USCGC Wahoo (WPB 87345)

Established: The 13th Coast Guard District officially commissioned the Coast Guard Cutter Wahoo on August 9, 2001.

The 87-foot coastal patrol boat is the 45th coastal patrol boat built by Bollinger Shipyard, in Lockport, La., and is the third to arrive in the Pacific Northwest, replacing the 82-foot Point Class Patrol Boats. It sailed 6400 nautical miles to reach its new homeport in Port Angeles, Wash. It is the second of two new 87-foot patrol boats stationed in Port Angeles.

The cutter brings with it money and time-saving technology such as updated bridge radar and controls, and more safety features including the rear-deploying small boat. The Wahoo also has the capability to support a co-ed crew.

The aluminum superstructure and steel hull and main deck are designed for a 25-year service life. The new design has several enhancements over the aging 82-foot patrol boats that it is replacing. Improvements include stability in open ocean (up to 8-foot seas), significantly upgraded habitability (allowing for a mixed-gender, 10-person crew with 11 berths max), 25-knot maximum speed, and compliance with all current and projected environmental protection laws.

The 87-footer employs an innovative stern launch and recovery system using an aluminum-hulled inboard diesel-powered water jet small boat.

What we do: The cutter’s missions include search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, marine environmental protection and homeland security.

The Wahoo is underway 1800 hours annually on average and its patrols last from one to five days. The cutters primary operational areas includes the Strait of Juan De Fuca, Puget Sound and the waters off the coasts of Washington and Oregon.

For more information on the Coast Guard visit the Internet at http://www.uscg.mil. For recruiting information call 1-877-NOW-USCG.