

USCGC Joseph Gerczak (WPC 1126)

400 Sand Island Pkwy
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Commanding Officer
LT Joseph Blinsky

Executive Officer
LT Joseph Fox

UNIT RESOURCE SUMMARY

	ACTIVE OFFICER	ACTIVE ENLISTED	RESERVE OFFICER	RESERVE ENLISTED	CIVILIAN	AUX	ASSETS
Crew	04	20	0	0	0	0	Cutter: WPC 1126 Cutter Small Boat (OTH-IV): CG-26286

UNIT DESCRIPTION

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Joseph Gerczak* (WPC 1126) is the Coast Guard's 26th Fast Response Cutter (FRC) and 2nd FRC to be homeported in Honolulu, HI. Commissioned in Honolulu on March 9, 2018, *Joseph Gerczak* executes USCG statutory missions in the Coast Guard's Fourteenth District, to include combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Oceania. The cutter's namesake, Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Gerczak, was killed in action while defending USS LST-66 from Japanese bombers during an assault on Borgen Bay in New Britain, Papua New Guinea on December 26, 1943. Petty Officer 3rd Class Gerczak was the first to react when enemy bombing began and shot down two of the attackers before shrapnel from an explosion fatally wounded him. The Purple Heart and Silver Star were awarded to him posthumously.



RECENT NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

- **September 27, 2021:** conducted joint training with FNS Bougainville (French Navy).
- **October 2, 2021:** conducted inaugural FRC medevac with a U.S. Navy MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter in District 14 after responding to a SAR case 280 nautical miles NE of Oahu. The injured mariner was safely evacuated 100+ nautical miles offshore.
- **November 1, 2021:** conducted joint training with HMS Spey (Royal Navy). Strengthening interoperability, the training was alluded to by the Department of Defense and reached 6.4 million via social media.
- **December 2021:** supported multiple "NCIS: Hawaii" Season 1 Episode 15 ("Pirates") scenes, which aired on March 7, 2022, and reached 5.38 million viewers.
- **March 7, 2022:** returned to Honolulu after completing an expeditionary patrol in support of Operation Aiga to integrate Coast Guard capabilities and operations with Pacific Island Country (PIC) partners, protect shared national interests, combat IUU fishing, and strengthen maritime governance in Oceania. Outside of executing mission objectives in PIC Exclusive Economic Zones and on the high seas during this patrol, *Joseph Gerczak* also:
 - Conducted an inaugural FRC port call in Tahiti
 - Conducted joint training with the Armed Forces in French Polynesia, and
 - Expanded the reach of the FRC platform by transiting further South than any FRC to date.
- **April 13, 2022:** rescued a disabled sailing vessel and four mariners 180 nautical miles off Hawaii.



*Note: to access corresponding video/article links, click any verbiage underlined in blue.