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NEW 378-FT. U. S. COAST GUARD HIGH ENDURANCE CUTTER

Here is an artist's conception of the first diesel-gas turbine powered 378-ft. high endurance cutter which the U. S. Coast Guard will begin building under a 10-million dollar contract awarded to the Avondale Shipyards, Harvey, La., January 16, 1964. Completion of the new cutter is expected about October 1966. Long-range plans look for this first vessel to serve as a prototype for construction of a total of 38 cutters of this class over the next decade as replacements for aging vessels.

Of 378-ft. overall length, and of 350-ft. length at the water line, the high endurance cutter will be the longest ship ever built by the Coast Guard. The greatest in service presently is the 327-ft. "Secretary Class" consisting of the Cutters BIBB, CAMPBELL, DUANE, SPENCER, and TANEY, which gave distinguished performance in combat during World War II.

Other characteristics of the new all welded steel hull cutter include a beam of 42-ft., draft 13-ft. 6-in., and a displacement of 2,716 tons. The Coast Guard expects to put about 36,000 horsepower into propulsion machinery of half the weight used in the Service's present large 6,000 horsepowered vessels. The new ship will be powered by a combination of one each diesel and gas turbine shafts. The diesel power will be used for cruising speeds up to 20 knots. When more speed is required, the gas turbine engine alone will provide a maximum speed of 29 knots.

(more)
Complete pilot house control, two controllable pitch propellers, and a bow thruster will make the new cutter the most maneuverable ship of its size.

When commissioned the new vessel will be manned by a crew of 15 officers and 150 men. It will carry the most modern equipment to perform peacetime duties of search and rescue, law enforcement, oceanography, military preparedness, and ocean station patrol. The design features include a helicopter flight deck at the fore of which are twin exhaust stacks joined at the top with a bar to support electronics antenna. She will be equipped with communications facilities of more modern and greater capacity than in use presently, a synoptic data computer system, a closed circuit television system, a large oceanographic laboratory, and modern instruments for gathering weather data. Her rescue equipment will include diesel powered motor lifeboats.

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Artist's Conception of 378-ft. Crew's Mess

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