



The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Heriberto Hernandez salutes the official party during the cutter's commissioning at Coast Guard Sector San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oct. 16, 2015. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jon-Paul Rios.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Commissions 14th Fast Response Cutter

Oct. 19, 2015

The Coast Guard commissioned the 14th fast response cutter, Heriberto Hernandez, in a ceremony in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oct. 16. The cutter is the second FRC to be stationed in San Juan and the first to be commissioned there.

The cutter is named after Heriberto Segovia Hernandez, who served as a fireman aboard Coast Guard Cutter Point Cypress during the Vietnam War. Hernandez was fatally wounded when enemy forces opened fire on his cutter boat during a reconnaissance patrol up the Rach Nang River Dec. 5, 1968. He was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal with the combat "V" device for his professional skill and courage under enemy fire.

During the ceremony, retired Lt. j.g. Gordon Gillies presented a long glass to the crew. Gillies served as executive officer of Point Cypress and was injured alongside Hernandez during the reconnaissance patrol. Hernandez's mother, Juanita Segovia, served as ship sponsor.

"I am very thankful to the Coast Guard for remembering my son and what he did when he served," said Segovia said. "However, I miss him dearly and know that nothing on this earth can bring him back to me. I am glad his memory is still alive after all these years."

The FRC is designed to patrol coastal zones and conduct missions such as drug and migrant interdiction; ports, waterways and coastal security; fishery patrols; search and

rescue; and national defense. The 154-foot FRCs have a range of 2,950 nautical miles and feature stern cutter boat launch; advanced command, control, communication, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; and improved seakeeping and habitability. They are replacing the service's 110-foot patrol boats, which entered service in the 1980s.

The Coast Guard is acquiring 58 FRCs. In addition to the two now operating in San Juan, there are six in service in Miami and six in Key West, Florida. The 15th FRC is scheduled for delivery later this month; the Coast Guard has ordered 32 FRCs to date.