



POINT FRANCIS, 1967

WPB 82356

Builder: J.M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corp., Tacoma, WA

Commissioned: 3 February 1967

Decommissioned: 5 March 1999

Disposition: Transferred to Panama, 21 April 1999

Length: 82'10" oa, 78' bp

Navigation Draft: 5'11" max (1960)

Beam: 17'7" max

Displacement: 69 fl; 60 light (1960)

Main Engines: 2 Cummins diesel (see class history)

BHP: 1,600

Performance, Maximum Sustained: 18.0 kts, 542-mi radius (1,600 hp, 1963)

Performance, Economic: 9.4 kts, 1,500-mi radius (1,600 hp, 1963)

Maximum Speed: 22.9 kts (1963)

Fuel Capacity: 1,840 gal

Complement: 8 men (1960), 2 officers, 8 men (1965)

Electronics:

Radar: SPN-11, CR-103 (1960), or SPS-64

Armament: 1 x 20mm (1960), 5 x .50 cal mg, 1 x 81 mm mortar (Vietnam service)

Class history—The 82-foot patrol boats have mild steel hulls and aluminum superstructures. Longitudinally framed construction was used to save weight.

These boats were completed with a variety of power plants. 82301 through 82313, 82315 through 82317, and 82319 through 82331 were powered by two Cummins 600-hp diesels. Boats 82318 and 82332 through 82379 received two Cummins 800-hp diesels. The 82314 was fitted with two 1,000-hp gas turbines and controllable-pitch propellers. The purpose of this installation was to permit the service to evaluate the propulsion equipment. All units were eventually fitted with the 800-hp diesels. Units remaining in 1990 were re-equipped with Caterpillar diesels.

WPB 82301 through 82344 were commissioned without names; at that time the Coast Guard did not name patrol craft shorter than 100 feet. In January 1964 they were assigned names.

Ship's history:

The *Point Francis* was stationed at Fort Hancock, NY, from 1967 to 1976. She was used for law enforcement and search and rescue operations. On 4 May 1968, she assisted following a collision between the dredges *Essayons* and *Tsui Yung* off New York.

She was stationed at Highlands, NJ, from 1976 on. In March 1978, she seized a Liberian ship carrying 40,000 lbs of hashish off Sandy Hook, NJ. In May 1979, she seized M/V *Olang* off New Jersey with more than 41,000 lbs of hashish on board. On 10 October 1980, she fired 55 rounds of .50 cal mg into the U.S. lobster boat *Thomas E* 150 miles east of Key West, FL, after she doused her lights, refused to heave-to, and ran for Bahamian waters. The *Thomas E* had approximately 13 tons of marijuana on board.

Sources:

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

"The 82-Foot Class Patrol Boat." *U.S. Coast Guard Engineer's Digest* No. 133 (Mar-Apr 1962), pp. 2-5.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft, 1946-1990*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1990.

