

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. COAST GUARD
STATEMENT OF
ADMIRAL THOMAS H. COLLINS
ON THE
FY06 BUDGET REQUEST
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Good morning Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. It is a pleasure to be here today to discuss the Coast Guard's 2006 Budget request.

Although much remains to be done, we have made great progress in securing America's waterways – thanks in large part to the continued strong budgetary support of the Administration, Congress, and this Committee.

The Coast Guard's 2006 budget continues our progress, proposing discretionary budget authority of 6.9 billion dollars, an 11 percent increase over comparable 2005 funding. Most

importantly, this budget provides the necessary resources to continue recapitalizing the Coast Guard's aging cutters, boats, aircraft, and supporting infrastructure, while building out maritime safety and security capabilities essential to meeting present and future demands.

Our ability to reduce maritime security risk is contingent upon Coast Guard readiness and capacity and capabilities. Without these basic building blocks, implementation of maritime security strategies will not be sustainable.

With that in mind, the priorities of our 2006 Budget are to:

- **Recapitalize the Coast Guard,**
- **Implement the maritime security strategy, and**
- **Enhance mission performance.**

Recapitalize the Coast Guard's major assets

Our deepwater cutters, boats and aircraft form the foundation of the Coast Guard's capability and capacity.

These assets are rapidly failing, as their age and the Coast Guard's increased operations tempo have brought them to the breaking point -- literally. Recapitalizing these assets is an essential and necessary precursor to implementing the maritime security strategy and enhancing mission performance.

This budget continues the urgently needed recapitalization of our cutters, boats, aircraft, and support infrastructure by investing 966 million dollars in our Deepwater program and almost another 173 million dollars in other recapitalization programs including Rescue 21, High Frequency Communications, our Shore Infrastructure, and our new Response Boat-Medium.

Implement the Maritime Security Strategy:

The fiscal year '06 budget also continues to aggressively implement our maritime security strategy by investing nearly

200 million dollars in new and expanded maritime safety and security initiatives.

- **Fundamentally, we have to know what's happening in the maritime before we can respond to it. To increase Maritime Domain Awareness, we are seeking 122.6 million dollars to continue advancing programs including: Automatic Identification Systems, Maritime Patrol Aircraft. Common Operational Picture, Radiological-Nuclear Detection and Response, Operation and Maintenance of MDA assets, Operation and Maintenance of C-130Js, C-130J Missionization, and Deepwater C4ISR Upgrades Maintenance and Support.**
- **To build and administer an effective domestic and international security regime, we are seeking 13 million dollars to annualize the Maritime Transportation Security Act implementation.**
- **To increase our operational presence and our response-and-recovery capability, we are asking for 63.8 million dollars in new funding for Airborne Use of Force, Enhanced Cutter**

Boat Response Capability, Additional Response Boat-Small allowances, Liquefied Natural Gas Transport Security, the Operation and Maintenance of Patrol Boats and our first National Security Cutter, and Enhanced Maritime Safety and Security Teams.

Enhance Mission Performance:

I remain committed to balancing our traditional missions with our homeland security duties. Last year's achievements demonstrate our commitment to the American public across all our mission areas:

- **We saved the lives of nearly 5500 mariners in distress while responding to more than 32,000 calls for rescue assistance;**
- **We boarded more than 4500 fishing vessels to enforce safety and fisheries regulations.**
- **We interdicted nearly 11,000 undocumented migrants attempting to enter the United States illegally by sea – the highest total in 10 years.**

As delivered

- **We had a record year in counter-drug operations, seizing over 240,000 pounds of cocaine, shattering the previous record by over 100,000 pounds or 72%. And I'm happy to report that we're on a pace to break that record this year.**

I want to be clear that the resources you provide the Coast Guard are multi-mission in character and provide benefit across all our missions – both traditional and homeland security.

My written statement provides a more complete summary of last year's accomplishments. Looking at those accomplishments, it is clear that Coast Guard men and women continue to rise to the challenge and deliver results across both homeland security and non-homeland-security missions. Ensuring they are properly equipped and compensated and that they develop, both personally and professionally, is my single highest priority. This budget is about placing the right

As delivered

tools in their capable hands. They have shown time and time again that they know just what to do with those tools.

With your continued support, I am confident that we will deliver the robust maritime safety and security America expects and deserves.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.