Achieving the Right Capability Balance
US Coast Guard Authority

One of the five U.S. military services

- Only branch not located in the Department of Defense
- Not constrained by the *Posse Comitatus Act*

- Title 10 USC addresses the Coast Guard operating as a service in the Navy
- Title 14 USC 1: The Coast Guard is “a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times”
- Title 14 USC 2: “…maintain a state of readiness to function as a specialized service in the Navy in time of war…”
- Title 14 USC 89: The Coast Guard “may make…inspections, searches, seizures, and arrests upon the high seas…for the prevention, detection, and suppression of violations of laws of the United States”
- Title 14 USC 141: …authorized “to assist any federal agency . . . performing any activity for which . . . [the CG] is especially qualified”

Military…Multi-mission…Maritime
Protecting the Global Commons with a Cooperative Strategy

Spectrum of Conflict/Threat

USN
Higher Intensity Conflict
Expeditionary-Centric/Homeland Capable

USCG
Lower Intensity Conflict
Homeland-Centric/Expeditionary Capable

“Building Optimized Platforms for Distinct Missions”
USCG Expeditionary Support to Combatant Commanders

Littoral Operations
MIO/Law Enforcement
Aids to Navigation
Port and Force Security
International Engagement

“Coast Guard patrol boats are highly maneuverable, fast, multi-mission vessels able to operate in shallow water and are therefore especially well-suited for operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf.”  

VADM David C. Nichols Jr., USN Commander, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet 2004
Achieving the Right Capability Balance

SURFACE ACQUISITION PROJECTS
- NSC (8)
- OPC (25)
- FRC (58)
- RB-M (180)
- CPB (75)
- MEP

AVIATION ACQUISITION PROJECTS
- HC-130J (6)
- HC-130H (17)
- MH-65C (102)
- HC-144A (36)
- MH-60T (42)

C4ISR ACQUISITION PROJECTS
- COP
- IOC/C21
- NAIS
- Rescue 21
National Security Cutter (WMSL)
Offshore Patrol Cutter (WMSM)
Fast Response Cutter – Sentinel Class
The Coast Guard is uniquely suited to respond to the threats our Nation faces today