# **USCGC CHASE (WHEC-718)**



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

CHASE is the fourth of twelve Hamilton Class 378 foot cutters built for the U.S. Coast Guard. She is the third cutter named in honor of Salmon P. Chase, who served as Secretary of the Treasury under the administration of President Abraham Lincoln. Although the Coast Guard is presently in the Department of Transportation, it was part of the Treasury Department for 187 years.

The ship was launched on 20 May 1967 at the Avondale Shipyard in New Orleans, Louisiana. During the following twenty-two years of service, CHASE accomplished many Coast Guard missions: enforcement of U.S. laws and treaties, fisheries conservation, marine pollution response, defense readiness, and search and rescue. After deployment to the Republic of Vietnam early in her career, CHASE returned to the East Coast where she was homeported in Boston, Massachusetts. While sailing in Atlantic waters, CHASE participated in NATO exercises, patrolled Georges Banks, and had twenty drug seizures.

In 1989, CHASE was temporarily decommissioned and entered Bath Iron Works Shipyard in Portland, Maine to undergo the Fleet Renovation and Modernization (FRAM) program. At Bath, CHASE was virtually torn apart and reassembled. Approximately seventy-five percent of the shipboard electronics were replaced or modified. A third of the existing engineering systems were overhauled or replaced, and major internal space reconfigurations improved the ship's "livability".

Twin controllable pitch propellers coupled with a retractable and rotatable bow propulsion unit provide exceptional maneuverability in tight situations. CHASE's flight deck and hangar are capable of handling both Coast Guard and Navy helicopters. The ship's extended cruising range and helicopters capability make CHASE an ideal platform for its primary missions: long-range search and rescue, military readiness (in wartime, the Coast Guard serves as part of the U.S. Navy), and maritime law enforcement.

On 15 November 1991, CHASE arrived in her new homeport of San Pedro, California. Since her recommissioning on 31 July 1992, the crew of CHASE has completed many successful deployments both north and south. During her first Alaskan Patrol, CHASE traveled to Vladiovostok, Russia and served as the host ship for the historic reopening of the American Consulate. In 1993, CHASE received a mark of Excellence in all areas during Tailored Shipboard Training Availability (TSTA). In 1994, CHASE patrolled the Caribbean, performed Alien Migration Integration Operations (AMIO), and rescued over 130 Cuban Asylum seekers. On the morning of the peaceful U.S. occupation of Haiti, CHASE lead U.S. forces into Port-Au-Prince Harbor, Haiti and established the first Harbor Defense Command in foreign territorial waters. In the summer of 1997, CHASE was the first Coast Guard cutter to participate in the multinational Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Exercise (CARAT '97) in support of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. CHASE conducted training in search and rescue operations and maritime law enforcement operations, and participated in numerous naval exercises with both the Royal Thai Navy and U.S. Navy. Upon completing CARAT '97, CHASE was diverted to intercept and board the high seas drift net vessel CAO YU 6025 in the South China Sea, resulting in the arrest of the Master and seizure of the vessel. In April 1998, CHASE took part in Pacific Middle East Forces 1998 (PACMEF-98) where she deployed to the Arabian Gulf. Supplementing United Nations forces, CHASE was an active player in enforcing sanctions against Iraq. Carrying out her primary mission, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO), CHASE was successful in seizing contraband worth more than half a million dollars. She was also instrumental in training Coast Guards from Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Seychelles on how the U.S. Coast Guard carries out its missions. In the years working on the West Coast, CHASE has continued to uphold her immaculate performance and has proven to be an integral part of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area Fleet.



## PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS USCGC CHASE (WHEC-718)

Length Overall	
Beam	
Maximum Draft	
Engineering Plant	Two Diesel Engines 3,600 shaft hp
	Two Gas Turbine Engines 18,000 shaft hp
Maximum Speed	
Fuel Capacity	
Endurance	
Fresh Water Capacity	
Displacement	
Compliment	
	160 Enlisted



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#### BOSTON PHOTOGRAPHERS Tony Cammarata 56 Creighton Street Cambridge, MA 02140 (617) 491-7474

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