



## Acquisition Directorate



### BENEFITS

- **Improved interoperability with partner agencies, other U.S. military units and allied forces**
- **Advanced radio and satellite communications**
- **Ability to share tactical data, creating a common operating picture**
- **Improved sensor capabilities, including enhanced radar and infrared scanners**
- **Efficient design that lowers long-term maintenance costs**

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Coast Guard's Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance acquisition project is a multi-year effort to develop and integrate the equipment and computer systems on the Coast Guard's newest assets, including the National Security Cutter, the Fast Response Cutter, the Offshore Patrol Cutter, the HC-130J long-range surveillance aircraft and the HC-144A medium-range surveillance aircraft.

The project team acquires and integrates electronic sensors and computer networking, data processing and information-sharing equipment, which enable Coast Guard operators to perform mission tasks, develop situational awareness and improve cooperation with allied units and partner agencies.

Advanced C4ISR systems are necessary for the Coast Guard to effectively carry out its law enforcement, environmental protection and search and rescue missions. The service has also taken on greater counter-terrorism and homeland defense responsibilities, and upgraded systems will be required to meet those challenges. The C4ISR project will ensure that Coast Guard operators are always equipped with the capabilities needed to execute mission tasks.

The C4ISR project improves communication and information-sharing capabilities on the Coast Guard's cutters and aircraft. Through the use of integrated

communications systems, the project is equipping cutters and aircraft to more efficiently transmit voice and data communications via radio and satellite. The new systems allow operators to organize missions with multiple units from the Coast Guard, other U.S. agencies and allied nations by creating a common operating picture with shared tactical and intelligence information from multiple sources.

For Coast Guard cutters, the C4ISR project provides the command and control equipment that enables crews to navigate and maneuver the vessel, target and fire weapons, collect and analyze sensor data, and perform other tasks that are required to support ship operations.

For the Coast Guard's aircraft, the project has focused on improving surveillance capabilities including video equipment, radar and infrared scanners that help aircrews locate distressed mariners and identify possible smugglers.

The C4ISR project is pursuing a segmented approach to developing new systems. This allows the Coast Guard to field new capabilities quickly, while refining the software and adding new capabilities with each segment. When future equipment and software upgrades are needed, the segmented approach will enable the Coast Guard to do the work efficiently and at a lower cost.

For updates on C4ISR, visit the project's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/c4isr/>