The U.S. Coast Guard’s Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) program 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 program 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 program will ensure that Coast Guard operators are always equipped with the capabilities needed to execute mission tasks.

For Coast Guard cutters, the C4ISR program 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 program 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 program 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.