

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

Stephen Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS
Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-622-0139 (cell)

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

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Current Deposit Balance \$ _____

U.S. Navy Orders Four Giant, XLUUV Submarines from Boeing (Orca-class)



Photo from "Navy Recognition"

It looks like the predicted shortfall of 15 submarines to serve commanders tasks in the future will be supplemented with four autonomous submarines. The Navy's fleet of Los Angeles-class submarines will all be taken out of service as core lives shorten in the next few years. The graphic representation above is based on Boeing's ECHO VOYAGER. The unmanned submarine will be able to travel 6,500 miles. "Eventually, the Navy could also use the Orca XLUUV for mine countermeasures, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, electronic warfare and strike missions," according to a Navy outline of the system's capability development. Only dimensions given are that the undersea vehicle will be 51 feet long.

Coast Guard Secures \$655 Million for Polar Security Cutters in New Budget Deal



Fincantieri Marine Group artist's conception

The US Congress passed a spending package last week under which the US Coast Guard will receive a \$675 million funding for new icebreakers, under its Polar Security Cutter program. The Polar Security Cutter Program is the program to replace the United States Coast Guards aging fleet of icebreakers. The

current fleet of large icebreakers consists of one operational heavy icebreaker, the USCGC Polar Star, and one medium icebreaker, the USCGC Healy. Both ships are planned to be replaced by 3 heavy and 3 medium icebreakers.

Iran launches new cruise missile submarine



Iran has unveiled a new domestically-produced cruise missile submarine amid mounting tensions with the United States and Saudi Arabia in the Persian Gulf. Hassan Rouhani, the president of Iran, inaugurated the *Fateh*, or "Conquerer", in the southern port city of Bandar Lengeh on Sunday (Feb. 17). "From this moment, the Fateh Submarine joins Iran's naval force with my order," he said at a ceremony broadcast live on the state-run English-language Press TV. "Our defence power is solely defensive...Our enemy's pressure and sanctions imposed on Iran have instigated our progress," he said.

USCGC Polar Star in McMurdo Sound



USCGC *Polar Star* WAGB 10 escorting cargo vessel *MV Ocean Giant*, the ships at their closest travelled 8 meters apart. Note that the USCG crest is missing from the starboard side stripe. Perhaps scrapped off by ice? Press release did not mention this, but a photo of her at the dock in Wellington, New Zealand shows it missing also. The deployment was marred with several mechanical, electrical casualties, a leak in a propeller shaft and a fire aboard.