



Fast Response Cutter Laydown

Report to Congress
November 15, 2023



U.S. Coast Guard

Foreword

November 15, 2023

I am pleased to present the following report, “Fast Response Cutter Laydown,” prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 directs the submission of a study on the laydown of the Coast Guard’s Fast Response Cutters to assess Coast Guard mission readiness and to identify areas of need for asset coverage.

Pursuant to Congressional requirements, this report is provided to the following members of Congress:



The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, or your staff may contact my Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L L Fagan".

Linda L. Fagan
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant



Fast Response Cutter Laydown

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I. Legislative Language

This report responds to the language set forth in Section 11209 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-263), which reads:

SEC. 11209. STUDY ON LAYDOWN OF COAST GUARD CUTTERS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study on the laydown of Coast Guard Fast Response Cutters to assess Coast Guard mission readiness and to identify areas of need for asset coverage.

II. Background

Fast Response Cutters

The 154-foot Sentinel class cutter, also known as the Fast Response Cutter (FRC), is a key component of the Coast Guard’s multi-mission cutter fleet that can deploy independently to conduct operations including ports, waterways, and coastal security (PWCS); counter-drug interdiction (CD); migrant interdiction (MI); living marine resources (LMR) enforcement; other law enforcement (OLE); search and rescue (SAR); and defense readiness (DR). FRCs offer enhanced range, speed, sea-keeping, defense, and command and control capabilities as compared to their predecessors, the 110-foot Island class cutter. Completion of the FRC program will improve long-term capacity and capability to effectively execute Coast Guard missions in coastal zones and adjacent offshore waters. Furthermore, FRCs support Coast Guard emerging missions, notably in Oceania and the Indo-Pacific, with expanded expeditionary capability to deploy to more remote regions.

Through Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, Congressional appropriations funded acquisition of the full FRC Program of Record (POR) and related costs. Future appropriations are required to fund program management, post-delivery activities, and other acquisition costs associated with delivering a fully operational fleet. The FRC POR is 65, of which the Coast Guard determined 64¹ will be operational. As of July 2023, the Coast Guard accepted 54 FRCs.

Areas of Responsibilities

FRCs are typically assigned under Operational Control (OPCON) of Coast Guard District Commanders or Combatant Commanders. OPCON authorities may delegate Tactical Control of assigned FRCs to operational sub-units (e.g., Sectors) to direct the execution of on-scene operations within their area of responsibility.

Table 1 lists the Coast Guard Districts and Combatant Commands that will have FRCs under their OPCON once the full POR is fielded.

Table 1: Coast Guard Districts and Combatant Commands with FRCs

Coast Guard Districts	Combatant Commands
District 1 (<i>Northeast/New England</i>)	Central Command (<i>Middle East</i>)
District 5 (<i>Mid-Atlantic</i>)	
District 7 (<i>Southeast and Caribbean</i>)	
District 8 (<i>Gulf Coast</i>)	
District 11 (<i>South Pacific Coast</i>)	
District 13 (<i>Pacific Northwest</i>)	
District 14 (<i>Pacific</i>)	
District 17 (<i>Alaska</i>)	

¹ One ship, Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) *Benjamin Dailey* (WPC 1123), was severely damaged in a shipyard fire in December 2021. Coast Guard subject matter experts determined that repair of the vessel was not feasible. If repaired, the cutter would not have fulfilled its expected service life and would have incurred higher operational costs. CGC *Benjamin Dailey* has been de-commissioned.

III. Report

Fast Response Cutter Laydown²

The Coast Guard assesses mission readiness and coverage demands through fleet mix analyses, the Standard Operational Planning Process (SOPP), and Global Force Management (GFM) cycles. The fleet mix analyses use quantitative methods to evaluate long-term force structure needs. For near-term planning, recurring SOPP/GFM processes balance current force capacity, strategic objectives, and mission demands to allocate operational resources. The allocation and geographic distribution of operational resources is codified in a force laydown.

Based on our assessments, the Coast Guard's FRC laydown provides necessary capability and capacity across a broad array of maritime environments, and ensures assets and crews are appropriately supported to effectively execute Coast Guard missions. The Service continues to evaluate and manage competing demands to allocate FRCs as their utilization evolves and emerging mission requirements manifest to ensure continued success in domestic and expeditionary missions.

Homeport Decisions

The Coast Guard assigns cutters to homeports utilizing a deliberative process that aligns with delivery schedules of new cutters. In accordance with the Cutter Homeport Decision Process Manual, five specific criteria are used to objectively analyze potential homeport locations and support homeport decisions:

Mission Effectiveness and Navigation: Mission effectiveness incorporates operational requirements and objectives of the cutter class, while navigation compares available transit data to acceptable values for platform size and capabilities (e.g., channel depth, maneuvering room at the dock, bridge clearance, etc.). This criteria also considers distance to the patrol area and mission days capacity.

Support and Maintenance: This criteria calculates the value of available services and facilities, clustering capability, and necessary shore side expansion against logistical requirements for the number and class of cutter.

Local Support Infrastructure: This criteria focuses on the most significant elements for taking care of and retaining members (and their families) serving onboard cutters.

Environmental Impact: This criteria collates data from environmental planning conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and assessments of potential impacts on the surrounding area from construction and operations. It assesses long-term environmental impacts and short-term effects of developing required infrastructure.

Costs: This criteria focuses on estimated recurring and non-recurring expenses. Recurring costs include transit fuel, crew staffing, and facility maintenance costs, while nonrecurring costs consider facility construction.

² Laydown is a military term for a pattern of deployment.

The Coast Guard formally announced homeport locations for 60 FRCs. Table 2 lists the FRCs and homeport locations. Grey shading indicates future deliveries.

Table 2: List of FRCs and Homeport Locations

Hull	Name	Homeport	OPCON	Delivery Year
1101	<i>Bernard C. Webber</i>	Miami, FL	District 7	2012
1102	<i>Richard Etheridge</i>	Miami, FL	District 7	2012
1103	<i>William Flores</i>	Miami, FL	District 7	2012
1104	<i>Robert Yered</i>	Miami, FL	District 7	2012
1105	<i>Margaret Norvell</i>	Miami, FL	District 7	2013
1106	<i>Paul Clark</i>	Miami, FL	District 7	2013
1107	<i>Charles David Jr.</i>	Key West, FL	District 7	2013
1108	<i>Charles Sexton</i>	Key West, FL	District 7	2013
1109	<i>Kathleen Moore</i>	Key West, FL	District 7	2014
1110	<i>Raymond Evans</i>	Key West, FL	District 7	2014
1111	<i>William Trump</i>	Key West, FL	District 7	2014
1112	<i>Isaac Mayo</i>	Key West, FL	District 7	2015
1113	<i>Richard Dixon</i>	San Juan, PR	District 7	2015
1114	<i>Heriberto Hernandez</i>	San Juan, PR	District 7	2015
1115	<i>Joseph Napier</i>	San Juan, PR	District 7	2015
1116	<i>Winslow Griesser</i>	San Juan, PR	District 7	2015
1117	<i>Donald Horsley</i>	San Juan, PR	District 7	2016
1118	<i>Joseph Tezanos</i>	San Juan, PR	District 7	2016
1119	<i>Rollin Fritch</i>	Cape May, NJ	District 5	2016
1120	<i>Lawrence Lawson</i>	Cape May, NJ	District 5	2016
1121	<i>John McCormick</i>	Ketchikan, AK	District 17	2016
1122	<i>Bailey Barco</i>	Ketchikan, AK	District 17	2017
1123	<i>Benjamin Dailey*</i>	Pascagoula, MS	District 8	2017
1124	<i>Oliver Berry</i>	Honolulu, HI	District 14	2017
1125	<i>Jacob Poroo</i>	Pascagoula, MS	District 8	2017
1126	<i>Joseph Gerczak</i>	Honolulu, HI	District 14	2017
1127	<i>Richard Snyder</i>	Atlantic Beach, NC	District 5	2018
1128	<i>Nathan Bruckenthal</i>	Atlantic Beach, NC	District 5	2018
1129	<i>Forrest Rednour</i>	San Pedro, CA	District 11	2018
1130	<i>Robert Ward</i>	San Pedro, CA	District 11	2018
1131	<i>Terrell Horne</i>	San Pedro, CA	District 11	2018
1132	<i>Benjamin Bottoms</i>	San Pedro, CA	District 11	2019
1133	<i>Joseph Doyle</i>	San Juan, PR	District 7	2019
1134	<i>William Hart</i>	Honolulu, HI	District 14	2019
1135	<i>Angela McShan</i>	Cape May, NJ	District 5	2019
1136	<i>Daniel Tarr</i>	Galveston, TX	District 8	2019
1137	<i>Edgar Culbertson</i>	Galveston, TX	District 8	2020
1138	<i>Harold Miller</i>	Galveston, TX	District 8	2020

Hull	Name	Homeport	OPCON	Delivery Year
1139	<i>Myrtle Hazard</i>	Santa Rita, Guam	District 14	2020
1140	<i>Oliver Henry</i>	Santa Rita, Guam	District 14	2020
1141	<i>Charles Moulthrope</i>	Manama, Bahrain	CENTCOM	2020
1142	<i>Robert Goldman</i>	Manama, Bahrain	CENTCOM	2020
1143	<i>Frederick Hatch</i>	Santa Rita, Guam	District 14	2021
1144	<i>Glen Harris</i>	Manama, Bahrain	CENTCOM	2021
1145	<i>Emlen Tunnell</i>	Manama, Bahrain	CENTCOM	2021
1146	<i>John Scheuerman</i>	Manama, Bahrain	CENTCOM	2021
1147	<i>Clarence Sutphin Jr.</i>	Manama, Bahrain	CENTCOM	2022
1148	<i>Pablo Valent</i>	St. Petersburg, FL	District 7	2022
1149	<i>Douglas Denman</i>	Ketchikan/Sitka, AK**	District 17	2022
1150	<i>William Chadwick</i>	Boston, MA	District 1	2022
1151	<i>Warren Deyampert</i>	Boston, MA	District 1	2022
1152	<i>Maurice Jester</i>	Boston, MA	District 1	2023
1153	<i>John Patterson</i>	Boston, MA	District 1	2023
1154	<i>William Sparling</i>	Boston, MA	District 1	2023
1155	<i>Melvin Bell</i>	Boston, MA	District 1	2024
1156	<i>David Duren</i>	Astoria, OR	District 13	2024
1157	<i>Florence Finch</i>	Astoria, OR	District 13	2024
1158	<i>John Witherspoon</i>	Kodiak, AK	District 17	2025
1159	<i>Earl Cunningham</i>	Kodiak, AK	District 17	2025
1160	<i>Frederick Mann</i>	Kodiak/Seward, AK**	District 17	2025
1161	<i>Olivia Hooker</i>	TBD	TBD	2025
1162	<i>Vincent Danz</i>	TBD	TBD	2026
1163	<i>Jeffrey Palazzo</i>	TBD	TBD	2026
1164	<i>Marvin Perrett</i>	TBD	TBD	2026
1165	TBD	TBD	TBD	2026

*Cutter is being stored by the Maritime Administration pending formal decommissioning and disposal.

**First homeport listed is a temporary homeport. Cutter will transition to permanent homeport (second homeport listed) when ready.

Operational Impacts

The FRC laydown enables Operational Commanders to effectively employ these assets across diverse mission sets and far-reaching geographic locations. Representative examples of FRC operations are highlighted below:

Coast Guard Atlantic Area:

District One (Northeast/New England): Six FRCs are assigned to District One, with five delivered as of July 2023. These cutters conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, and OLE operations. Recently, CGC *William Chadwick* (WPC 1150) performed waterfront security during the 2023 Boston Marathon.

District Five (Mid-Atlantic): Five FRCs are assigned to District Five. These cutters conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, and OLE operations throughout the Mid-Atlantic seacoast. The CGC *Nathan Bruckenthal* (WPC 1128) recently deployed beyond the U.S. Economic Exclusive Zone to deter Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing on the high seas between the United States and Bermuda.

District Seven (Southeast and Caribbean): Twenty FRCs are assigned to District Seven. These cutters conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, CD, OLE, and MI operations, regularly patrolling the South Florida Straits and throughout the Caribbean. FRCs have been a critical asset in combating a recent surge of maritime migration in this area of operations. Recently, CGC *Heriberto Hernandez* (WPC 1114) repatriated 59 migrants to the Dominican Republic following the interdiction of two overloaded vessels in waters off the west coast of Puerto Rico.

District Eight (Gulf Coast): Five FRCs are assigned to District Eight, of which four are operational. These cutters conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, and OLE operations. CGC *Jacob Poroo* (WPC 1125) recently deployed to the Maritime Boundary Line between the United States and Mexico to detect and deter IUU fishing, which resulted in the interdiction of one Mexican flagged vessel suspected of illegally fishing in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and seizure of 3,600 yards of illegal long lining gear.

Coast Guard Pacific Area:

District Eleven (South Pacific Coast): Four FRCs are assigned to District Eleven. These cutters conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, CD, MI, and OLE operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. CGC *Forrest Rednour* (WPC 1129) recently returned from a 32-day patrol during which it seized over 5,000 pounds of cocaine (with an estimated value of \$96 million) off the coast of Mexico.

District Thirteen (Pacific Northwest): Two FRCs are assigned to District Thirteen and are scheduled to arrive in 2024. These cutters will conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, and OLE operations throughout the Pacific Northwest seacoast.

District Fourteen (Pacific): Six FRCs are assigned to District Fourteen. These cutters conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, OLE, and DR patrols. When conducting IUU fishing operations, these cutters routinely engage with partners across Oceania to combat aggressive and exploitative fishing practices. Recently, CGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) returned home from a 43-day routine deployment as part of Operation *Blue Pacific*, during which the cutter worked alongside partner nations to build maritime domain awareness and share best practices.

District Seventeen (Alaska): Six FRCs are assigned to Alaska, with three delivered as of July 2023. These cutters conduct LMR, SAR, PWCS, and OLE operations throughout the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. CGC *Bailey Barco* (WPC 1122) recently conducted a 27-day patrol to monitor commercial fishing vessels in the Gulf of Alaska, which resulted in 46 boardings and the referral of several fishery violations for illegal catch to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Law Enforcement.

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM):

Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (Middle East): Six FRCs are assigned to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet to conduct DR missions, including maritime interdiction and maritime domain awareness operations, under a Combined Task Force. CGC *Glen Harris* (WPC 1144) recently seized 2,980 kilograms of hashish and 320 kilograms of amphetamine tablets while patrolling the Gulf of Oman.

IV. Conclusion

The FRC is a proven asset and critical component of the Coast Guard's cutter fleet. These vessels bring enhanced capabilities and flexibility to the Service's system of aircraft, boats, cutters, and shore-based units that execute Coast Guard statutory missions across diverse geographical locations with a wide spectrum of operating conditions that include arctic and sub-tropical climates both domestically and abroad.

The Service recognizes expanding mission demand, most notably in the Indo-Pacific region, that may require additional assets, including FRCs, to provide increased Coast Guard and U.S. presence. The Coast Guard's FY 2024, Unfunded Priorities List requests \$400 million for procurement of four FRCs to further Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States through expanded presence and engagement to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Coast Guard continues to evaluate and provide analysis to support future fleet mix decisions in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security.

Appendix: Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Definition
CD	Counter-Drug Interdiction
CENTCOM	U.S. Central Command
CGC	Coast Guard Cutter
DR	Defense Readiness
FRC	Fast Response Cutter
FY	Fiscal Year
GFM	Global Force Management
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated
LMR	Living Marine Resources
MI	Migrant Interdiction
OLE	Other Law Enforcement
OPCON	Operational Control
POR	Program of Record
PWCS	Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security
SAR	Search and Rescue
SOPP	Standard Operational Planning Process
WPC	154-Foot Sentinel Class Cutter