



Icebreakers: taming the North Pole



IMPORTANT NOTICE
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HEALY, USCG (WAGB-20)

Sierra Leone # (2016) Le24,000 M.S.

1999 – US Coast Guard; Litton Avondale Shipyard, Avondale, US (yard No 2372); Displ. 16,257 ton full load, Gt. 15,150, dwt. 7,500; 128m x 25m x 8.92m (draught), length bpp. 121.2m; four diesel electric Sulzer 12ZAV40S engines, 34,560 kW, two AC Synchronous Drive motors, 11,2 MW, twin fixed pitch propellers, 17 kn, three knots in 4.5' thick ice; Accommodation for 19 officers, 12 CPO, 54 enlisted, 35 scientists, 17 others.

USCGC HEALY (WAGB-20) is the United States' largest and most technologically advanced icebreaker. She is classified as a medium icebreaker by the U.S. Coast Guard and homeported in Seattle, Washington.

HEALY was built by Avondale Industries in New Orleans, Louisiana, and included a technology transfer agreement between Avondale Industries and the Finnish Kvaerner Masa-Yards Arctic Technology Centre, where the latter provided expertise for hull form development and propulsion line engineering based on the Finnish diesel-electric icebreaker OTSO [Finland #1244 (2005) 65c]. She is named in honor of United States Revenue Cutter Service Captain Michael A. Healy.

Her keel was laid on Sept. 16, 1996; launched as the USCG

HEALY (WAGB-20) November 15, 1997; completed Oct. 29, 1999 and was commissioned on Nov. 10, 1999.

HEALY joined the icebreakers USCGC POLAR STAR (WAGB-10) and USCGC POLAR SEA (WAGB-11) in their homeport of Seattle, after her commissioning. The ship departed New Orleans on Jan. 26, 2000, performing sea trials off San Juan, Puerto Rico and in Baffin Bay between Canada and Greenland. She arrived in Seattle on Aug. 9, 2000 after transiting the famed Northwest Passage and was placed "In Commission, Active" on Aug. 21, 2000.

USCGC HEALY is an optimally manned vessel, meaning it has the minimum number of personnel staffed in order to safely navigate. Due to the vast array of missions conducted by HEALY, it is vital that crewmembers are fully qualified on a number of duties. She operates two A-Frames, one on the aft working deck and one on the starboard side. There are two articulated cranes on the aft working deck, with the starboard side rated to 15 short tons (14 t) and the port side rated to 5 short tons (4.5 t). The aft working deck provides ample space to conduct science and research operations. She has a fore-castle crane with a load capacity of three short tons (2.7 t), and two 04 level cranes with load capacities of 15 tons each. HEALY has a Dynamic Positioning System (DPS) that uses its Bow Thruster system, which aids in navigation and station keeping during science operations. Its flight deck is capable of landing both of the Coast Guard's helicopter airframes, and attached is a hangar that can house two HH-65 helicopters. She can accommodate eight ISO vans on the ship, which are used as science labs and workstations and has three small boats on board. One is a 38' (12 m) foot Arctic Survey Boat (ASB), which is on the starboard side and two 26' (7.9 m) Cutter Boat Large (CBL) Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB),

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