



Coast Guard Cutter Charles David Jr was commissioned at Coast Guard Sector Key West, Fla., Nov. 16. The cutter is the first Fast Response Cutter to be homeported at Sector Key West and is the seventh FRC to be delivered to the Coast Guard. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Barney.



Rear Adm. Jake Korn, Coast Guard Seventh District commander; Sharon David, granddaughter of the cutter's namesake and sponsor of the Coast Guard Cutter Charles David Jr; and Chris Bollinger, president of Bollinger Shipyards; look at information about Charles W. David Jr. before the commissioning ceremony. Steward's Mate 1st Class Charles David Jr. was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his part in saving the lives of nearly 100 U.S. Army soldiers and members of his own crew during World War II. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Barney.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Commissions Seventh Fast Response Cutter into Service

Nov. 16, 2013

Coast Guard Cutter Charles David Jr was commissioned into service Nov. 16 at Coast Guard Sector Key West, Fla. Charles David Jr is the first of six Fast Response Cutters (FRC) to be homeported in Key West and the seventh vessel to be delivered through the Coast Guard's Sentinel-class FRC recapitalization project.

The cutter's namesake, Steward's Mate 1st Class Charles W. David Jr., was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Immortal Chaplains Prize for Humanity for his heroism during the 1943 rescue of survivors from the torpedoed Army transport ship *Dorchester*.

The night of Feb. 3, 1943, the *Comanche* was on convoy duty in the North Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Greenland when it was called to the aid of the *Dorchester*, which had been attacked by an enemy submarine and was rapidly sinking. When survivors were spotted, David and several shipmates volunteered to dive into the frigid North Atlantic and saved nearly 100 soldiers and many of the *Dorchester's* crew. When *Comanche's* executive officer, Lt. Langford Anderson, feeling the effects of hypothermia and exhaustion, was unable to return to the cutter, David plunged into the water again and helped him aboard. David succumbed to pneumonia three days later, leaving behind a widow and a young son.

Charles David Jr is 154 feet long, has a beam of 25 feet and a maximum sustained speed of more than 28 knots. The cutter is armed with a stabilized 25-millimeter machine-gun mount and four crew-served .50-caliber machine guns. *Charles David Jr* will provide 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.