

will need to develop this new system and request resources accordingly.

NATIONAL MARITIME CENTER

The Committee recommendation includes \$19,800,000 for the National Maritime Center, the same level included in the budget request.

OPERATIONS SYSTEMS CENTER

The recommendation includes \$3,600,000 for customized tenant improvements in conjunction with the Operations Systems Center [OSC] expansion project. The OSC continues to experience steady growth in both the number of systems being developed and the number of people required to support those systems. Currently, 500 Government and contractor personnel work at the OSC. The existing main facility space has been at capacity for 3 years and it will not accommodate expected growth. The Coast Guard is currently housing several employees in temporary trailers. The Coast Guard is working with the GSA on this expansion.

USCGC "ACUSHNET"

The Committee does not agree with the budget proposal to decommission the USCGC *Acushnet* after two quarters of operation in fiscal year 2009. Decommissioning this vessel at this time will negatively impact the Coast Guard's ability to patrol the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The total amount recommended by the Committee for OE makes \$7,600,000 available to crew and operate the USCGC *Acushnet* through the end of fiscal year 2009.

WATCHSTANDERS

The Committee provides \$9,890,000 to meet increased operational demands and to increase situational awareness and information sharing in all Coast Guard command centers. The recommended level is \$3,600,000 above the request. This level of funding will allow the Coast Guard to add a total of 168 new watchstanders, 67 above the request. As noted in the Incident Specific Preparedness Review of the Cosco Busan Oil Spill in the San Francisco Bay, "the importance of qualified watch standers cannot be overstated." This funding will complete the Coast Guard's goal to provide 24/7 staffing of a situation unit controller position in sector command centers, a combined situation unit controller/common operating picture manager in district command centers, and support billets at the Coast Guard Command and Control Center.

AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS

The Committee is concerned that regional planning efforts dealing with maritime emergencies and oil spills are not up to date. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary, in conjunction with the Commandant, to conduct a review of all Area Contingency Plans [ACP] within 90 days after the date of enactment of this act to ensure that each plan provides for an effective and efficient response. In conducting this review, the Secretary shall assess: the number and quality of emergency and oil spill response assets; the