

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard



Press Release

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Boston cutter welcomes new commanding officer



From left, Coast Guard Cmdr. William Kelly, Vice Adm. Robert Papp, and Cmdr. William Wolter attend a ceremony in which Wolter assumed command of the Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca*, Wednesday, July 30, 2008. (Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Goulet)

BOSTON- The Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca* welcomed a new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony at the Coast Guard's Integrated Support Command in Boston Wednesday.

Cmdr. William J. "Willy" Wolter assumed command from Cmdr. William Kelly as the commanding officer of the *Seneca* in a time-honored ceremony that formally transfers authority and accountability from one individual to another.

Kelly was promoted to the rank of captain and will transfer to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., as the director of the Coast Guard's Leadership and Development Center.

Wolter reports to the *Seneca* from the Atlantic Area Incident Management Branch where he was the deputy maritime homeland security section chief.

The change of command ceremony is a formal ritual, conducted before the assembled company of the command. It conveys to the officers, enlisted personnel, civilian employees and auxiliaries of the Coast Guard that although the authority of command is relinquished by one person and is assumed by another, it is still maintained without interruption.

The *Seneca* has a crew of 100 active-duty personnel who carry out homeland security, search and rescue, and law enforcement missions from New England to South America.



From left, the Coast Guard Cutters *Flyingfish*, *Reliance*, *Escanaba* and *Seneca*, all flying full dress ship pennants, are tied to the dock at the Coast Guard Integrated Support Command, Boston, during a change of command ceremony, Wednesday, July 30, 2008. (Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Goulet)



Coast Guard Capt. William Kelly cuts a cake during a reception following the change of command ceremony aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca*, Wednesday, July 30, 2008. Kelly was promoted to the rank of captain the same day. (Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Goulet)

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