



The fast response cutter Richard Dixon (right) docks for the first time in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 24, 2015, next to Coast Guard Cutter Drummond (left), one of the 110-foot Island-class patrol boats the FRCs are replacing. Richard Dixon is the first of six FRCs to be stationed in San Juan. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Allen Harker.

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### **Acquisition Update: 13th Fast Response Cutter Arrives At San Juan Home Port**

July 1, 2015

The 13th fast response cutter, Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon, arrived at its home port of San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 24, 2015. The cutter is the first of six FRCs planned to be stationed in San Juan.

Richard Dixon arrived after a 1,500-nautical mile trip from Tampa, Florida, where the cutter was commissioned June 20, 2015.

Representatives of Coast Guard Project Resident Office Lockport, Bollinger Shipyards and Kemplon Engineering were present to greet the crew and begin warranty support of the ship. The PRO has prepared more than 3,000 parts and equipment items to support the six FRCs to be stationed in San Juan. Upon Richard Dixon's arrival, they immediately began the work to support the cutter and the five other incoming FRCs.

“We are excited to welcome Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon, Sector San Juan's first fast response cutter, to the island of Puerto Rico. The homeporting of fast response cutters at Sector San Juan will significantly enhance our ability to counter the evolving safety, security and law enforcement threats in our region, as the cutters' new communications and operational capabilities are brought to bear,” said Capt. Robert Warren, commanding officer of Sector San Juan. “The move also highlights the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to the citizens of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and our continued investment and contribution to the safety and security of the

Eastern Caribbean.”

The Coast Guard is acquiring 58 FRCs to patrol the near-offshore environment and replace the 110-foot Island-class patrol cutters, which entered service in the 1980s. Compared to the Island-class cutters, the FRCs feature more advanced command and control equipment, improved seakeeping and habitability, and faster cutter boat deployment via stern launch. The FRCs are 154 feet long, have a range of 2,950 miles and a maximum speed of more than 28 knots.

There are currently 32 FRCs under contract. The 14th FRC and second for San Juan, Heriberto Hernandez, is scheduled for delivery later this summer.