

HISTORY OF USCGC FARALLON (WPB 1301)



Commissioned on July 31, 1985, FARALLON was built by Bollinger Shipyard of Lockport, Louisiana and is first in class of the Island Class Patrol Boats. The vessel is patterned after the British Vosper Thornycraft patrol boat design, and is equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and electronics. The twin V-16 Paxman Valenta diesel engines achieve speeds in excess of 28 knots, as the vessel was designed as a high-speed heavy weather craft.

Shrouded in fog 30 miles west of San Francisco, the Farallon Islands are a haven for California sea lions and a sanctuary for seafaring birds. The new Island Class Patrol Boats were heralded as a new symbol of life saving in America—saving lives from both illegal drugs and the perils of the sea. During her twenty-five years in service, FARALLON has exhibited operational excellence while homeported in Miami, Florida and now San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Although employed primarily as a law enforcement platform, FARALLON is considered a multi-mission resource performing every Coast Guard mission except ice breaking. FARALLON changed homeports from Miami to San Juan in December 2009 upon departing from the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, MD after receiving extensive system upgrades during a 10 month dry-dock. Since then, the cutter has participated in several search and rescue cases including the complex side-tow of the FAJARDO II and the completion of over 80 law enforcement boardings resulting in the apprehension of over 90 migrants and the seizure of one ton of illegal narcotics worth \$41.7 million. The pursuit of operational excellence earned FARALLON the distinction of the Coast Guard's "Guardian of the Week" in December 2010.