

Early July 2015

Deposit Balance \$ _____

Taiwan Coast Guard launches new ships as South China Sea tensions rise



Taiwan Coast Guard's new patrol ship, the 3000-ton 'Ilan' (L), is seen during a commissioning ceremony in the port of Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan, June 6, 2015.

Reuters/Pichi Chuang

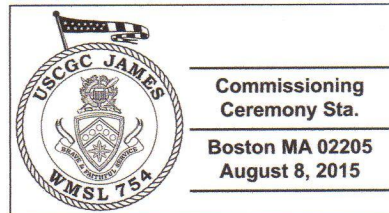
The new vessels will be able to dock at a new port being constructed on Taiping Island, the largest of the naturally occurring Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, before the end of this year. Taiwan's coast guard has had direct oversight of the 46-ha (114-acre) island, also known as Itu Aba, since 2000. "Taiping Island's defense capabilities will not be weak," said Wang Chung-yi, minister of the Coast Guard Administration, referring to recent upgrading done on the 1,200-metre (yards) long airstrip on Taiping and the building of a new port, which he said could be completed as early as October this year. "As far as Taiping Island is concerned, we still maintain not so much a military as a civil role," Wang told Reuters in an interview in Taipei. Taiwan will not create conflict, but if it is provoked "we will not concede," he said. Unlike the Philippines and Vietnam, Taiwan has largely avoided becoming ensnared in public disputes with China over the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, while the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and

Vietnam also have overlapping claims. Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou boarded one of the new ships on Saturday, observing rescue drills in waters off the southern Taiwan port city of Kaohsiung. One of the vessels will be sent to the South China Sea, while the other will be assigned to waters north of Taiwan where it has overlapping claims with Japan. Japan's Yomiuri newspaper reported on Saturday that Group of Seven leaders meeting in Germany on Sunday would express their concern over any unilateral action to change the status quo in the East and South China Seas. China has been criticized for extensive reclamation work and moves to turn submerged rocks into man-made structures. The United States last week said Beijing had placed mobile artillery systems in contested territory.

USPS Revisiting Old Rules for Pictorial Cancels

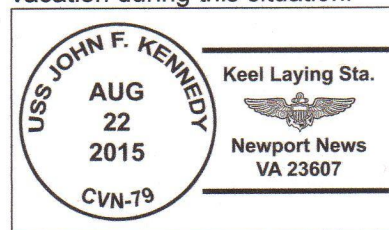
A rule that had been ignored (or forgotten) for many years has recently been revived for the issuance of pictorial postmarks. The rule mandates that artwork for USPS pictorials include a release from the creator of the postmark, or company, taking responsibility for the work and assuring the USPS that none of the elements in the design of the cancel are copyright infringements. So, the person or group submitting a pictorial cancel must include a release taking responsibility for the artwork. Three recently submitted postmarks were sidetracked by the USPS asking for releases before the cancels can be approved. One was a pictorial for the commissioning ceremony of the USCGC JAMES in Boston MA in August. Attempts are underway to

contact the cutter, and USCG legal in Washington DC asking for permission to use the crest of the JAMES in the cancel. The design is languishing in Boston, while I await a response from the USCG.



Proposed Commissioning cancel for USCGC JAMES

Another cancel questioned by the USPS was the cancel we submitted for the Keel Laying of the USS John F. Kennedy. Since the design is simple, I have taken responsibility for this design and sent a letter to the USPS that it is my artwork and does not violate any copyright laws. Actually Wolfgang Hechler did the design, but was on vacation during this situation.



Proposed cancel for Keel of USS John F. Kennedy

From USPS Publication PO 230

3-6 Authorization for Artwork

The Postal Service cannot approve a pictorial postmark without express written authorization from the individual or company that created the design featured in the pictorial postmark.

USPS designs USCG pictorial

The latest Postal Bulletin shows a design that any city may order to honor the USCG. Why it does not proclaim the 225th Anniversary of the USCG is a mystery. And why the late publicity on this cancel is also a mystery.

