

USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)



W E L C O M E A B O A R D

U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)

WELCOME ABOARD

The **Boutwell**, named for George S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury under President Ulysses S. Grant, is one of the largest and most versatile cutters in the Coast Guard. This ship is the third Coast Guard cutter to bear the name "**Boutwell**," and is one of twelve HAMILTON Class High Endurance Cutters. It was built in 1968 by Avondale Shipyards, Inc. of New Orleans, Louisiana at a cost of 16 million dollars. The **Boutwell's** first homeport was Boston, in Secretary Boutwell's home state of Massachusetts. In August of 1973, the ship arrived at its present homeport of Seattle, Washington. The **Boutwell** berths at Coast Guard Support Center Seattle, when it is not deployed.

The **Boutwell** plays a primary role in the enforcement of U.S. laws and international treaties concerning the protection of U.S. fishing rights and the interests of American fishermen. The ship spends an average of three months each year patrolling the fertile fishing grounds of Alaska. The area of operations include the North Pacific from the Gulf of Alaska along the Aleutian Chain and into the Bering Sea as far north as St. Lawrence Island, often within 180 miles of the Soviet Union. Modern electronics equipment permits high speed communications enabling the **Boutwell** to maintain a watchful eye over foreign fishing activity.

In keeping with the Coast Guard's duties and functions as a branch of the Armed Forces, the **Boutwell's** armament and highly trained crew make it **SEMPER PARATUS (Always Ready)** to operate with the U.S. Navy whenever the President directs. Approximately three months each year are spent engaged in extensive training and exercises with the Navy in waters off Southern California.

The **Boutwell** is driven by two Pratt and Whitney gas turbines, derived from those used in jet airliners, which deliver a total of 36,000

horsepower, or two Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines which provide over 7,000 horsepower for economy cruising. With the gas turbines, speeds in excess of 27 knots can be attained. Diesel propulsion produces a cruising range of 11,000 miles at 16 knots. This capability enables the **Boutwell** to engage in extended law enforcement and fisheries patrols, and still respond quickly to the scene of a search and rescue mission. The two 13-foot diameter controllable pitch propellers make the ship extremely maneuverable for its size. A retractable bow propulsion unit provides omni-directional thrust at the bow in low speed maneuvering situations, which permits sideways movement of the ship.

The **Boutwell's** 26-foot motor surfboat and rigid hull inflatable boat are launched and retrieved by high speed hydraulic boat handling equipment. The 80-foot flight deck is certified for landing, servicing, fueling, and carrying the Coast Guard's jet-powered helicopters. The helicopters are used for surveillance, logistics, and search and rescue.

In October 1980, during a routine fisheries patrol, the **Boutwell** played an instrumental part in the rescue of 519 passengers and crewmembers from the luxury liner **Prinsendam**. The Dutch cruise ship had caught fire and was sinking in the Gulf of Alaska. In June of 1982, the **Boutwell** intercepted and boarded the sailing vessel **Orca** during a routine North Pacific Ocean law enforcement patrol. The **Orca's** crew was arrested and the vessel, with its 3000 pound cargo of marijuana, was seized and towed to port. For these actions, the **Boutwell** was awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Coast Guard Unit Commendation Ribbon, respectively. These are proudly displayed from the bridge wings alongside the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, for the rescue of nine people in Alaskan waters, the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, and the National Defense Medal.

CHARACTERISTICS

PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT

Officers. 15
Crew. 137

DIMENSIONS

Length. 378'3"
Beam. 42'0"
Displacement. 3080 Tons
Draft. 21'0"

ARMAMENT

. 5" 38 Calibre Main Battery
. 2 20 MM Machine Guns
. 6 50 Cal. Machine Guns
. 2 Triple Mount Torpedo Tubes

ENGINES

Two Pratt and Whitney
FT4 Gas Turbines. 36,000 HP
Two Fairbanks Morse
12 Cylinder Diesels. 7,000 HP

PROPELLERS. 2-13' Dia.
4-Blade Controllable Pitch

BOW THRUSTER. 350 HP

SPEED

Maximum Sustained (Turbines). 27 Knots
Cruising (Diesels). 16 Knots

RANGE AT 16 KNOTS. 11,000 NM

CAPACITIES

Fuel. 214,000 Gallons
Helicopter Fuel. 5,800 Gallons
Water. 15,800 Gallons
Water Making. 10,000 Gallons/Day

MEALS SERVED PER DAY. 525