

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Completes Fast Response Cutter Electronics Training Facility

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The Coast Guard began holding classes May 26, 2015, at an \$8 million addition to the national security cutter C4ISR training building at Training Center Petaluma in California, where crews will gain virtual experience using the fast response cutters' command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment across a wide spectrum of potential operational conditions and scenarios.

The new FRC training wing houses classrooms, offices and a full set of the C4ISR equipment and software found on each cutter. The new wing provides a new permanent home for the training mockup that had been previously installed in a temporary facility. Planning for the facility began in 2010.



Fast response cutter crewmembers have started classes at the Coast Guard's new FRC C4ISR training wing in Petaluma, California, to gain experience with the ship's command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

The new training facility provides more than just basic experience using sensors, communications, weapons systems and other equipment. Classroom instruction and simulator training gives crews experience with daily tasks and procedures on a cutter and teaches them to work as a team to accomplish objectives. The training simulator also provides a low-risk environment where students can make mistakes and learn from them without disrupting a real operation.

The 154-foot FRCs are replacing the aging 110-foot Island-class patrol boats and were designed for missions including ports, waterways and coastal security; drug and migrant interdiction; search and rescue; and other law enforcement and defense readiness missions. The Coast Guard is acquiring 58 FRCs; 13 of the cutters are currently in service. The FRC C4ISR suite features advanced communications equipment that allows for more efficient coordination with other Coast Guard units, government agencies and foreign partners.