

Is the National Security Cutter significantly more capable than the Offshore Patrol Cutter as currently envisioned?

The National Security Cutter is built for more distant operations where logistics and other support are not as readily available and where its extended presence capability and endurance can be brought to bear. It is particularly suited for extended operations in the Western and Eastern Pacific, as a force component of a Naval Battle Group, or when the mission requires persistent command and control of multiple interagency assets during a major event. With lesser endurance, speed, and seakeeping capabilities than a National Security Cutter, the Offshore Patrol Cutter will operate primarily within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. The National Security Cutter will have the higher speed and capabilities necessary to respond in time when distance and sea state would preclude the use of the Offshore Patrol Cutter.

The Offshore Patrol Cutter will have the space, weight and power for the Sensitive, Classified, Information Facilities allowing for potential future outfitting of capabilities that employ Ship's Signals Exploitation Equipment. The National Security Cutter is delivered with a fully operational Sensitive, Classified Information Facility.