

# Coast Guard Commissions New Fast-Response Cutter in San Juan



The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle bring's the cutter to life during the ship's commissioning ceremony at Coast Guard Sector San Juan on June 8. Coast Guard/Seaman Erik Villa Rodriguez

SAN JUAN,

Puerto Rico – The Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle (WPC-1133) was commissioned

into service June 8 during a ceremony at U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Juan,

Puerto Rico, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The Joseph

Doyle is the 33rd fast-response cutter (FRC) to be commissioned in the Coast

Guard and the seventh to be assigned to Sector San Juan and homeported in

Puerto Rico.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Cuv0EFES4w>

“Today, we

make history as we welcome the USCGC Joseph Doyle, and Puerto Rico is now the sector

in the Coast Guard with the largest number of fast-response cutters,” said Rep.

Jennifer-González-Colón, who represents Puerto Rico in Congress. “I’m honored

to be the ship’s sponsor of this beautiful cutter and that it is also commanded

by a woman. This is part of the work we do in collaboration with the Coast

Guard, and other agencies, so Puerto Rico can have the

necessary resources to guarantee the safety of our coasts and combat illegal drug trafficking.”



Members of the armed forces and guests salute during the posting of colors as part of the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle commissioning ceremony. Coast Guard/Seaman Erik Villa Rodriguez

“It is an absolute honor to be the commanding officer of the Coast Guard’s 33rd fast-response cutter, but more importantly the seventh fast-response cutter in Puerto Rico,” Lt.

Catherine Gillen said. “My crew and I look forward to serving the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and keeping these beautiful islands safe.”

“Each fast response cutter represents an extraordinary resource [that] increases our search-and-rescue and other multimission capabilities in our area of responsibility,” said Capt. Eric King, commander of Coast Guard Sector San Juan. “The Joseph Doyle will contribute to strengthening the coastal security of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as the nation’s most southern maritime border.”

*“My crew and I look forward to serving the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and keeping these beautiful islands safe.”*

*Lt. Catherine Gillen, commanding officer of Cutter Joseph*

## *Doyle*

### Sentinel-class

FRCs are designed to conduct maritime drug interdiction, alien migrant interdiction, search and rescue, national defense, homeland security, living marine resource protection and other Coast Guard missions. They can deploy independently to execute Coast Guard missions and prevent potential threats from approaching the nation's shores and offers improved capabilities over the aging 110-foot Island-class patrol boats it replaces.



Lt. Catherine Gillen, commanding officer of the Doyle, addresses the audience and her crew during the cutter's commissioning ceremony June 8. Coast Guard/Seaman Erik Villa Rodriguez

The FRC is

part of the Coast Guard's layered approach to maritime security that also includes the national security cutter and the offshore patrol cutter. FRCs are 154 feet long with a beam of 25 feet, and they can reach a maximum sustained speed of 28 knots. They are armed with a 25 mm machine-gun mount and four .50-caliber machine guns.

Each FRC

is named for a Coast Guard hero who distinguished him or herself in the line of duty. The Cutter Doyle's namesake is Capt. Joseph O. Doyle. Born in 1836 and keeper of the Charlotte, New York, Life Saving Station starting in

1878, he achieved  
two impressive rescues that year.

*Today I have the honor of becoming the godmother of the most modern cutter in the Coast Guard that is assigned to Puerto Rico, the USCGC Joseph Doyle. This is part of the efforts with the [@USCG](#) and Captain King to strengthen the security of [#PuertoRico](#). [pic.twitter.com/60pS7LaYcx](https://pic.twitter.com/60pS7LaYcx)*

*– Jennifer González (@RepJennifer) [June 8, 2019](#)*

The first rescue  
was of the wreck of the schooner B.P. Dorr of Chicago, which  
was discovered on Sept.  
11, 1878. At 9:30 p.m. the ship stranded about one mile west  
of Doyle's station.  
The vessel was visible by the flare of a strong torch on board  
despite the  
rain. With the six men and the women on board, the vessel  
safely and swiftly  
was returned to the beach under the steady oar of the keeper.  
The second rescue  
in which Doyle showed his skill and bravery involved the wreck  
of the schooner  
Star of Millpoint, Ontario Canada, on Oct. 23, 1878.

Doyle was  
awarded the Gold Life Saving Medal for his actions in both  
rescues.