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## Emerging Challenges March 2017

### **The role of the US Coast Guard according to Trump administration**

“We are, first and foremost, an armed service” said Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, in 2017 annual State Of The Coast Guard Address in front of new President Donald Trump.

The US Coast Guard’s role in national defence/security must be today related to border protection, law enforcement and infrastructure. The Coast Guard’s role in the search and rescue of mariners in distress has not be mentioned at all during the last speech in front of federal authorities. For this reason, part of the American public opinion consider the 2017 as a new era for the US Coast Guard, more military oriented.

However, it still cannot benefit of national security federal funds due to an incorrect bureaucratic classification, i.e. US Coast Guard is not classified as national security agency. On the one hand, it is part of the United States Intelligence Community, led by the ODNI; this is A coalition of 17 agencies and organizations within the Executive Branch, including the ODNI, that works both independently and collaboratively to gather and analyze the intelligence necessary to conduct foreign relations and national security activities. On the other hand it cannot obtain any form of national security investment. However, this problem is under consideration by the new administration that intends to promote a different legislation shortly.

President Trump is going to prioritize other initiatives for US Coast Guard including working directly with the head of Russia’s Coast Guard (if the Syrian crisis does not change this intent), improving border security and the use of technology to increase the surveillance (i.e. land-based, unmanned or remotely piloted system) and military capabilities.

In the meantime the vision of the US Coast Guard is strongly shaped by its strategic vision of the Western Hemisphere. The Coast Guard wants to confront significant challenges in the Western Hemisphere. Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) networks and the future impacts of climate change will pose new threats to maritime safety, security, and efficiency. Moreover, globalization and advances in technology will present challenges for maritime governance as free markets and commerce continue to expand. Therefore the US Coast Guard identifies three priorities over the next 10 years: Combating Networks, Securing Borders, and Safeguarding Commerce. To meet these priorities, the strategy emphasizes the critical importance of offshore vessel and aircraft presence to support effective governance and sovereignty, as well as other strategic concepts to ensure long-term success.

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