conducted 10 transfers of contraband and detainees in under two weeks. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Ensign Nicholas Reeser)

From U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, Sept. 19, 2025

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Alert (WMEC 630) returned to their home port in Cape Canaveral, Friday, following a 58-day Windward Passage patrol.

Alert's crew deployed to the Coast Guard Southeast District area of responsibility. While in transit to the Windward Passage, the crew responded to an activated emergency position indicating radio beacon in the vicinity of the Old Bahama Channel and came to the aid of U.S. fishing vessel Calico Jack. The vessel experienced a major engine causality. Alert's crew escorted the Calico Jack to Great Inagua, Bahamas, where they were able to make repairs.

While operating in the Windward Passage, the crew carried out transits of the Canal de la Tortue, Haiti, maintaining a continuous presence in support of Operation Vigilant Sentry to protect the safety of life at sea while preventing unlawful maritime entry to the United States and its territories.

"The integrity of our maritime borders is vital to national security," said Cmdr. Mario Gil, commanding officer of Alert. "I am proud of our crew's leadership, professionalism and teamwork throughout this demanding patrol. Their dedicated commitment to deterrence of illegal maritime migration saved lives from dangerous ventures at sea while safeguarding our nation's borders."

While in support of [Operation Pacific Viper](#), Alert's crew conducted 10 transfers of illicit contraband and detainees in under two weeks. These transfers were carried out with Coast Guard cutters [Mohawk](#), Spencer, [Vigilant](#), Diligence, Joseph Tezanos, as well as the [USS Minneapolis Saint Paul](#) and the Royal Netherlands Navy Holland-class offshore patrol vessel [HNLMS Friesland \(P842\)](#). The transfer involved the movement of over 12 tons of contraband via small boat operations. These transfers culminated in the largest ship-to-ship drug transfer in Coast Guard history with [Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton \(WMSL 753\)](#) prior to their drug offload in Port Everglades.

In addition, Alert hosted the Turks and Caicos Islands Minister of Public Safety, members of the TCI Police and the

TCI Regiment for tours while on a port call. Alert's crew assisted members from the TCI Department of Disaster Management & Emergencies with a beach cleanup where they removed trash and unwanted materials that had washed up during Tropical Storm Erin.

Alert is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Cape Canaveral under [U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command](#). The cutter's primary missions are counter-narcotics operations, migrant interdictions, living marine resources protection and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the western hemisphere.

To learn more about the OVS mission, watch these videos:

- [Coast Guard executes Operation Vigilant Sentry in the Caribbean Basin](#)
- [Coast Guard maritime interdiction and repatriation b-roll video](#)
- [HSTF-SE OVS maritime detection and interdiction b-roll video](#)

Watch Coast Guard drug interdiction in action here: [How the Coast Guard Seizes 45,000 lbs of Cocaine at Sea – YouTube](#)

[\\$2.2 Billion Seized in Drug Interdictions](#)

The Southeast District is responsible for Coast Guard activities throughout a 1.7 million square mile area including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, as well as 34 foreign nations and territories.

Eastern Shipbuilding Group Inc. to Support Unit Production of U.S. Navy Destroyers



A grand block for DDG 135 arrives by barge for final integration at HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division in August 2025 after being constructed, inspected and accepted at Eastern Shipbuilding Group's Nelson Facility.

From Eastern Shipbuilding Group Inc.

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc. (ESG) is pleased to announce an agreement with HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding Division to support the limited production of outfitted structural units for the U.S. Navy's Flight III Arleigh Burke-class (DDG 51) guided missile destroyers.

Building on the success of a recent pilot program in which ESG constructed a limited number of DDG units at its Nelson Street Facility in Panama City, Florida, the two companies have entered into an agreement that supports the expansion of the domestic industrial base and advances the U.S. Navy's surface combatant fleet.

"With nearly fifty years of experience delivering some of the most reliable and highest-performing steel and aluminum vessels, we're proud to partner with HII to support production of the U.S. Navy's destroyer fleet," said Joey D'Isernia, CEO of Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc. "This collaboration strengthens our national shipbuilding capability—expanding industrial capacity and enhancing our nation's competitive advantage."

The collaboration allows ESG to leverage the company's expertise, resources, and capabilities, ensuring that the U.S. Navy receives the necessary vessels to maintain its global readiness and superiority. With the growing demand for advanced naval vessels, this alliance provides a much-needed boost to America's shipbuilding capacity.

ESG is making investments to support these goals and is scheduled to complete a significant infrastructure improvement project at its Nelson Street government shipbuilding facility this summer. The expansion will significantly increase ESG's capability to construct and deliver multiple ships per year.

About Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc. (ESG)

Eastern Shipbuilding Group, Inc. is an American owned and operated shipbuilder with three shipyards on the Florida Gulf Coast. They build world class vessels for national defense and commercial clients, including the U.S. Coast Guard's Heritage Class Offshore Patrol Cutters and the U.S. Army Corps' new Medium Class Hopper Dredge. ESG is the largest private sector employer in Northwest Florida and is a 2017 recipient of the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Small Business of the Year award. With a portfolio of over 350 vessels and Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) and Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) certified systems, ESG is known as one of the most diverse vessel construction companies in the country. www.easternshipbuilding.com

Navy Determines Planned Ship Inactivations for Fiscal 2026



Henry J. Kaiser-class underway replenishment oiler USNS Pecos (T-AO-197) sails during the at-sea phase of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Terrin Hartman)

By Richard R. Burgess, Senior Editor

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy plans to deactivate or transfer eight ships during fiscal 2026, including two warships and six auxiliary ships, the service said in a Sept. 12 internal message to the force.

The navy plans to deactivate two Los Angeles-class attack submarines, USS Newport News (SSN 750) on Jan. 31, 2026, and USS Alexandria (SSN 757) on Aug. 4, 2026. The two submarines will be scrapped in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Washington.

Two Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oilers will be withdrawn from service with Military Sealift Command by July 31, 2026. USNS John Ericsson (T-AO 194) will be retired but retained as a logistics support asset as a parts source for remaining ships of its class. USS Pecos (T-AO 197) will be transferred to the Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Three Watson-class large, medium-speed roll-on/roll off ships will be transferred from the Military Sealift Command's Prepositioning Force: USNS Pomeroy (T-AKR 316) by Apr. 1, 2026; USNS Watkins (T-AKR 315) by July 1, 2026; and USNS Red Cloud (T-AKR-313) by Sept. 30, 2026.

Also being transferred to MARAD on July 1, 2026, is the USNS VADM K.R. Wheeler (T-AG 5001), a ship which uses an offshore petroleum distribution system to pump fuel ashore from a distance of eight miles to U.S. forces ashore.

U.S. Coast Guard Awards

Contract for Reconstruction of Pier 1 at Coast Guard Yard



Aerial view of Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore. The Coast Guard awarded a contract for the reconstruction of Pier 1 (first from the left) on Sept. 9, 2025, to support future depot-level maintenance of the offshore patrol cutter class. (U.S. Coast Guard photo)

From U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Sept. 17, 2025

WASHINGTON – The Coast Guard awarded a contract valued at nearly \$11 million to Ocean Construction Services Inc. on Sept. 9 for comprehensive modifications to Pier 1 at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland.

The scope of work includes lengthening of the pier, construction of new fenders and robust fender boards, removal of deteriorating timber curbs that line the current pier,

installation of upgraded shore ties and pier electrical capacity, and strengthening the existing pier's horizontal load-bearing strength to support the future Coast Guard cutter fleet.

"For more than a century, the Coast Guard Yard has provided critical maintenance and repair services to the Coast Guard's surface fleet, and this contract will deliver the improvements necessary to continue that long record of success, including the future sustainment of the Offshore Patrol Cutter class," said Rear Adm. Michael E. Campbell, director of systems integration and chief acquisition officer of the Coast Guard. "Additionally, this work lays the groundwork for future improvements at the Coast Guard Yard – supported through the truly historic investments of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act – to fully transform the facility to meet the needs of the Coast Guard's modern surface fleet."

The Coast Guard Yard is the service's only organic shipbuilding and repair facility. It is the Coast Guard's largest, most modern industrial plant. The Coast Guard Yard is responsible for construction, repairs and renovation of vessels and various aids to navigation, and for the manufacturing of miscellaneous Coast Guard equipment.

Reconstruction of Pier 1 is critical to maintain the Coast Guard's organic capabilities to perform depot-level maintenance for the fleet and to prepare for post-delivery activities as new cutters are delivered. The work awarded is a critical enabler of the larger Coast Guard Yard modernization initiative, which will leverage the historic investments made available under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to support future sustainment and maintenance of the Coast Guard fleet. The Coast Guard Yard modernization project will be the largest infrastructure project in Coast Guard Yard's history, and Pier 1 improvements will ensure continuity of operations at the Yard while future construction work proceeds.

Reconstruction of Pier 1 is expected to be substantially completed in 2027.

As part of the Force Design 2028 initiative, the Coast Guard established the new Program Executive Office (PEO) Shore under the Systems Integration Directorate to implement a fully integrated, systems-based approach to asset lifecycle management. The PEO provides comprehensive oversight, planning and execution of shore infrastructure and facilities projects through the capabilities of the Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center, the Facilities Design and Construction Center and six civil engineering units that provide program management and execution capabilities at the regional level. Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland serves all Coast Guard entities in the Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic regions, which include over 132 facilities, 368 aid to navigation towers and lighthouses, 4,970 small aid to navigation structures and over 8 million square feet of buildings valued at over \$3.9 billion.

HII Hosts Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Eric Smith at Ingalls Shipbuilding



From HII, Sept. 17, 2025

PASCAGOULA, Miss., Sept. 17, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII (NYSE: HII) hosted Gen. Eric Smith, the 39th commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, at the company's Ingalls Shipbuilding division Wednesday. During his visit, Smith met with Ingalls leadership and toured the shipyard, including *America*-class amphibious assault ship *Bougainville* (LHA 8).

“The skills and dedication of our Ingalls shipbuilders were on full display during this visit and I am proud of the critical role our team plays in supporting the U.S. Marine Corps and Navy mission,” said Brian Blanchette, Ingalls Shipbuilding president. “Our amphibious programs remain one of our highest priorities and we are fully committed to delivering the most advanced ships to the fleet.”

This visit marked the third time Smith has toured Ingalls Shipbuilding as the commandant. While at Ingalls, Smith spoke on the broader importance of amphibious capability to the fleet and expressed his appreciation for the workforce at Ingalls.

“The construction of these ships is vital to our national interest,” Smith said. “The work done here in this shipyard by these workers directly supports the Navy and Marine Corps in our ability to project power and serve as a global naval expeditionary force.”

Ingalls currently has two LHAs under construction including *Bougainville* (LHA 8) and *Fallujah* (LHA 9) and three Flight II LPDs under construction including *Harrisburg* (LPD 30), *Pittsburgh* (LPD 31) and *Philadelphia* (LPD 32). Additionally, in September 2024, the Navy awarded Ingalls a contract for the construction of three *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock ships (LPD 33, LPD 34 and LPD 35) and a contract modification for the fifth *America*-class amphibious assault ship, *Helmand Province* (LHA 10).

ABS, Eureka Naval Craft, AIRCAT Vessels Team to Advance High-Speed Autonomous Vessels



From Eureka Naval Craft, Sept. 18, 2025

Eureka Naval Craft, AIRCAT Vessels S.A.S., and the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) today announced a landmark agreement to accelerate safe development of high-speed Unmanned and Autonomous Surface Vessels (USVs/ASVs) for both naval defense and offshore energy operations.

The collaboration is designed to set new international standards, which will support safety, reliability, and operational excellence for high-speed autonomous vessels deployed in high-risk civilian and military environments.

The Memorandum of Understanding leverages Eureka's advanced naval vessel innovation, AIRCAT's commercial offshore pedigree, and ABS' world-class classification expertise to bridge defense and energy industry needs.

"Whether serving a naval mission or supporting offshore energy, high-speed unmanned craft face the same unforgiving risks. By combining our strengths under ABS's safety leadership, we are building platforms that can be trusted across both worlds," said Bo Jardine, CEO of Eureka Boats.

"ABS is excited to work with Eureka and AIRCAT, leveraging our expertise with the world's most advanced autonomous and remote-control technology to drive innovation while maintaining an unwavering commitment to safety. ", said Miguel

Hernandez, Senior Vice President, Global Offshore of ABS.

The teaming agreement will pursue initiatives aimed at achieving measurable, cross-sector impact:

- Modular Payload Integration – Develop and validate adaptable payload systems, such as Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance masts, mission modules, and spill response units for quick secure installation or swapping, ensuring critical ship functions like propulsion, communications, and navigation remain secure.
- Unified Safety Frameworks – Combine offshore energy’s rigorous operational standards with defense-grade redundancy to ensure autonomy systems can withstand harsh sea states, contested environments, and mission-critical demands.
- Trials and Demonstrations – Conduct defense and offshore trials to validate safety cases, including high-speed sea trials and failure testing. Use cases include naval patrol and interdiction, offshore resupply, offshore surveillance, and emergency logistics.
- International Standards Alignment – Set a global benchmark for autonomous operations by ensuring compliance with
- ABS Rules and Guides
- IMO’s Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships guidance

- International Electrotechnical Commission's functional safety standards
- Oil Companies International Marine Forum's vessel assurance practices.
- Safety and Cyber Assurance – Establish strict interlocks, redundancy, fail-safe protocols, and cyber protections to ensure secure and resilient autonomy.

Jerome Arnold, Managing Director of AIRCAT Vessels, said: "This is more than technology development – it's about harmonizing expectations across industries. Offshore energy demands the same level of resilience as the defense community, and, together, we are ensuring both can benefit from innovations in safety and autonomy."

Bo Jardine stressed: "By merging defense innovation with offshore practices, we will ensure that naval forces receive safe, resilient, autonomy-ready platforms, that energy operators benefit from defense-grade reliability in critical offshore missions, and that global regulators gain confidence that autonomous vessels can operate as safely, or even more safely, than manned ones.

"This exciting collaboration revolutionizes the design, validation, and deployment of high-speed autonomous vessels, enhancing safety and operational trust at sea."

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Coast Guard Seizes 75,000 Pounds of Cocaine Through Operation Pacific Viper



U.S. Coast Guard crews conduct counter-drug operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean as part of Operation Pacific Viper. The operation highlights the Coast Guard's commitment to disrupting transnational criminal organizations and preventing the flow of illicit drugs into the United States. (U.S. Coast Guard photo)

From U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area, Sept. 18, 2025

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard announced Thursday it has seized more than 75,000 pounds of cocaine in the Eastern Pacific Ocean since launching Operation Pacific Viper in early August, averaging over 1,800 pounds interdicted daily.

These drug seizures, and the apprehension of 59 individuals suspected of narco-trafficking, were the result of more than 20 interdictions since Aug. 8.

Through Operation Pacific Viper, the Coast Guard is accelerating counter-drug operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, where significant transport of illicit narcotics continues from South America. In coordination with international and interagency partners, the Coast Guard is

surging additional assets—cutters, aircraft and tactical teams—to interdict, seize and disrupt transshipments of cocaine and other bulk illicit drugs. Operation Pacific Viper continues the Coast Guard's efforts to protect the Homeland, counter narco-terrorism and disrupt Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Transnational Criminal Organizations and cartels seeking to produce and traffic illicit drugs into the United States.

“The Coast Guard's maritime fighting force is relentless in our ongoing operations to counter narco-terrorism,” said Rear Adm. Jeffrey Novak, deputy commander Pacific Area. “Our latest milestone through Operation Pacific Viper – over 75,000 pounds of cocaine seized – underscores our commitment to dismantling Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Transnational Criminal Organizations engaged in narco-trafficking. The Coast Guard is bringing every authority and every capability at our disposal to disrupt cartels and criminal organizations, stop the flow of deadly drugs into the U.S., and secure U.S. borders and maritime approaches. While we continue our crucial work to defend America, I could not be prouder of the men and women of the Coast Guard in celebrating this milestone.”

Detecting and interdicting narco-terrorism on the high seas involves significant interagency and international coordination. U.S. Southern Command's Joint Interagency Task Force-South, based in Key West, Florida, detects and monitors both aerial and maritime transit of illegal drugs. Once interdiction becomes imminent, the law enforcement phase of the operation begins, and control of the operation shifts to the U.S. Coast Guard throughout the interdiction and apprehension. Interdictions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean are performed by members of the U.S. Coast Guard under the authority and control of the Coast Guard's Southwest District, headquartered in Alameda, California.

The Coast Guard is the United States' lead federal agency for maritime drug interdiction. We are part of the Department of

Homeland Security team protecting our nation and are at all times a military service and part of the joint force defending it.

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