

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

© Stephen Decatur Chapter #4, U.S.C.S.

Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-721-8606

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

Mid-February 2012

Deposit Balance \$ _____

US Frigate Constellation to be honored in 2012 by USPS

A 45c Forever postage stamp will be issued at Boston MA by the USPS on 18 August 2012. Preliminary image published by the USPS is shown below.



Chapter covers are planned. Depending on the postmarks offered, we may try for a digital color cancel on our covers. We will make a decision on this when the USPS releases more information on the cancels available.

Move over US Coast Guard, Shell Oil will have their own icebreaker

From Maritime News Jan 10, 2012



The *M/V Aiviq* icebreaker, contracted by Shell Oil to support drilling in Alaska's Chukchi Sea, is scheduled to be completed by Louisiana-based Edison Chouest Offshore in early 2012. The vessel, ordered in July 2009, is on track for April 1, 2012, delivery in Galliano, La., and will then head north, according to Shell Oil spokesman Curtis Smith. The

\$200m *M/V Aiviq* is the largest vessel ever built by Chouest, and will be among the most advanced and powerful, non-military icebreakers on the waters. Lonnie Thibodeaux, Chouest spokesman, said the vessel's hull was scheduled to leave the company's North American Shipbuilding yard in Larose, La. on Dec. 20 for its LaShip yard in Houma, where the bridge is being built for final assembly. The *M/V Aiviq* will travel though the Panama Canal to Alaska this spring. In order for a ship to be "ice class," the hull must be thick, and extra girders, beams and bulkheads are needed for structural integrity. The *M/V Aiviq* is designed to American Bureau of Shipping A3 capabilities to operate in frigid, minus-40-degree Fahrenheit temperatures, and can slash through a meter of ice with 20 centimeters of snow at 5 knots, Smith said. Crafted specially for harsh winter conditions, the ship can also work in Alaska the rest of the year. The vessel is being built to International Maritime Organization's Polar Code 3, and measures 111.8 m long, with a 22-m beam and 22-m draft. "It has hybrid generators, noise-reduction equipment, and meets or exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 4 emission standards," Smith said. The *M/V Aiviq* can hold thousands of barrels of oil. And because it will be stationed far from medical facilities, the vessel will have a hospital on board. Building the icebreaker has kept more than 600 workers busy in south Louisiana, helping a region hit hard by an offshore drilling moratorium in the summer and fall of 2010, following the BP spill. "Like other vessels in the Chouest fleet, we designed the

M/V Aiviq, built it and will operate it," Thibodeaux said. "We will crew the *M/V Aiviq*, and personnel from Shell will be on the vessel too." The icebreaker can accommodate 65 staff in cruise-ship-like quarters.

Third diesel AIP sub for Israel

Israel erhält weiteres U-Boot von Deutschland



Ein in Deutschland gebautes U-Boot im Hafen von Haifa. FORD-REUTERS

BERLIN (dapd) Die Bundesregierung hat der Lieferung eines weiteren U-Bootes nach Israel grundsätzlich zugestimmt. Der Bund beteilige sich an den Beschaffungskosten mit einem Drittel, maximal 135 Millionen Euro, hieß es in Regierungskreisen. Das Geld stehe im Etat 2012 bereit. Die Lieferung gehe zurück auf eine Vereinbarung der rot-grünen Bundesregierung von 2005. Darin werde die Lieferung von zwei U-Booten „unter Kostenbeteiligung durch die Bundesregierung sowie die Option für die Lieferung eines weiteren U-Bootes festgelegt“. Um diese Option gehe es jetzt.

Clipping above from USCS member in Germany. Translated loosely it says: "The German government said OK for the delivery of a further submarine to Israel. Germany will participate with 1/3 of the cost, a maximum of 135 Million EURO. The money is in the budget for 2012. The delivery is based on an agreement between Israel and the red-green government in 2005. This agreement says, delivery of 2 subs with the participation of the German government and the option for another sub. This is the option for the third sub! It is interesting to note that these subs are manned by soldiers in Israel.