

## **Acquisition Update: 13th Fast Response Cutter Delivered To Coast Guard**

April 17, 2015

The Coast Guard accepted delivery of the 13th Sentinel-class fast response cutter, Richard Dixon, in Key West, Florida, April 14. The cutter will be the first of six FRCs based in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Richard Dixon is scheduled for commissioning in Tampa, Florida, in June 2015 before traveling to its home port.

Capt. Robert Warren, the commander of Sector San Juan, described the arrival of fast response cutters at San Juan as a “game-changer,” adding, “Their enhanced communications, pursuit and weapons capabilities in addition to increased at-sea endurance and seakeeping will significantly improve our ability to counter the evolving security and law enforcement threats in our region.”

The FRC is 154 feet long, has a range of 2,950 nautical miles and can travel faster than 28 knots. Each FRC features upgraded command and control systems that are interoperable with both other Coast Guard assets and other federal agencies’ systems. The FRC also includes an over the horizon-IV cutter boat and stern launch system to extend the cutter’s reach for interdictions, law enforcement boardings, and search and rescue cases.

The ship is named after Richard Dixon, who as a coxswain on a motor lifeboat in Tillamook Bay, Oregon, led two successful rescues during the weekend of July 4, 1980. Dixon and his crew first rescued the five-person crew of a yacht caught in a storm and, the next day, rescued the two-person crew of another boat in distress. Dixon retired a senior chief petty officer and was awarded two Coast Guard Medals for the rescues.

The Coast Guard is acquiring 58 FRCs to replace its 110-foot patrol boats, which entered service in the 1980s. Thirty-two FRCs have been ordered so far. Twelve FRCs are in service: six in Miami and six in Key West; 11 additional FRCs are under production.