

# SAFETY BOATS

## DESCRIPTION

This program will provide a watercraft from which personnel can monitor small craft training. The craft will possess integrated communication and navigational systems to provide its crew the necessary situational awareness to respond to and aid disabled craft and injured personnel. The craft provides easy access from the water to its deck by combat-laden casualties. It also has sufficient deck space for the treatment of casualties during transport, or for the surge transport of passengers in the event a raid craft becomes disabled. Its 30+-knot speed also permits the rapid evacuation of casualties that have sustained life-threatening injuries.

## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Reconnaissance units and infantry boat companies are required to focus on training of an amphibious nature. A safety

boat and crew must be present when these units are conducting various combinations of small boat training, surface swims, and combatant diving, to properly supervise the safety of this training or to expeditiously medevac an injured Marine or diver to a medical facility. Historically, when the craft used for the safety boat mission have not been large or fast enough, units often purchased non-standard boats to meet their requirements. The Raid/Open Water Safety Boat will provide every reconnaissance unit with a uniform safety boat.

## PROGRAM STATUS

The Marine Corps purchased three concept evaluation boats in FY 2002. Procurement funding for the crafts has been deferred to FY 2006. Initial operational capability is planned for FY 2006, with full operational capability a year later.

### PROCUREMENT PROFILE

Procurement is expected to begin during FY 2006.

### DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

TBD