



The 14th fast response cutter, Heriberto Hernandez, undergoes acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico. The cutter will be the second FRC stationed in San Juan, Puerto Rico. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Frank Tatu.

Acquisition Update: 14th Fast Response Cutter Delivered To Coast Guard

July 31, 2015

The Coast Guard accepted delivery of the 14th fast response cutter, Heriberto Hernandez, in Key West, Florida, July 30.

The cutter is scheduled for commissioning in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in October. The ship will be the second FRC stationed in San Juan, joining Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon, which arrived at its new home port earlier this month.

FRCs are designed to patrol the near-offshore environment and conduct missions including ports, waterways and coastal security; drug and migrant interdiction; law enforcement; search and rescue; and defense readiness. They come equipped with advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems and also feature improved seakeeping and habitability compared to the Island-class patrol boats they replace.

The 14th FRC is named after Heriberto Hernandez, who served as a fireman aboard the 82-foot Coast Guard Cutter Point Cypress as part of Operation Market Time during the Vietnam War. Hernandez was fatally wounded during cutter boat operations on Vietnam's Ca Mau Peninsula Dec. 5, 1968, and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal with the combat "V" device for his professional skill and courage under enemy fire.

The Coast Guard is acquiring 58 FRCs, 32 of which are under contract. Thirteen FRCs

are in service: six in Miami; six in Key West, Florida; and one in San Juan. An additional 12 FRCs are under production.