



The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos mans the rail during the cutter's commissioning ceremony at Sector San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 26, 2016. The ship is the Coast Guard's 18th fast response cutter and sixth FRC in San Juan. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Eric D. Woodall.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Commissions 18th Fast Response Cutter

Aug. 26, 2016

The Coast Guard commissioned its 18th fast response cutter, Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, today.

The cutter is the sixth FRC stationed in San Juan. An additional 12 FRCs are in service in Florida, six in Key West and six in Miami.

The 18th FRC was named after Ensign Joseph Tezanos who, as a petty officer second class, rescued sailors after a tank landing ship exploded causing a chain reaction throughout a fleet moored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, May 21, 1944. Tezanos commandeered a rescue vessel and risked his life to save more than 40 men both in the water and on the burning ships. For his actions, Tezanos received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and a Coast Guard commendation letter.

The Coast Guard is acquiring 58 FRCs to patrol the near-offshore environment and conduct critical missions, including search and rescue; drug and migrant interdiction; ports, waterways, and coastal security; fishery patrols; and national defense. Thirty-eight have been ordered.

The 154-foot vessels are replacing the 1980s-era Island-class 110-foot patrol boats and feature new command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; standardized cutter boat deployment from astern or via side davits; and improved habitability and seakeeping.

The next FRC will be stationed in Cape May, New Jersey. Commissioning is planned for November.