

Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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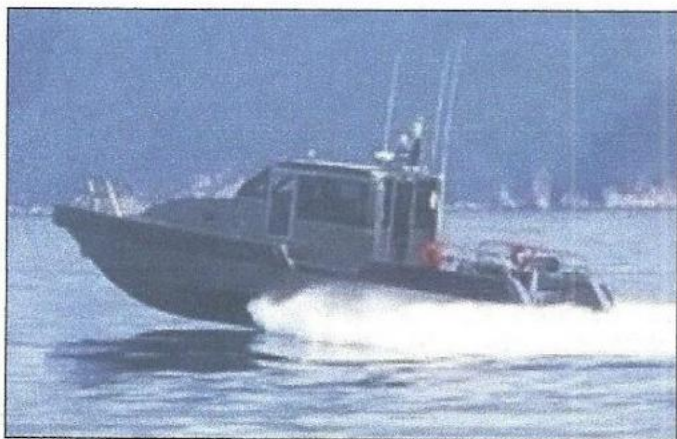
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Current Deposit Balance \$ _____

The U.S. has given six fast-response Metal Shark patrol boats to Vietnam Coast Guard Region 3 in the central region. (VN Express International)



A Metal Shark patrol boat delivered by the U.S. sails in the waters off Khanh Hoa Province in central Vietnam. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi.

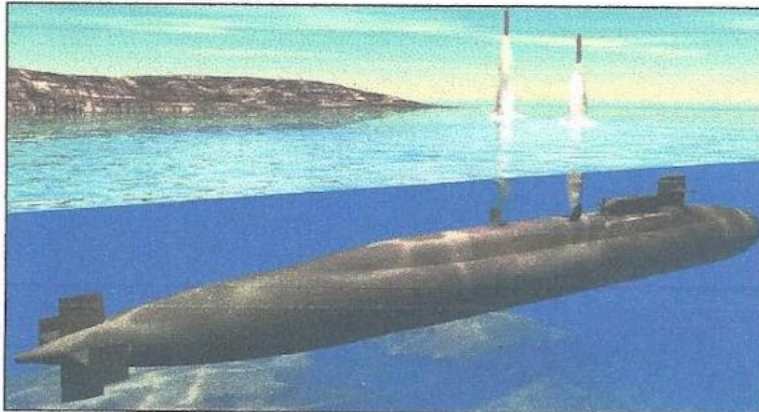
"Coast Guard Region 3 is unequivocally Vietnam's most strategic region and arguably its most important, proven by the high skill level of this group of boat drivers, handlers, and engineers," Lieutenant Commander Kristen Byers of the U.S. Coast Guard said at the handover ceremony in Van Phong Bay of Khanh Hoa Province last weekend. Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) Region 3 oversees the country's waters along the southeastern and south central coast, and offshore waters in the East Sea, known internationally as the South China Sea. The new patrol boats, transferred by the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, will assist VCG Region 3 to step up its coastal patrols and law enforcement to combat smuggling, illicit trafficking, piracy and armed robbery against ships, as also illegal fishing. Over the past two weeks, trainers from the U.S. have come to train Vietnamese officers to operate the Metal Shark boats. The U.S. embassy, through its Office of Defense Cooperation, coordinates U.S.-Vietnam security cooperation activities on behalf of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to advance common defense goals and interests, it said. Last Friday, an official from Boeing revealed that the U.S. company is close to sealing a deal to sell unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), the Boeing Insitu ScanEagle, to Vietnam. Six Metal Shark patrol boats had also been delivered in March last year, when the *USS Carl Vinson* arrived in Da Nang on a historic visit, the first to Vietnam by an American aircraft carrier since 1975.

Coast Guard Renames New Icebreaker Program "Polar Security Cutter"



The contract for new icebreakers is expected this month. Schultz said the first of three planned icebreakers, called Polar Security Cutters, was now estimated to cost between \$925 and \$940 million. Additional money for the new icebreaker was also available from previous appropriations, he said. He said he expected a contract award as soon as April or May. Under questioning from Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-West Virginia, chair of the subcommittee, Schultz said he expected the cost of the additional two heavy icebreakers to come down to about \$700 million. "We anticipate a significant decrease for [icebreaker] hulls two and three," Schultz said.

New Columbia-class missile sub could cost \$128 Billion - or more....



Initial costs were projected to be \$116 Billion for development and procurement. The Government Accountability Office reports that required updates before those dollars are approved will drive the cost higher. Twelve submarines are being considered.