



Coast Guard Headquarters

Office of Cutter Forces (CG-751)

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Cutter Forces Organization

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Cutter Forces Mission Statement

...to advocate on behalf of Cuttermen and reduce strategic risk for those serving within the cutter community by forecasting emerging challenges, validating functional requirements, and identifying the policy and capabilities needed to safely and effectively execute Coast Guard missions.





Polar Security Cutter (WMSP)





WMSP Design

Characteristics:

- Length of Ship: 460ft
- Beam: 93ft
- Draft: 36ft
- Air Draft: 160ft
- Displacement: 25,000LT

Capabilities:

- Icebreaking: 6ft at 3kts continuous
- Endurance: 90 days
- Crew: 136 (plus 50 Mission Specific Personnel)
- Cranes: 20LT (2) & 2.5LT (2)
- Mission Modules: 20ft International Standards Organization (ISO) Intermodal Containers (6)
- Boats: Over the Horizon (OTH) Boat (2), Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP) Boat (1)
- Aviation: Flight Deck w/Hanger for two HH-60 Helicopters



WMSP Other Government Agencies (OGA) & National Defense Mission (NDM) Support

Operational Requirements:

- Support conducting oceanographic observations:
 - Hydrographic casts.
 - Mapping surveys to include the continental shelf, Arctic ridges and basins, and full ocean depth.
 - Conduct continuous measurements for data recording of oceanic properties.
- Support ambient air sampling.
- Provide ambient, continuous flow sea water samples in open waters and ice-covered waters.
- Launch and retrieve acoustic released sub-surface hydrographic moorings.
- Support the deployment and retrieval of survey equipment not to exceed PSC's lifting and deck space capacity to include 3000lb sinkers and up to 2000m of cable.
- Reserved space, weight, and power (SWAP) for:
 - One twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) sized mobile refrigerator.
 - Two TEU-sized mobile walk-in climate-controlled chambers.
 - One 265 square foot mobile freezer.



WMSP OGA & NDM Support Continued

Technical Requirements:

- Multi-beam Survey System
 - Kongsberg EM304 0.5-degree by 1-degree system, or equal.
 - CTD / Rosette Launch and Recovery System (LARS)

Key Partnerships:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - USCG Senior Ocean Policy and Program Advisor
 - USCG Provides Quarterly Sounding Data
 - Single-beam Data (Current)
 - Multi-beam Data (Future)
- Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO)
 - Ocean Class Auxiliary General Purpose Oceanographic Research Vessel (AGOR)
 - R/V Neil Armstrong (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)
 - R/V Sally Ride (Scripps Institution of Oceanography)
 - NOAA AGOR Variant (NAV)



Ongoing Arctic Surface Capability Gap Analysis Efforts

Capability Gap:

- The current Polar Security Cutter Program of Record (3 ships) cannot simultaneously provide persistent presence in the Arctic and seasonal presence in the Antarctic.
- The Polar Security Cutter projected draft constrains its access.

Current Status:

- Arctic Surface Capability Analysis Report (CAR) – Under Review by DHS Joint Requirements Council (JRC).
- Commercial Icebreaker Complimentary Capability – Authorized, Not Appropriated.

Way Ahead:

- Arctic Surface Mission Needs Statement (MNS) - Draft - “[...] despite ongoing efforts to improve charting in the Arctic, the risk of grounding will almost certainly remain a major threat to vessels operating in the Arctic.”
- Arctic Surface Concept of Operations (CONOPS) – IPT forming in Spring 2023.

A full-page background image showing a bright sun low on the horizon over a dark, choppy ocean. The sky is a deep orange. A small silhouette of a ship is visible on the horizon line.

Questions?

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Programs/Surface-Programs/Polar-Icebreaker/>