

# Deepwater Capability Replacement Project

to turn this vision into a reality. The Service will require a funding level of about \$350-\$500 million per year for the next several years for the Deepwater Project.

The men and women of the United States Coast Guard are highly motivated, well trained, and committed to serving the American public. The successful implementation of the Deepwater Project will ensure that they have the tools necessary with which to perform the crucial roles of the Coast Guard: maritime safety, maritime security, protection of natural resources, maritime mobility, and national defense. The United States needs its Coast Guard. If the Coast Guard did not exist, it would be in the best interest of the country to invent it, quickly.

America will need a front line of defense for homeland security

against a host of threats and illicit activities that will come from the sea. The country will need a protector of marine resources on the high seas, at the maritime borders, along the coasts, and in the inland waterways. It will need a guardian of safety on the water. It will need efficient and reliable waterways. And, the nation will need a specialized naval force capable of operating alongside other U.S. Armed Services to support the nations security strategies and policies at home and abroad. The U.S. Coast Guard is the worlds best coast guard. Recapitalization of its aging assets will ensure that it maintains this status well into the 21st century.

In a speech delivered by President Clinton in May 2000, he succinctly articulated the Coast Guards Deepwater needs, saying, "We cannot meet

the needs of the future with a Coast Guard fleet of the past."

*The video screen crackles on the cutters bridge as Ensign Hollers image is carried across the sea between the go-fast and the ship.*

*Captain, the intelligence was right on. Maam, we have hit the jackpot. Using the sniffer to test air samples, weve found more than 70 kilos of cocaine, several bales of marijuana and eight illegal migrants. Well complete the digital pictures here shortly and e-mail the whole case package back to the cutter along with a download of what weve pulled off the National Crime Database Satellite Relay about the five smugglers we apprehended. We are standing by to transfer the suspects and contraband to the cutter. This is Ensign Holler aboard the go-fast, out."*



The 270-foot CGC Escanaba (WMEC 907).