

USCGS KLAMATH (WHEC 66)
Seattle, Washington

The authorization for a new Coast Guard Cutter came in July of 1941. Three years later in December of 1944 the keel was laid and a year later in September of 1945 the vessel was christened and named the KLAMATH after a lake in Oregon. September 5, 1946 brought her commissioning date as she entered the service of the Coast Guard. First built as a troop transport and classified as a Coast Guard Gunboat (WPG). She was armed for war, but with the war ending before her service began, many of her guns were taken off. However, she retained her WPG classification until July of 1965 when she became a Coast Guard High Endurance Cutter (WHEC).

The KLAMATH serves in the Thirteenth Coast Guard District which is commanded by Rear Admiral Frank V. Helmer with offices in Seattle, Washington, KLAMATH'S home port.

KLAMATH'S duties are varied and have carried her to many places in our world. One of her primary duties is being a part of the Ocean Station Vessel program. Her function being to provide communications, navigational aid, meteorological and search and rescue services to ships and aircraft transition the major sea lanes of the Pacific Ocean. U.S. Weather Bureau personnel are embarked to take observations on these patrols. During an average three-week patrol of this type KLAMATH gives information to over 3,000 aircraft flying overhead.

KLAMATH performs occasional Search and Rescue Operations in the North Pacific.

The KLAMATH also undergoes a three-week Underway Training Session under the Navy in San Diego, California. She received Excellency Awards in navigation and ship control in San Diego in May of 1969.

KLAMATH'S most recent duty was spent in Southeast Asia in support of the Naval Coastal Surveillance Program — Operation "Market Time". Cutters from different Districts are assigned to this task and jointly are called Coast Guard Squadron Three. All in all she spent eleven months away from her home port while serving in that area.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Length	255 Ft.
Beam	43 Ft.
Draft	12 Ft. FWD - 17 Ft. AFT
Officers	16
Enlisted	146
Machinery	Single Screw, Turbo Electric Drive 4,000 Shaft Horsepower
Cruising Radius	10,600 Miles at 12.5 Kts 7,600 Miles at 17.0 Kts.
Built By	Western Pipe & Steel Co. San Pedro, California