

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Deposit Balance \$ _____

Next five WPC's all to be home-ported at Key West FL

USCGC Charles W. Sexton WPC-1108

USCGC Kathleen Moore WPC-1109

USCGC Raymond Evans WPC-1110

USCGC William Trump WPC-1111

USCGC Isaac Mayo WPC-1112

Commissionings will be scheduled at approx ninety day intervals, and sponsored by the NLUS Key West Council. Chapter member Chris Jasnoch is checking into contacts to better determine dates for new construction.

New London Coast Guard station to lose positions

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard's station in New London will have fewer people assigned there now that it is no longer responsible for protecting submarines traveling to and from the local Navy base.

The Navy's Coastal Riverine Force has been escorting subs on the Thames River since the beginning of last month. The Coast Guard had taken over the escort duty after the Sept. 11 attacks as the Navy prepared for war. The Day of New London reports that 14 of the 62 positions at the Coast Guard station will be eliminated. Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Joe Klinker says those jobs will be dispersed to other stations around the country. Klinker said the changes will not affect the station's ability to conduct search-and-rescue operations or take on other missions. (I did a check of vessels at the station and it includes small craft CG 41447, CG 41411, CG 25576, CG 25676, and CG 25542.)

Ed. Note: Two other locations also do submarine escorts, a "single mission" cutter at Kings Bay GA and one at Silverdale WA. It will be interesting to see what happens to these two cutters if similar changes are made at these bases also.

USS Dallas Completes Final Scheduled Deployment

Lt. Timothy Hawkins, Submarine Group 2 Public Affairs, Nov 25--



GROTON, Conn. — Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Dallas (SSN 700) returned to Groton, Conn., Nov. 25, just in time for Thanksgiving and following its final scheduled deployment after more than 30 years in service. Led by Cmdr. Jack Houdeshell, Dallas transited more than 34,000 miles during a scheduled six-month cruise to operating regions in Europe and the Middle East. "The crew performed superbly," said Houdeshell. "They demonstrated the determination and perseverance that our Navy and country are founded on." The submarine's crew of 140 Sailors departed Naval Submarine Base New London in May and made port calls to Bahrain, Diego Garcia, Spain and Portugal. Dallas was the seventh out of 61 total Los Angeles-class submarines built. It was commissioned in 1981 and has deployed to every operational theater around the world ever since. The submarine circumnavigated the globe and transited the Panama Canal during a six-month deployment in 1984. It also participated in Operations Desert Shield/Storm in the early '90s.

Four New Coast Guard Icebreakers proposed by lawmakers



News of new icebreakers for the US Coast Guard is not news. Proposals have been bandied around for more than twenty years. One icebreaker was commissioned in 1999, the *USCGC HEALY WAGB-20*, but she is not the heavy icebreaking cutter that was needed. She was ice strengthened, but her mission was more scientific than a pure icebreaker. Wikipedia calls her a "research icebreaker". Senators from Washington State and Alaska are proposing having the U S Navy build four new heavy icebreakers, and turn them over to the US Coast Guard. U.S. Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, and U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., announced the amendment to the National Defense Spending Bill in November. The item is co-sponsored by U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Patty Murray, D-Wash. When the Coast Guard announced they would decommission the *USCGC Polar Star WAGB-11* in 2011, Begich and Cantwell intervened and saw that the "Star" was restored to service with a \$57 million overhaul. She was in full service in December and preparing for an Antarctic deployment on a resupply mission. Most pundits say this proposal for four icebreakers will fail.

Ice-Ex 2014 may not take place

Word from Groton CT SubRon indicates a submarine is making plans to be ready for Ice-Ex 2014, if the government gives the go ahead. No submarine was named, but the source states it all depends on funding, which may not be in place.

USCGC GALLATIN WHEC-721 to be decommissioned

The *USCGC GALLATIN* is currently scheduled to be decommissioned in Charleston SC in March 2014. The cutter will go to Nigeria under the Foreign Assistance Act. She will join her sister ship *CGC Chase WHEC-718* which was turned over in 2011 (now *NNS Thunder F90*).

Spring Coverfest on the horizon

Decatur Chapter will host the USCS Spring Coverfest in conjunction with *PNSE 2014* in Oaks, PA. The chapter will have a hospitality room at nearby hotel during the show. Dates: April 4, 5 and 6.

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: **CGCOVERGUY**

Information published here is not guaranteed.

Visit the Universal Ship Cancellation Society web site at: www.uscs.org/