

# Strategic Overview: the Antarctic

Briefing to the National Science Foundation  
Antarctic Logistics Blue Ribbon Panel

DHS Policy, Office of Strategic Plans  
&  
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# DHS Strategic Framework

## § 2010 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (QHSR)

### § Homeland Security Missions:

- § Preventing Terrorism and Enhancing Security
- § Securing and Managing Our Borders
- § Enforcing and Administering Our Immigration Laws
- § Safeguarding and Securing Cyberspace
- § Ensuring Resilience to Disasters

### § Additional areas of focus:

- § *Providing Essential Support to National and Economic Security*
- § Maturing and Strengthening the Department

## § Next QHSR will be conducted in 2013



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# DHS Interests and Equities

## § **Three primary areas of focus:**

- § Acknowledge National Interests in the Antarctic
  - § Antarctic Treaty
- § DHS Support to Antarctic operations
  - § Key polar capability is the POLAR STAR
  - § Plan is to transfer POLAR SEA to MARAD without further preservation or contribution of resources toward caretaking
- § DHS does not forecast any agency unique research needs and activities
  - § Supporting role in National research agenda

## § **Opportunities in the Near Term:**

- § 2013 QHSR – DHS International Posture – High Latitudes
- § Ongoing collaboration with DoD - key polar capabilities
- § Intent to remain engaged in OSTP/NSF U.S. Antarctic program review



# DHS Budgetary Considerations

## § **Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011**

- § BCA restores statutory caps from Fiscal Years 2012 to 2021.
- § Under the BCA, total Federal discretionary spending is limited to 2.0% annual increases.

## § **Recapitalization**

- § Acquisition, construction & improvement is constrained by BCA
- § CG is undertaking requirements development and pre-acquisition activities to produce cost estimates and analysis of alternatives for icebreaking capability following the end of projected service life of the POLAR STAR on or about 2022.



# Back-Up



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# Coast Guard Antarctic Support

- § McMurdo Station: Primary infrastructure and supply point for U.S. Antarctic Program; requires annual sealift re-supply (cargo, fuel)
- § Operation DEEP FREEZE: Break-in and sealift escort mission
- § Conducted by CG icebreakers from 1955 until 2007. CG helicopters used for science support when deployed onboard.
- § Conducted by Swedish icebreaker ODEN from 2008 – 2011 and Russian icebreaker IGNATYUK in 2012
- § USCGC POLAR SEA provided back-up icebreaker (on standby in Seattle) for Deep Freeze 2008 through 2010.
- § No U.S. government asset support for Deep Freeze likely until USCGC POLAR STAR returns to service in late 2013



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