

- The Quadrennial Homeland Security Review of 2010 identified 5 core homeland security missions. Since that time, as the Department has matured, we have also identified additional areas of focus, to include *Providing Essential Support to National and Economic Security* – it is within this category of homeland security activities into which our high latitude operations nest.
- DHS, through the U.S. Coast Guard, is a steward for specialized capabilities in support of the National Science Foundation and Department of State missions in global high latitude regions such as the Antarctic - providing logistics, resupply, and icebreaking.
- Regarding DHS interests and equities for the Antarctic;
  - DHS acknowledges it is in our national interest to exercise an active and influential presence on the continent - for example, ensuring all abide by the Antarctic Treaty and that US equities are safeguarded. Whether this presence requires use of a government vessel for ice breaking into McMurdo, or whether a leased foreign ship for that task is acceptable, is at the discretion of the State Department and National Security Staff.
  - DHS views Polar ice breakers as national assets that should be used for the nation's highest priorities.
  - DHS assumes that POLAR STAR - when reactivated in 2013 - will be available for the Antarctic support mission, pending any overriding determination or mission-priority from the National Security Staff.
- DHS has determined it does not anticipate any agency unique research needs.
- DHS intends to remain committed to and fully engaged in supporting the National Science Foundation strategic program review.