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PROGRAM SUPPORT

A specially-equipped NOAA aircraft collected aerial images of the damage caused by the EF-5 tornado in Joplin, MO on May 22, 2011. NOAA aviators collected the images while flying the agency's King Air 350 CER aircraft, equipped with specialized remote sensing equipment that captured photographs at a high resolution. The mission was undertaken jointly with FEMA as part of the federal response to the Missouri tornado. The aircraft is operated by NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.



PROGRAM SUPPORT

NOAA's Program Support provides the planning, administrative, financial, procurement, information technology, human resources, and infrastructure services that are essential to the safe and successful performance of NOAA's mission. Program Support consists of Corporate Services, NOAA's Office of Education, Facilities, and the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO).

NOAA's buildings, ships, and aircraft are necessary platforms for NOAA science. All of NOAA's Line Offices utilize these important assets and resources to execute their missions.



Commissioning of Okeanos Explorer

For example, NOAA's Tsunami Warning Centers are state of the art, high-tech facilities designed for a 24-7 mission of saving lives and property, critical monitoring of fisheries stocks, as well as protected marine mammals and sea turtles, are conducted on scientifically specialized ships in NOAA's fleet. NOAA Corp officers and civilians provide a skilled workforce present in all Line Offices.

Program Support provides NOAA with the enterprise-wide capabilities that are required to achieve the environmental, social, and economic outcomes targeted by NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan goals. Program Support activities contribute to NOAA's Organization and Administration Enterprise strategic planning objectives of having diverse and constantly evolving capabilities in NOAA's workforce; a modern Information Technology (IT) infrastructure for a scientific enterprise; modern, safe and sustainable facilities, and a high-performing organization with integrated, efficient, and effective business systems and management processes.



FY 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As part of an aggressive government-wide effort to curb administrative spending, NOAA is committed to controlling administrative costs and performing its mission with the greatest efficiency. In FY 2011, NOAA reduced administrative costs by \$3 million through strategic sourcing of IT purchases with NOAAlink. NOAAlink is an innovative IT infrastructure planning and acquisition process, which offers a broad range of cost-effective, enterprise-wide IT solutions and improved service delivery. Through this approach, NOAA succeeded in making the NOAA acquisition process more efficient and cost effective. In FY 2013, NOAA will continue to meet the challenges of managing and contracting for services.



In FY 2011, OMAO responded to Hurricane Irene with three NOAA aircraft—two WP-3D Orions and a Gulfstream IV-SP—providing round-the-clock hurricane research, surveillance and forecast improvement support to the National Hurricane Center. Data collected by the aircraft, along with satellite and other data, helped forecasters predict the intensity and the path of the storm. After the storm made landfall, OMAO and NOAA’s National Geodetic Survey dispatched a fourth aircraft,—the NOAA King Air 350 CER turboprop—to conduct aerial surveys of storm-impacted areas in North Carolina and Virginia. NOAA vessels also responded to the storm, surveying shipping channels for storm debris that could pose a hazard to navigation. Hurricane Irene is an example of increasing accuracy in forecasting storm track. Its landfall in eastern North Carolina and path northward were accurately predicted more than four days in advance. NOAA’s delivery of critical environmental forecasts provided essential advance information that allowed emergency officials to plan necessary evacuations and sparked individuals to take safety precautions.



Gulfstream IV-SP and WP-3D in flight

CORPORATE SERVICES

NOAA Corporate Services provides centralized executive management, as well as policy formulation and direction, to all of NOAA’s Staff and Line Offices. Corporate Services is comprised of various staff offices, such as the Under Secretary and Associate Offices, Acquisitions and Grants Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Education, Workforce Management Office, and Policy Planning and Integration. Corporate Services provides activities such as planning, administrative, financial reporting, budgeting, information technology, acquisitions and grants, and human resource services.

In FY 2013, NOAA-wide corporate services will continue to ensure that NOAA has the proper leadership, work environment, and IT support, necessary tools and equipment, and the vital personnel and finance services that will allow the agency to carry out its mission of Science, Service and Stewardship.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

NOAA’s Office of Education (OEd) which is funded in the NOAA Education Program subactivity, provides advice and counsel to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in matters pertaining to education. The Office, in conjunction with NOAA’s Education Council, coordinates educational activities across NOAA and develops NOAA’s Education Strategic Plan and policies. These efforts help to ensure that NOAA’s education programs and activities are based on NOAA science and are directly tied to the agency’s mission. In addition, OEd partners with minority serving institutions to increase the number of



students from underrepresented communities who are trained and graduate with degrees in NOAA mission fields. OEd also directly implements and manages scholarship programs aimed at fostering competitiveness in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by providing quality educational opportunities for the next generation. For more details on NOAA's education activities, please refer to the Education Chapter.

In FY 2013, OEd will continue to work through the Education Council to coordinate education activities and policy across the agency. The NOAA Education community will continue to work diligently to ensure that programs investing resources in education activities meet top-tier performance measures and evidence standards. NOAA will also implement an agency-wide evaluation and monitoring framework for its education investments. This framework has been reviewed and refined through input provided by an expert panel organized by the National Research Council's Board of Science Education. It was also used by the White House's Office of Science Technology and Policy Committee on STEM Education to inform best practices. In FY 2013 NOAA will also continue to support its scholarship and fellowship programs and train students in STEM fields.

FACILITIES

The NOAA Facility Program is the focal point for facility planning, project planning, formulation and development, and project management oversight to support critical NOAA mission requirements. This program supports an integrated capital investment planning process, integrated facility condition inspection program, systems and technology tools to enable maximum efficiency in project and facility management planning, and investments required to support repair and modernization of NOAA facilities.

NOAA's facility portfolio is diverse and dispersed. NOAA owns more than 400 buildings, in addition to piers and other structures, which are valued at approximately \$2.5 billion. These facilities range from state-of-the-art science and research facilities supporting climate, weather, ocean, and fisheries research and services to operational facilities supporting multi-billion dollar satellite programs and NOAA's ship and aircraft operations. In FY 2013, NOAA will continue an integrated facility efficiency planning effort that began in FY 2012. This effort is aimed at creating a more efficient and cost-effective facility portfolio, which includes more aggressive teleworking for NOAA employees, more efficient space utilization in existing facilities, and consolidation opportunities that specifically target the least cost-effective facilities. This planning effort will help NOAA to provide effective space management; improve regional service delivery; balance the portfolio of leased versus owned facilities; promote energy efficiency and sustainable design, and modernize NOAA owned facilities.

OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) operates an array of specialized aircraft and ships throughout the world in support of NOAA's environmental and scientific missions. These include fisheries research, nautical charting, hurricane reconnaissance and research, snow surveys, and specialized atmospheric and ocean research. Ships range from large oceanographic research vessels capable of exploring the world's deepest ocean to smaller ships responsible for charting the shallow bays and inlets of the United States. Aircraft range from the four engine P-3 capable of penetrating a hurricane to the small twin engine Twin Otters suited to marine mammal surveys where slower airspeeds and higher endurance are essential.



In addition, OMAO ships and aircraft provide immediate response capabilities for unpredictable events. Following major natural and environmental disasters, NOAA ships and aircraft can conduct emergency navigation hazard surveys that help ports reopen quickly and obtain aerial images of disaster-torn areas that enable residents and emergency workers to verify the condition of houses, bridges and roads. OMAO also administers the NOAA Diving Program, the NOAA Small Boat Program, and the Teacher at Sea Program. OMAO is home to the NOAA Commissioned Corps (NOAA Corps) officers and civilians who play a critical role in the collection of oceanographic, atmospheric, hydrographic, and fisheries data.

MARINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Marine Operations and Maintenance (MOM) provides centralized management for NOAA's 16 active ships, which range in length from 124 to 274 feet and are capable of conducting operations that support NOAA's programs in nautical charting, bathymetric mapping, fisheries research, ecosystem assessments, marine environmental baseline assessments, coastal-ocean circulation, and oceanographic and atmospheric research. In FY 2013, funding will provide approximately 2,586 Base Funded Days-at-Sea¹ to support NOAA's highest priority programs. This funding also supports OMAO's Marine Operations Center (MOC), the NOAA Commissioned Corps, and OMAO Headquarters which provide regional fleet management, maintenance, stores, supplies, repair facilities, data-processing facilities, operational support, and administrative support for NOAA's vessels. Atlantic and Pacific regional offices are located in Norfolk, Virginia, and the recently dedicated Newport, Oregon facility, respectively. NOAA's Commissioned Corps is the Nation's seventh uniformed service. Three-hundred and twenty-one NOAA Corps officers support the fleet and NOAA Line Offices. The officers of the NOAA Corps command NOAA's research and survey vessels, fly NOAA's hurricane hunters and environmental monitoring aircraft, support field operations and serve in a variety of technical and management positions throughout the agency.

OMAO Headquarters is located in Silver Spring, Maryland and is responsible for OMAO-wide executive direction and oversight of policies and procedures, development of plans and budgets, and management of NOAA Commissioned Personnel. Headquarters also manages the NOAA Dive Program, Small Boat Program, and Teacher at Sea Program. The Dive Program provides diver training, safety standards, certification, technical advice, a standardized equipment program, and publishes the NOAA Diving Manual. NOAA's 400 divers perform approximately over 15,000 dives annually in support of NOAA's programs. The Small Boat Program is designed to reduce risk, promote standardization, and enhance the safety of NOAA's small boats. NOAA maintains over 400 small boats, which are operated and funded within the Line Office programs. The Teacher at Sea Program supports teachers at the kindergarten through college level on NOAA vessels working with NOAA scientists. The teachers provide a valuable connection between NOAA and their students.

AVIATION OPERATIONS

OMAO's Aircraft Operations Center (AOC), located at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, operates NOAA's Aircraft Fleet in support of NOAA's mission of science, service, and stewardship. The aircraft operate throughout the United States and around the world; over open oceans, mountains, coastal wetlands, and the Arctic. AOC provides capable, mission-ready aircraft and professional crews to study global climate change and air quality, assess marine mammal populations, survey coastal erosion, investigate oil spills, conduct coastal mapping, survey snowpack levels for flood prediction, and improve hur-

¹ Additional Days At Sea are funded through individual NOAA programs and occasionally other Federal agencies on a reimbursable basis.



ricane prediction models. AOC flight crews operate in some of the world's most demanding flight regimes including flying into the eye of a hurricane.

The Fleet is equipped with comprehensive data-collection systems in support of missions related to the Earth's environment, coastal and marine resources, and severe weather. OMAO also ensures that outsourced aviation operations are conducted safely by providing technical support, services and equipment to NOAA programs. In FY 2013, AOC will provide approximately 1,380 Base Funded Flight Hours² in support of NOAA's mission.

FY 2013 REQUEST**\$476,772,000**

NOAA requests a total of \$476,772,000 and 2,038 FTEs to support the continued and enhanced operations of Program Support. This includes the Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) and the Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC) accounts. This is an increase of \$9,671,000 and a decrease of 12 FTEs from the FY 2012 estimate. The total includes a decrease of \$560,000 and 12 FTEs in net program changes, as well as an increase of \$10,231,000 and 0 FTEs for Adjustments to Base (ATB).

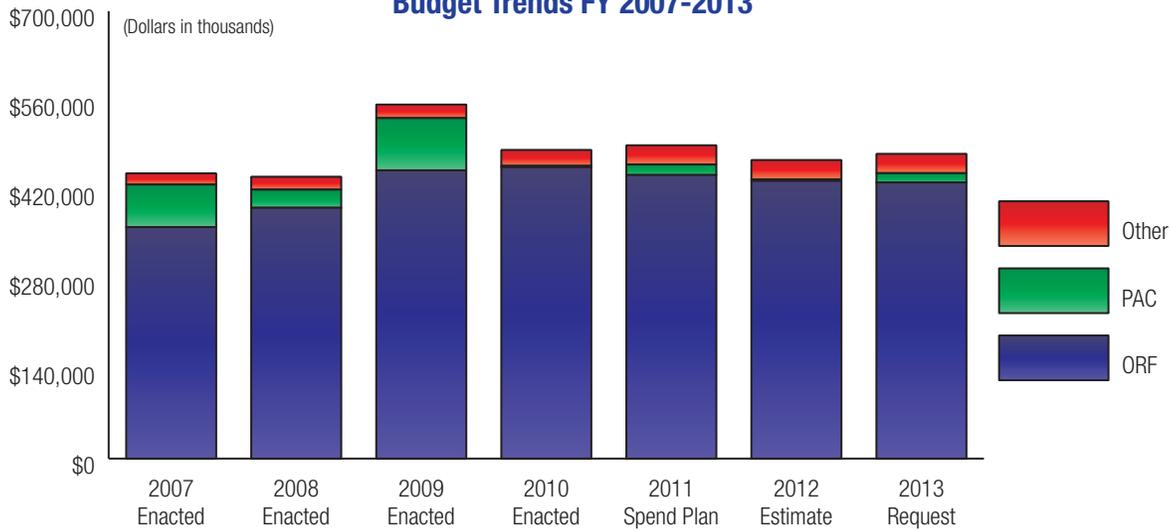
² Additional Flight Hours are funded through individual NOAA programs and occasionally other Federal agencies on a reimbursable basis.



PROGRAM SUPPORT

| (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS) | FY 2011 SPEND PLAN | FY 2012 ESTIMATE | FY 2013 REQUEST | INCREASE (DECREASE) |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| PS — ORF | | | | |
| Corporate Services | \$206,520 | \$202,032 | \$199,901 | (\$2,131) |
| NOAA Education Program | 24,950 | \$25,090 | 11,266 | (13,824) |
| Facilities | 29,029 | 24,422 | 24,535 | 113 |
| Office of Marine & Aviation Operations | 183,207 | 182,960 | 192,256 | 13,296 |
| Total Program Support - ORF | 443,706 | 434,504 | 431,958 | (2,546) |
| Total, PS - PAC | 16,367 | 2,392 | 14,609 | 12, 217 |
| Total, PS - Other | 30,087 | 30,205 | 30,205 | 0 |
| GRAND TOTAL PS (Direct Obligations) | \$490,160 | \$467,101 | \$476,772 | \$9,671 |
| Total FTE | 2,053 | 2,050 | 2,038 | (12) |

**PROGRAM SUPPORT
Budget Trends FY 2007-2013**



ORF: Operations, Research, and Facilities

PAC: Procurement, Acquisition, & Construction

Other: NOAA Corps Commissioned Officers Retirement (Mandatory) and Medicare Eligible Retiree Healthcare (Discretionary)



FY 2013 ORF BUDGET SUMMARY

NOAA requests a total of \$431,958,000 and 2,033 FTEs to support the continued and enhanced operations of Program Support. This is a decrease of \$2,546,000 and a decrease of 12 FTEs from the FY 2012 estimate. This reduction includes a decrease of \$12,777,000 in net program changes and a decrease of 12 FTEs, as well as an increase of \$10,231,000 and 0 FTEs for Adjustments to Base (ATB).

PS — ORF PROGRAM CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2013:

Select program changes (generally above \$500,000) are highlighted below at the sub-activity level. A summary of funding by Program, Project and Activity (PPA) is located in Chapter 9, Appendices. Detailed descriptions of all program changes by PPA are located in the NOAA FY 2013 Congressional Justification.

CORPORATE SERVICES

\$199,901,000

NOAA requests a decrease of \$1,840,000 and 0 FTEs for a total of \$199,901,000 and 949 FTEs under the Corporate Services sub-activity.

NOAA Wide Corporate Services & Agency Management Base: NOAA requests a decrease of \$479,000 and 0 FTEs. This is comprised of one increase and two decreases:

NOAA Wide Corporate Services & Agency Management Base: Acquisitions and Grants Management: NOAA requests an increase of \$740,000 and 0 FTEs to support acquisition and grants services for NOAA. The success of DOC/NOAAs acquisition and grants programs is dependent on the ability of NOAA AGO to successfully obligate funds, and provide oversight and administration of those funds. However, NOAA AGO has been dealing with a declining workforce while their workload and requirements remain unchanged. This increase will be used to augment the acquisition and grants workforce with contractor staff sufficient to ensure successful obligation of the volume of contractual and financial assistance actions. These resources will be used to support the workforce while other DOC and NOAA strategic sourcing initiatives mature, with the ultimate objective to reduce workload and refocus the workforce.

NOAA Wide Corporate Services and Agency Management Base: NOAA requests a decrease of \$784,000 and 0 FTEs. The Corporate Services and Agency Management base funds financial reporting, budgeting, information technology, acquisitions and grants, and human resources. NOAA will continue to fund these important services, however in order to continue to provide the level of resources needed to programs, NOAA will achieve savings, through increased labor lapse rates, termination of non-essential contracts, and/or reduced training, travel, supplies and other expenses.

Office of the Chief Information Officer: NOAA requests a decrease of \$1,255,000 and 0 FTEs. This is comprised of one decrease:

Office of the Chief Information Officer, Enterprise IT Security: NOAA requests a decrease of \$1,255,000 and 0 FTEs reflect reduced requirements in this line as NOAA moves to a new funding model for its enterprise IT security needs. The frequency, sophistication, and maliciousness of cyber attacks in NOAA are rapidly increas-



ing, and NOAA experiences thousands of attacks every month. NOAA is at risk for data integrity losses, network failures, and website compromises that have a significant probability of affecting the collection, processing, and dissemination of forecast and warning information to the public and other government institutions, leading to possible loss of life and property. Through the new model, the OCIO will centrally manage a portion of current Line Office IT investments, ensuring efficient and coordinated oversight of crucial enterprise wide IT security projects that will mitigate risks threatening NOAA's daily operations.

NOAA EDUCATION PROGRAM \$11,266,000

NOAA requests a decrease of \$13,824,000 and 12 FTEs to fund NOAA's Education Program. This is comprised of two decreases and four terminations:

NOAA Education Program Base: NOAA requests a decrease of \$6,324,000 and 12 FTEs to fund NOAA's Office of Education and the Educational Partnership Program for Minority Serving Institutions. NOAA's Office of Education works to educate the public on issues related to NOAA's mission and is strongly committed to supporting the Administration's STEM education priority. Through programs like the Educational Partnership Program (EPP), this office strives to develop a future workforce in disciplines related to NOAA sciences. This decrease includes a reduction of \$2,561,000 for a total of \$10,000,000 for the Educational Partnership Program; a reduction of \$3,107,000 to terminate NOAA's Competitive Education Grant Program and a reduction of \$656,000 for a total of \$1,266,000 for the Education Program Base, reducing program administration commensurate with these Office of Education program reductions. In FY 2013, The NOAA Office of Education will continue its work in educating the public about ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, atmospheric science and stewardship. Specifically, the NOAA Education Program will award 9 scholarships in the EPP Undergraduate Scholarship Program, fund 4 Graduate Science Awards, award 4 Cooperative Science Centers Cooperative Agreements and over 100 Hollings Scholarships, and continue interagency coordination of STEM activities.



Teachers on the Estuary educators gain hands-on experience in field-based science at the Narragansett Bay NERR, Rhode Island.

NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Regional Program: NOAA requests a decrease of \$5,500,000 and 0 FTE for B-WET. With these funds NOAA supported Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) through competitive funding to local and state education offices and government agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations. NOAA is not requesting funds for B-WET in the FY 2013 President's Budget. In FY 2013, NOAA will continue to provide watershed educational experiences for students through other programs, including National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves.

Ocean Education Partnerships: NOAA requests a decrease of \$1,000,000 and 0 FTEs. With these funds NOAA provided competitive grants to aquariums and their partners to build capacity within that community for effectively communicating ocean literacy and related topics that are relevant to NOAA's mission. NOAA is not requesting funds for Ocean Education Partnerships in the FY 2013 President's Budget.



Geographic Literacy: NOAA requests a decrease of \$1,000,000 and 0 FTEs. With these funds NOAA provided competitive grants to support the integration of NOAA assets into geography education. NOAA is not requesting funds for Geographic Literacy in the FY 2013 President's Budget.

MARINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

\$166,015,000

NOAA requests an increase of \$817,000 and 0 FTEs for a total of \$166,015,000 and 926 FTEs under the Marine Operations and Maintenance sub-activity. This is comprised of one increase and one decrease:

Marine Operations and Maintenance: NOAA requests an increase of \$1,017,000 and 0 FTEs for environmental compliance activities. A number of maritime environmental regulations have gone into effect, including stricter emissions requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and stricter discharge requirements from the United States Coast Guard (USCG). These new regulations will require changes to the existing ship fleet to ensure compliance is maintained and monetary fines are avoided. Proactively ensuring compliance with these new environmental regulations will allow NOAA to maintain its position as a leader in environmental stewardship and in executing the Administration's energy priorities.

Marine Operations and Maintenance: NOAA requests a decrease of \$200,000 and 0 FTEs for the closure of the Charleston Homeport. NOAA proposes to consolidate the Charleston, South Carolina homeport with the Marine Operations Center and homeport in Norfolk, Virginia. Charleston, SC is currently home to NOAA Ships *Ronald H. Brown* and *Nancy Foster* and their crews, a port captain and a port engineer. The ships and their crews, along with employees of the port office, will be relocated to Norfolk, VA. This relocation will enable NOAA to increase the efficiency of the fleet and NOAA will strive to minimize disruption to staff and missions. The consolidated location will improve training, logistics and fleet maintenance and will eliminate dredging costs of \$150,000 required every three years.



Marine Operations Center, Atlantic in Norfolk, VA

AVIATION OPERATIONS

\$30,241,000

NOAA requests an increase of \$1,992,000 and 0 FTEs for a total of \$30,241,000 and 104 FTEs under the Aircraft Operations sub-activity. This is comprised of one increase:

Aircraft Operations: NOAA requests an increase of \$1,992,000 and 0 FTEs to increase operations supporting hurricane research and reconnaissance, snow survey, ocean winds, and winter storms observations. This funding will provide an additional 595 Flight Hours of critical *in-situ* observations supporting NOAA's mission to promote global environmental assessment, prediction and stewardship of the Earth's environment. The flight hours will support hurricane reconnaissance and research missions aimed at improving hurricane intensity forecasts including the only three tail mounted Doppler radars in the world on the WP-3 and G-IV. Additional hours will provide observations necessary for accurate and reliable winter storm warnings and forecasts. It will also support snow pack surveys that allow water managers and forecasters to more accurately



NOAA 51RF performing snow survey



predict spring melts to meet industrial, agricultural, and human needs. International partners rely on the ocean winds observations to conduct satellite ocean wind sensor calibration and validations. In return, our partners provide ocean wind data that is used to improve hurricane

FY 2013 PAC BUDGET SUMMARY

NOAA requests a total of \$14,609,000 and 5 FTEs to support the Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) of Program Support. This is an increase of \$12,217,000 and an increase of 0 FTEs from the FY 2012 estimate. This increase includes \$12,217,000 in net program changes and \$0 and 0 FTEs for Adjustments to Base (ATB).

PS – PAC PROGRAM CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2013:

Select program changes (generally above \$500,00) are highlighted below at the sub-activity level. A summary of funding by Program, Project and Activity (PPA) is located in Chapter 9, Appendices. Detailed descriptions of all program changes by PPA are located in the NOAA FY 2013 Congressional Justification.

OMAO FLEET REPLACEMENT \$14,609,000

NOAA requests an increase of \$12,217,000 and 0 FTEs for a total of \$14,609,000. This is comprised of two increases:

| (BA IN THOUSANDS) | FY 2013 REQUEST | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 |
|--|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Major Repair Period for Thomas Jefferson | \$11,712 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Fleet Capital Improvements and Technology Infusion: NOAA requests an increase of \$10,712,000 and 0 FTEs for NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* Major Repair Period (MRP). The *Thomas Jefferson*, a work horse within the NOAA hydrographic survey fleet, is currently the only NOAA ship conducting hydrographic surveys in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Originally a U.S. Navy anti-submarine warfare platform, the *Thomas Jefferson's* efficiency at slower speed, varied sonar configurations, and Hydrographic Survey Launches capabilities make the ship an excellent multi-platform hydrographic survey vessel. The proposed MRP will provide the necessary capital investments in ship board systems, in-situ observing mission equipment, and crew safety measures to extend the ship's useful life and to allow OMAO to continue to operate the *Thomas Jefferson* in a safe and efficient manner. Lack of regular capital investment may ultimately lead to the premature retirement of the *Thomas Jefferson*.



NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*



| (BA IN THOUSANDS) | FY 2013 REQUEST | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| New Vessel Construction FSV6 | \$2,897 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

OMAO Fleet Replacement: NOAA requests an increase of \$1,505,000 and 0 FTEs for the Fisheries Survey Vessel 6 Acquisition. The NOAA Ship *Reuben Lasker* (FSV6) will be among the most advanced fisheries survey vessels in the world. The ship will support fishery-independent surveys for NOAA stock assessments and protected species status reviews required by the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA) at NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center. NOAA requests funds for activities to complete preliminary ship delivery and final acceptance including post-shipyard testing, performance of initial operations and contract close out. A total of \$79,843,000 was provided in the FY 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the detailed design and construction. The request is consistent with the acquisition funding profile approved prior to contract award.

MANDATORY FUNDS

NOAA CORPS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS RETIREMENT

The retirement system for the uniformed services provides a measure of financial security after release from active duty for service members and their survivors. It is an important factor in the choice of a career in the uniformed services and is mandated by Federal statutes under Title 10, United States Code. NOAA transfers retirement pay funds to the Coast Guard, which handles the payment function for retirees and annuitants. Health care funds for non-Medicare-eligible retirees, dependents, and annuitants are transferred to the U.S. Public Health Service, which administers the health care program.

MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTHCARE FUND CONTRIBUTION

The FY 2003 Department of Defense Authorization Act requires all uniformed services, including NOAA, to participate in an accrual fund for Medicare-eligible retirees. Payments into this accrual fund will cover the future health care benefits of present, active-duty NOAA officers and their dependents and annuitants.

