



The 20th fast response cutter, Lawrence Lawson, was delivered to the Coast Guard in Key West, Florida, Oct. 20, 2016. The cutter will be the second FRC stationed in Cape May, New Jersey. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Lt. Cmdr. Joe Rizzo.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard Accepts 20th Fast Response Cutter

Oct. 21, 2016

The Coast Guard accepted delivery of the 20th fast response cutter (FRC), Lawrence Lawson, in Key West, Florida, Oct. 20.

The ship will be the second FRC stationed in Cape May, New Jersey, and is scheduled for commissioning in early 2017. It was delivered with zero discrepancies for the Coast Guard to address between acceptance trials and acceptance of the ship, demonstrating improved efficiency and stability in the production process.

The cutter is named after Lawrence Lawson, who, as keeper of the Evanston, Illinois, Lifeboat Station, led the rescue of 18 crewmembers from the foundering steam vessel Calumet on Nov. 28, 1889. After two failed attempts to fire a rescue line in icy conditions, Lawson launched a surfboat and led his crew through three trips through the breakers to fully evacuate the ship. For his leadership, Lawson received the Gold Lifesaving Medal on Oct. 17, 1890.

The Coast Guard is obtaining 58 FRCs to patrol coastal regions and replace the 1980s-era 110-foot Island-class patrol boats. The cutters are 154 feet long, with endurance for five days. They feature advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; the ability to launch and recover standardized cutter boats from astern or via side davits; and improved seakeeping and habitability.

Of the 38 FRCs ordered, 18 are in service: six in Key West, six in Miami, and six in San Juan. The 19th FRC is scheduled for commissioning in November and will be the first FRC stationed in Cape May. The FRC is complemented by the national security cutter (NSC), which serves in the open ocean, and will later be accompanied by the offshore patrol cutter, which will bridge the capabilities of the FRC and NSC.