



Crewmembers of Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon salute after taking their stations during the ship's commissioning ceremony in Tampa, Florida, June 20, 2015. Richard Dixon is Puerto Rico's first fast response cutter. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Ashley J. Johnson.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Commissions 13th Fast Response Cutter

June 22, 2015

The Coast Guard commissioned Richard Dixon, the 13th fast response cutter and the first FRC to be based in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 20, 2015, in Tampa, Florida.

The 13th FRC is named after Senior Chief Petty Officer Richard Dixon, who as a 44-foot motor lifeboat coxswain at Station Tillamook Bay, Oregon, led two daring rescues the weekend of July 4, 1980, saving nine people. Dixon was awarded two Coast Guard Medals for his heroic actions that weekend.

Dixon's wife, Virginia Dixon, served as the ship's sponsor. Ron Valiquette, the owner and operator of the yacht Dixon and his crew escorted to safety during the first of the two rescues, presented a long glass to the crew as part of the tradition of setting the first watch.

The FRC is designed to patrol coastal zones to complete missions including drug and migrant interdiction; ports, waterways and coastal security; fishery patrols; search and rescue; and national defense. Each FRC is 154 feet long and has a range of 2,950 nautical miles. The FRCs feature new command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment along with improved habitability and seakeeping compared to the 110-foot Island-class patrol boats they are replacing.

The Coast Guard is acquiring 58 FRCs and has ordered 32 to date. Cutters 14 through 25

are currently under production. The next five FRCs – No. 14 through 18 – will also be stationed in San Juan.