



U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Joseph Gerczak* (WPC 1126) is the Coast Guard's 26th Fast Response Cutter (FRC) and 2nd FRC to be homeported in Honolulu, HI. Commissioned in Honolulu on March 9, 2018, *Joseph Gerczak* executes USCG statutory missions in the Coast Guard's Fourteenth District, to include combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Oceania. The cutter's namesake, Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Gerczak, was killed in action while defending USS LST-66 from Japanese bombers during an assault on Borgen Bay in New Britain, Papua New Guinea on December 26, 1943. Petty Officer 3rd Class Gerczak was the first to react when enemy bombing began and shot down two of the attackers before shrapnel from an explosion fatally wounded him. The Purple Heart and Silver Star were awarded to him posthumously.

Leadership:

Commanding Officer: LT Caitlin Piker

Hometown: West Hartford, Connecticut

Executive Officer: LTJG Frank Joslin

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Engineer Petty Officer: MKC Vincent Bucaneg

Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii

Recent Mission Highlights:

➤ **January 5-7, 2023:** assisted 10 mariners/towed CFV LUCKY TJ, a disabled CFV, for 200+nm/35-hours.

➤ **February 12-14, 2023:** first on-scene/responder to F/V EDEN BOUND (240nm SW of Oahu); assisted 2 mariners in distress and ensured their/vessel safety in unfavorable weather until being relieved on scene by USCGC *Oliver Berry*.

➤ **March 27 – April 9, 2023:** executed mini-expeditionary patrol ISO Op BLUE PACIFIC. Served as the first cutter to support the Memorandum of Arrangement (MOA) between the U.S. Coast Guard and Australian Border Force (ABF) Concerning the Exchange of Personnel by hosting Mr. Glenn Wells (ABF).

➤ **May 15-18, 2023:** first on-scene/responder to S/V GYPSEA (90nm N of Kauai). Ensured the safety of the disabled vessel for 3-days on-scene and rescued a mariner in distress/transported to EMS counterparts at U.S. Coast Guard Base Honolulu