



Coast Guard Cutter Kathleen Moore. Photo courtesy of Bollinger Shipyards, LLC.

Acquisition Update: Ninth Fast Response Cutter Delivered to the Coast Guard

March 28, 2014

The U.S. Coast Guard on March 28, 2014, accepted delivery of Coast Guard Cutter Kathleen Moore, the ninth vessel in the Coast Guard's Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter recapitalization project, in Key West, Fla. Kathleen Moore is the third of six FRCs to be homeported in Key West, Fla., and will be commissioned into service May 10, 2014. It will support operations in the Seventh Coast Guard District, an area comprised of 1.8 million square nautical miles of ocean ranging from the South Carolina coast to the Caribbean.

To date, eight FRCs have been commissioned into service. The eighth FRC, Charles Sexton, was commissioned March 8, 2014. The Coast Guard plans to acquire 58 FRCs to replace the service's 110-foot Island Class patrol boat fleet, which range in age from 22 to 29 years old. Nine FRCs are currently in production at Bollinger Shipyards in Lockport, La. The Coast Guard has ordered 24 FRCs to date.

The Sentinel-class FRC project is representative of the Coast Guard's disciplined approach to rebuild its surface fleet. It has a flank speed of 28 knots and a 2,500 hours per year operational employment target. It uses state-of-the-market command, control, communications and computer technology interoperable with the Coast Guard's existing and future assets, as well as Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense assets.

The cutter's namesake is Lighthouse Keeper Kathleen Moore. Her father became keeper of the Black Rock Harbor lighthouse on Fayerweather Island near Bridgeport, Conn., in 1816. Moore would stand her first watch at the lighthouse in 1824 at the age of 12 and would soon take over all duties at the Black Rock Harbor lighthouse due to her father's continuing ill health. However, she would not receive her official appointment as head

keeper until 1871. She retired in 1878 and is credited with saving 21 lives during her tenure.