

# "Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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## US Coast Guard has Decommissioned the USCGC BAINBRIDGE ISLAND WPB-1343



A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom was decommissioned on 17 March. The cutter served six months in Iraqi waters during OIF in 2003. The USCG held the decommissioning ceremony in Bayonne NJ and the crew will cross deck to the USCGC SITKINAK WPB-1329 which was previously stationed in Miami Beach, FL.

## Russia to give China more advanced submarine technology



The B-585 Sankt Peterburg, Russia's first and only completed Lada-class submarine. (Internet photo)

Instead of providing the older Lada-class submarines to the People's Liberation Army Navy as requested by Beijing, Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, will likely authorize China to receive the more advanced Kalina-class submarine, reports the Voice of Russia, citing

Vassily Kashin, a senior research fellow from the Moscow-based Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies. Viktor Chirkov, the commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, officially announced that the Kalina-class conventional submarine equipped with an advanced air-independent propulsion system will be developed and produced in the future on Mar. 20. "Russia is currently designing a fifth-generation conventional submarine, dubbed Project Kalina, which will be fitted with an air-independent propulsion (AIP) system," said Chirkov. Authorities also declared that the construction of the older Lada-class submarine will be cancelled. The Lada-class, or Project 677, is a fourth-generation diesel-electric submarine based on the older Kilo-class submarine. China was negotiating with Russia to purchase four Lada-class submarines from the Rubin Design Bureau based in St Petersburg. China hoped those submarines could be refitted with Chinese engines and an electronic fire-control system, according to the Canada-based Kanwa Defense Review. As Russia remains isolated over its intervention in the Ukraine crisis, Moscow values China's position as one of its strategic partners, Kashin said. He added that the PLA Navy will benefit from the cancellation of the Lada-class as it will open a new door for China to gain more advanced technology from Russia to build its own submarine in the future. Meanwhile, China may be able to design its own fifth-generation conventional submarine with the help of Russia under this new concept, Kashin said.

## USCGC GALLATIN WHEC-721 decommissioning



The U. S. Coast Guard has announced the decommissioning of the USCGC GALLATIN WHEC-721 on March 30, 2014 in Charleston SC. The 46 year old cutter will go to the Nigerian Navy and join the ex-USCGC CHASE, now the NNS THUNDER F-90. A chapter cover is available for \$2.50.

## Unofficial First Day of Issue postmark, PNSE show Song Birds forever singles



The chapter produced a set of 10 covers for the USPS Forever Song Bird stamps. The covers are postmarked with the pictorial show cancel on April 5, 2014 in Oaks PA. The sets are in very limited supply and will not be on our price lists. Price is 22.50 per set, postpaid. The cachet notes the 225 Anniversary of the Inauguration of George Washington and includes the crest of the U S Navy aircraft carrier USS George Washington CVN-72.