



# Alaskan Asset Replacement Plan and Coverage

August 8, 2017

Fiscal Year 2017 Report to Congress



Homeland  
Security

*United States Coast Guard*

# Foreword

August 8, 2017

I am pleased to present the following report, “Alaskan Asset Replacement Plan and Coverage,” as prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Senate Report 114-264 accompanying the Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31) requires the Coast Guard to reevaluate its homeporting plan for cutters in Alaska, including consideration of the condition of current assets being replaced.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:



The Honorable R. John Carter  
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

I am happy to answer any further questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 372-4411 or the Department’s Chief Financial Officer (Acting), Stacy Marcott, at (202) 447-5751.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul F. Zukunft".

Paul F. Zukunft  
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commandant



# Alaskan Asset Replacement Plan and Coverage

## Table of Contents

I.	Legislative Language .....	1
II.	Coast Guard Cutter Homeporting Process .....	2
III.	Alaska Cutter Homeporting and Asset Replacement.....	3

# I. Legislative Language

This report responds to language in Senate Report 114-264 accompanying the Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31).

Senate Report 114-264 states:

## **ALASKAN ASSET REPLACEMENT PLAN AND COVERAGE**

The Committee is concerned with the Coast Guard's current asset replacement plans for Alaska. Recent drydocks have resulted in two Island Class patrol boats being placed in inactive status with the expectation they will not return to service, since Coast Guard plans to decommission them in fiscal year 2017. In the meantime, Coast Guard is scrambling to move west coast assets to support coverage in Alaska this summer.

In addition, the Committee is concerned that the Coast Guard's plan for NSC, OPC, and FRC homeporting does not take into account the strategic location of Alaska as related to the Arctic and Asia. The Coast Guard shall reevaluate its home porting plan for these cutters in Alaska, including consideration of the condition of current assets being replaced, and report to the Committee within 90 days of the date of enactment of this act. This report shall take into account Alaska's strategic position, increased activity in the Arctic, including increased tourism, the presence of foreign assets, and commerce, as well as long term resource development.

## II. Coast Guard Cutter Homeporting Process

In 2015, the Coast Guard established a Cutter Homeporting Decision Process to better support senior leaders in making strategic decisions based on a defined, repeatable, and analytical method. The process aligns the homeporting decisions with existing acquisition, operational, budgetary, and facilities planning. In response to Congress's concern, the Coast Guard used this process to review its Alaska laydown and asset replacement plan.

The Coast Guard conducts feasibility studies to examine potential homeport locations as the first step in a detailed analysis and decision process. The Coast Guard's homeporting staff works with the relevant operational commanders to provide the operational framework for the study. The framework includes location-specific mission analysis, case data, anticipated operational profile for a particular asset class, and other related factors. This input provides boundaries that help to determine which locations the team should study. The studies involve a full examination (in-person visit) and research on each potential homeport location. Before making a final homeporting decision, the Coast Guard evaluates candidate locations using the findings of the study, along with many other relevant factors, including but not limited to: mission needs, distance to primary operating area, maintenance and logistics support, current and future infrastructure costs, work-life amenities, and environmental impacts.

### III. Alaska Cutter Homeporting and Asset Replacement

The Coast Guard shares Congress's concerns and recognizes the strategic importance of Alaska in relation to the Arctic. The Coast Guard analyzed and evaluated its Alaska cutter laydown and transition plan using the methods described in this report to inform important planning decisions regarding future cutter homeporting in Alaska.

The Coast Guard plans to homeport two of its new offshore patrol cutters (OPC) in Kodiak, Alaska, to replace Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) DOUGLAS MUNRO and CGC ALEX HALEY. These new ships will bring enhanced capability to Alaska in comparison to the assets that they are replacing, and they will be a regular presence in the Bering Sea and Arctic. Although national security cutters currently are not planned for homeporting in Alaska, they will continue to deploy to provide Bering Sea and Arctic coverage.

The two inactive, and subsequently decommissioned, Island class patrol boats (WPB) formerly homeported in Alaska have been replaced with two new fast response cutters (FRC). Like the OPCs, the new Alaska FRCs (CGC JOHN MCCORMICK and CGC BAILEY BARCO) bring enhanced capabilities and additional operational capacity to Alaska. In total, the Coast Guard plans to homeport six FRCs in Coast Guard District 17 to replace the current WPB laydown, resulting in a 19-percent increase in operational capacity in Alaska.