

Alligator's Arrival



The Coast Guard Cutter Alligator was commissioned during a ceremony held Monday at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, Fla. The 87-foot marine-protector-class cutter's missions will include search and rescue, law enforcement, alien migrant interdiction operations and environmental protection.

The Alligator, a coastal patrol boat, features twin diesel engines, an electronic chart display and an aluminum-hulled smallboat with a stern launch-and-recovery system. The cutter will be homeported at Sector St. Petersburg with a crew of 12.

TOP: An aerial view of the cutter Alligator while underway.

MIDDLE: At the ceremony: Seventh Coast Guard District Commander Rear Adm. Steve Branham, Rep. John Mica, Ship's Sponsor Patricia Mica, Bollinger Shipyard Executive Vice President Marc Stanley, Alligator's Commanding Officer Lt. j.g. Andrew Vicks, Sector St. Petersburg Commanding Officer Capt. Timothy Close.

BOTTOM: Vicks salutes Branham and officially assumes command of the Alligator during the Reading of the Orders.



Photos by PA3 Rob Simpson & PA2 Sondra-Kay Kneen -- Layout by PA3 Nick Ameen