

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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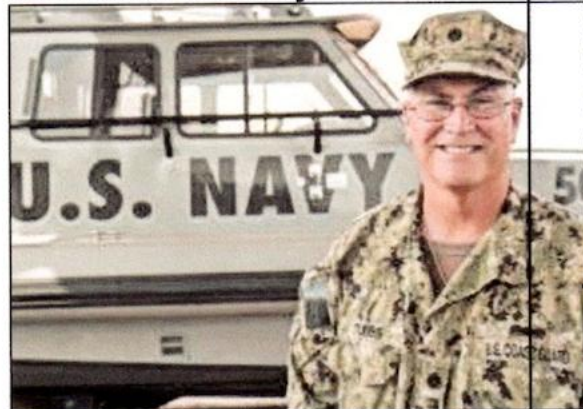
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U S Coast Guardsman steps up to the challenge; commands US Navy unit



U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Alan Tubbs, Coastal Riverine Squadron One-Forward (CRS1-FWD) mission commander, stands in front of a U.S. Navy boat on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Tubbs' squadron provides port and harbor security, protects high value assets and performs maritime security operations on the coast of Djibouti. Tubbs is currently the only Coast Guardsman commanding a U.S. Navy unit. (U. S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Gross)

SC based US Coast Guard cutter transferred to Nigerian Navy



NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – The U.S. Coast Guard and the Nigerian Navy held a ceremony Wednesday in North Charleston to officially sign the decommissioned *Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin WHEC-721* over to the Nigerian Navy. The *Gallatin* was offered to Nigeria April 24, 2013, through the Foreign Assistance Act, and was decommissioned from Coast Guard service March 31, 2014. The FSA allows the transfer of excess defense

articles as a grant to friendly foreign governments under the auspices of the State Department. During the ceremony, Coast Guard Chief Acquisition Officer Rear Adm. Bruce Baffer and Nigerian Minister of State for Defence Musiliu Obanikoro signed transfer documents in front of U.S. and Nigerian spectators, marking the official handoff of the ship to Nigeria. Baffer said the transfer was bittersweet but said he believes the ship, renamed *NNS Okpabana* (means Thunder), will provide valuable service to Nigeria.

USCGC JAMES WMSL-753 launched at Pascagoula LA



Huntingdon Ingalls Industries launched the next National Security cutter *James* on Saturday May 3 at Pascagoula. Her christening will follow later this year and the cutter will be delivered in 2015.

Brazil builds nuclear submarine to patrol offshore oil fields

By Agence France-Presse Tuesday, June 3, 2014 19:18 EDT



Brazil is building five submarines to patrol its massive coast, including one powered by an atomic reactor that would put it in the small club of countries with a nuclear sub. The South American giant is in the process of exploring major oil fields off its shores that could make it one of the world's top petroleum exporters. The new submarines aim to protect that resource, said the navy official coordinating the \$10-billion project, Gilberto Max Roffe Hirshfeld. "The nuclear-propelled submarine is one of the weapons

with the greatest power of dissuasion," he told AFP. "Brazil has riches in its waters. It's our responsibility to have strong armed forces. Not to make war, but to avoid war. So that no one tries to take away our riches." The new submarines, which will replace Brazil's aging fleet of five conventional subs, are being built at a sprawling 540,000-square-meter (135-acre) complex in Itaguaí, just south of Rio de Janeiro. The project is a joint venture between the navy, Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht and French state defense firm DCNS. Brazil and France signed a deal for the project in 2008 under which DCNS is providing building materials and training while Brazil builds up its own submarine industry.

Brazil is developing the nuclear reactor and enriched uranium itself. The first submarine, a conventional sub called SBR1, is 45-percent complete and scheduled to launch in 2017. The second is in the early stages of construction and is due to launch in 2019. Work on the nuclear sub, SNBR, is supposed to start in 2017, with a launch target of 2025, the year the project wraps up.

Coast Guard wants to refurbish USCGC POLAR SEA WAGB-11



The aging *USCGC Polar Sea WAGB-11* icebreaker is now idled in Seattle. Vice Admiral Peter Neffenger says salvaging the *Polar Sea* would be a "viable alternative" to a new heavy-duty icebreaker that could cost as much as \$1B. The overhaul will add 10 years to her life. Last year a bill authorizing four new icebreakers died without action. The Coast Guard is asking that funds be made available for at least one new icebreaker.