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## **FIRST UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY LEADERSHIP 44 TRAINING VESSEL SCHEDULED TO LAUNCH**

*Ceremony Commemorates First of Eight Sail Training Boats Built Through a Partnership of the Coast Guard Foundation, Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, Coast Guard Academy Parents Association and United States Coast Guard Academy*

**New London, Conn.** – The Coast Guard Foundation, the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, the Coast Guard Academy Parents Association and the United States Coast Guard Academy, through a collaborative partnership, announced today that it will host the christening and launch of the United States Coast Guard Academy’s new sailing training vessel, L44-01 *Shearwater*, at the Coast Guard Academy Waterfront on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 12:00 pm. As part of the Leadership 44 Campaign, the three non-profit organizations have raised nearly \$6 million to build a new class of eight leadership sail training boats for the Coast Guard Academy. The event celebrates the launch of the first new vessel. The Leadership 44 boats will offer cadets the opportunity to learn the ways of the sea and provide valuable leadership and teamwork experience.

“The Leadership 44 Campaign is the first collaborative partnership of Coast Guard Academy stakeholders and will provide new training vessels for the future guardians of our shores,” said Robert Hallock, chairman of the Leadership 44 Campaign Committee. “The sail training program is instrumental in developing cadets’ aptitude on the water. It is not simply about learning how to sail; it’s about learning how to lead and work as a team which are vital skills for Coast Guard officers.”

The Academy currently employs only four boats for the Coastal Sail Training Program. Due to the limited number of vessels, not every cadet at the Academy is able to participate in the program. The new sloops, made possible by the Leadership 44 Campaign, standardize the offshore sailing program and allow a greater number of cadets to participate in an experience crucial to their transformation into officers. The Coast Guard Academy Leadership 44-01, *Shearwater*, was designed to optimize and enhance the training experience. A procurement committee, representing the interests of the Academy and the three non-profits, worked with naval architect David Pedrick of Newport, Rhode Island, to develop a custom design for the sailboats. Built by Morris Yachts of Trenton, Maine, the resulting boats have contemporary lines,

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simplified rigging and an improved sail plan that will meet the rigorous demands of the Coastal Sail Training Program and give the Academy excellent performance for years to come.

“The current fleet is over forty-five years old,” continued Hallock. “The new USCG Shearwater and her sister vessels will help current and future Academy cadets prepare to effectively aid us in times of need and protect our country.”

The Leadership 44 Campaign partners are covering the majority of the cost of building the mold and constructing the new vessels. The federal government has committed to a substantial contribution by providing equipment, sails, engines, rigging and outfitting for each boat. The additional seven Leadership 44 vessels are scheduled to be finished in 2012.

For more information on the L44-01 Christening Ceremony, the Coast Guard Academy Leadership 44 Campaign or to support the project, visit [www.cgaleadership44.org](http://www.cgaleadership44.org).

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## ***About The Coast Guard Foundation***

The Coast Guard Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1969. It was initially created to provide funds for academic, athletic, and morale needs of the Coast Guard Academy and its cadets, which were not covered by federal operational funding. In 1986, the Foundation expanded its charter to support projects that enhance the education, welfare and morale of all Coast Guard members and their families. A Board of 100 Trustees from all parts of the country governs the Foundation. The Trustees elect from their members a 30 person Board of Directors to oversee the management of the Foundation. Located in Stonington, Connecticut, the Foundation employs a staff of twelve civilians responsible for meeting the Foundation's objectives and working closely with the Coast Guard on all issues. [www.coastguardfoundation.org](http://www.coastguardfoundation.org)

## ***About the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association***

The United States Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association was established in Washington, D.C., in December 1887. It has operated as a nonprofit charitable and educational organization since July 1, 1972. The Alumni Association was incorporated in 1992, at which time its legal name was changed to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association, Inc. The Alumni Association provides services to and promotes fellowship among its members. The organization raises funds to provide “margin of excellence” support to the Corps of Cadets, to preserve the traditions and to enhance the reputation of the Academy. [www.cgaalumni.org](http://www.cgaalumni.org)

## ***About the Coast Guard Academy Parents Association***

The Coast Guard Academy Parents Association exists to support the Corps of Cadets, the Coast Guard Academy and the parents of all cadets. The Parents Association also actively supports and encourages applicants, prospective cadets and their parents as they navigate their way through the Admissions process and make the difficult choices involved in the collegiate selection process. The Parents Association is comprised of three components — the General Membership, the Executive Council and the affiliated local chapters. All parents of cadets attending the Coast Guard Academy are invited to join the Parents Association. Parents of alumni are also encouraged to continue on as active members.

## ***About the U.S. Coast Guard Academy***

As the smallest of the five U.S. service academies, the Coast Guard Academy offers a prestigious higher education, rigorous professional development and honor and tradition of a military academy. Approximately 1,000 students are enrolled in the Academy, completing their course work in four years. Cadets devote themselves to an honor concept and graduate to work at sea, on land and in the air in meaningful careers of selfless service to others. All cadets who graduate are commissioned as Ensigns in the United States Coast Guard, and most are assigned to ships as Deck Watch Officers or Engineers in Training for their first two-year tour. [www.uscga.edu](http://www.uscga.edu)