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11 Mar 2026

## MEMORANDUM

  
From: K. E. Lunday, ADM  
Commandant

To: Distribution

Subj: HOMEPORTING OF FIRST TWO ARCTIC SECURITY CUTTERS IN ALASKA

1. Based on the accelerating strategic importance of the Arctic to U.S. national security, the U.S. Coast Guard will homeport the first two Arctic Security Cutters (ASC) in the State of Alaska. You are to carry out actions necessary to identify, select, prepare, and homeport the ASCs in time for their delivery for commissioning and operations.
2. At the direction of the President on October 8, 2025, the U.S. Coast Guard is acquiring 11 ASCs under three contracts, with construction of four ASCs beginning at two shipyards in Finland and onshoring construction of the remaining seven ASCs to two U.S. shipyards. This decision is required now to ensure the homeports for the first ASCs that will be delivered are ready. I have selected Alaska for homeporting the first two ASCs because of the State's geographic proximity to the Arctic and its strategic importance to U.S. national security.
3. The United States is an Arctic nation. The State of Alaska that lies north of the Arctic Circle makes it so, including the U.S. territorial seas, exclusive economic zone, and extended outer continental shelf that border the vast Arctic Ocean. Within the Arctic an increasingly navigable ocean is emerging as a new maritime frontier. We are seeing expanding human activity and increased maritime commerce, stronger cooperation among Arctic allies and partner nations, and increasing malign behavior by potential adversaries. This acceleration of activity is evident from the Gulf of Alaska through the Bering Strait to the Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, and throughout the Arctic Ocean. The changing strategic context and growing consequence of the Arctic to U.S. national security demands greater U.S. Coast Guard presence to assure access and navigation in the Arctic, secure the U.S. northern border and maritime approaches, and defend U.S. sovereign interests there. The State of Alaska is the best choice for the homeporting of the first two ASCs.

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Dist: Vice Commandant, Deputy Commandant for Operations, Deputy Commandant for Systems