

Coast Guard Offloads \$20 Million in Cocaine Following At-Sea Drug Bust Near P.R.



Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley's crew offloaded approximately 1,000 kilograms of seized cocaine, valued at \$20 million dollars, at Coast Guard Base San Juan April 4, 2022, following the interdiction of a go-fast vessel March 30, 2022, in the Caribbean Sea near Puerto Rico. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – The Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley crew and Drug Enforcement Administration special agents offloaded approximately 1,000 kilograms of seized cocaine at Coast Guard Base San Juan April 4, following the interdiction of a go-fast vessel in the Caribbean Sea near Puerto Rico, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

This interdiction is the result of multi-agency efforts involving the Caribbean Border Interagency Group and the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force. The seized cocaine has an estimated wholesale value of approximately \$20 million dollars.

During a routine patrol March 30, the crew of a Customs and Border Protection multi-mission enforcement aircraft sighted a suspect vessel near Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Donald Horsley that arrived on scene and interdicted a 35-foot go-fast vessel. The vessel was carrying two men, Dominican Republic nationals and multiple bales of suspected contraband, which tested positive for cocaine. The cutter Donald Horsley crew apprehended the two men and seized 33 bales of cocaine.

“This case highlights the Coast Guard’s unwavering resolve and that of our fellow partners to interdict drug smuggling vessels at sea and safeguard the nation’s southernmost maritime border,” said Capt. Gregory H. Magee, Sector San Juan commander. “These partnerships are key to achieving to protecting our citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from drug trafficking and other smuggling threats in the Caribbean.”

Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agents received custody of the detainees and the seized contraband, and they are leading the investigation into this case.

Cutter Donald Horsley is a 154-foot fast response cutter homeported in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Coast Guard Begins Multi-Month Fisheries Enforcement Operation With Bermuda



Coast Guard Cutter Angela McShan crew underway near Miami, Sept. 20, 2019. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Murray*

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Angela McShan (WPC-1135) is scheduled to arrive in Bermuda on April 6 as part of a multi-month fisheries enforcement operation in concert with the Bermuda Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Royal Bermuda Regiment, Bermuda Coast Guard and Bermuda Police Services, the Coast Guard 5th District said in a release.

The cutter will be the first of three Coast Guard ships that will patrol seaward of the Bermuda Exclusive Economic Zone, which extends 230 miles from shore. The joint operation will

expand upon the long-standing U.S.-Bermuda partnership, as well as emphasize protection of the environment and living marine resources in this region.

The operation is a result of recent meetings between Bermuda's Deputy Governor Alison Crocket, Deputy Premier Walter Roban, Permanent Secretary in Bermuda's Ministry of Home Affairs Rozy Azhar, U.S. Consul General in Bermuda Karen Grissette and Rear Adm. Laura Dickey, the U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District Commander. The professional exchange focused on increasing efforts to counter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, a global issue recently detected in the Mid-Atlantic.

"It was an honor to meet Rear Admiral Dickey and her staff, along with the U.S. consul and her staff," noted Deputy Premier Roban. "This operation begins a new chapter of cooperation with the U.S. government in supporting illegal, unreported fishing and other unacceptable activity in our waters. All is as a result of a meeting held with the National Climate Advisor to U.S. President Biden, Gina McCarthy, at COP26 where we discussed matters important to Bermuda and the United States. The willingness of the United States to support Bermuda in our effort to oversee our EEZ is in step with our centuries' long relationship as neighbors. My gratitude on behalf of the people of Bermuda extends to the U.S. Consul's Office in Bermuda for facilitating these meetings and the support we will get from the United States Coast Guard."

As the worldwide demand for fish as a protein source continues to grow, IUU fishing will have a profound impact on the security of all countries with a maritime boundary. Left unenforced, IUU fishing will threaten global geopolitical security, undermine maritime governance and impact a nation's ability to achieve domestic food security.

"We're excited to join with Bermuda to help detect and monitor potential IUU fishing in the region," said Rear Adm. Dickey.

“As we each work to safeguard our respective Exclusive Economic Zones, we’re fortunate to build on our long-standing relationship to partner together in this effort to protect global fish stocks and promote adherence to international rules.”

“The United States is proud to partner with Bermuda to promote security and lawful conduct in the Atlantic region,” added U.S. Consul General Karen Grissette. “Reinforcing the United States’ security partnership with Bermuda is one of my top priorities, so I am proud to welcome these U.S. Coast Guard cutters to advance our shared interests. This important operation is one more tangible demonstration of the close security collaboration between Bermuda and the United States.”

The Sentinel-class fast response cutter (WPC) is a key component of the Coast Guard’s offshore fleet that is capable of deploying independently to conduct missions that include port, waterways and coastal security, fishery patrols, search and rescue, and national defense.

Coast Guard Adm. Linda L. Fagan Nominated to be First Woman to Serve as Commandant



Adm. Linda L. Fagan, nominated to be the 27th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Joe Biden nominated Adm. Linda L. Fagan to serve as the 27th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. Upon confirmation, Adm. Fagan will be the first woman to serve as commandant of the Coast Guard, the service said April 5.

Fagan currently serves as the 32nd vice commandant, having assumed the duties on June 18, 2021. The vice commandant is the vice service chief and chief operating officer, responsible for executing the Commandant's Strategic Intent,

managing internal organizational governance, and serving as the Component Acquisition Executive.

Previously, Fagan served as commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area overseeing operations from the Rocky Mountains to the waters off the East Coast of Africa. Fagan is the Coast Guard's first-ever Gold Ancient Trident, as the officer with the longest service record in the Marine Safety field.

Pending confirmation, Fagan is expected to relieve the current commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Karl L. Schultz, during a change of command ceremony planned for June 1, 2022, in Washington, D.C. Schultz will retire following the change of command this summer.

"Adm. Fagan is an exceptional senior Coast Guard officer and nominee, possessing the keen intellect, the depth of operational experience, and the well-honed leadership and managerial acumen to serve with distinction as our Service's 27th commandant," said Schultz.

Fagan has selected and the president has nominated Vice Adm. Steven D. Poulin as the Coast Guard's 33rd vice commandant. Poulin currently serves as the commander of the Coast Guard Atlantic Area and is responsible for all Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to the Persian Gulf.

Pending confirmation, Poulin is expected to relieve Fagan as vice commandant of the Coast Guard during a change of watch ceremony planned for May 24, 2022, in Washington, D.C.

USCGC Harriet Lane Returns Home Following 50-Day Patrol



A small-boat crew mall boat transports migrants from their unseaworthy vessel to the Coast Guard Cutter Harriet Lane on the Atlantic Ocean, March 5, 2022. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 1st Class Mackenzie Young*

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The crew of USCGC Harriet Lane (WMEC 903) returned to homeport in Portsmouth on April 4 following a 50-day patrol in the North Atlantic Ocean, the Coast Guard Atlantic Area said in a release.

While on patrol, the Harriet Lane crew navigated over 6,559 miles along the southeastern coast of the United States, extending as far south as the northern coast of Cuba and east to the Bahamas, performing migrant interdiction and search and rescue operations in support of the U.S. Coast Guard 7th District.

The Harriet Lane patrolled the Florida Straits to aid with a recent surge in unsafe and illegal migration by sea. The crew interdicted six unseaworthy vessels carrying approximately 467 individuals of Cuban or Haitian origin and cared for more than

520 migrants aboard the cutter during a four-week time span while awaiting logistics for repatriation.

The crew also assisted in two search-and-rescue cases after receiving notification of an individual stranded on Anguilla Cay, Bahamas, and another case where several people were stranded in the water near Cuban territorial waters.

“I remain in awe of this steadfast crew. They answered the call on multiple occasions during our patrol, ensuring safety of life at sea while preventing illegal entry into the United States,” said Cmdr. Ben Goff, commanding officer of Harriet Lane. “This mission can take an emotional toll, but our team stuck together and persevered through every challenge and adversity presented. The crew shifted gears upon return to homeport and met the next challenge of readying Harriet Lane for an important maintenance upgrade cycle with aplomb. We are forever grateful for the outstanding support we receive across the Coast Guard and from our loved ones at home. I’m looking forward to getting our crew well-earned downtime with friends and family.”

Following this patrol, the vessel will undergo a nine-month planned maintenance and upgrade period at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore.

The Harriet Lane is a 270-foot medium-endurance cutter responsible for a variety of missions, including search and rescue, drug interdiction, migrant interdiction, other law enforcement and marine environmental protection.

The U.S. Coast Guard national security and medium-endurance vessels homeported on the East Coast operate under the ultimate authority of the U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area commander located in Portsmouth, Virginia, overseeing all Coast Guard operations east of the Rocky Mountains to the Persian Gulf.

Cutter Dauntless Offloads More Than \$160 Million in Illegal Narcotics



Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless recently seized 8,500 pounds of cocaine off the coast of Miami. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 1st Class Ayla Hudson*

MIAMI – Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless’ crew offloaded more than \$160 million at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, April 1, before returning to homeport in Pensacola, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

Dauntless’ crew seized approximately 8,500 pounds of cocaine and apprehended 13 suspected drug smugglers with Dominican Republic and Colombian nationalities following a 45-day patrol in the Caribbean Sea.

The Dauntless’ crew worked alongside multiple U.S. Coast Guard assets and international assets, including the HNLMS Friesland of the Royal Netherlands Navy to interdict the illegal drug smuggling ventures.

“The Coast Guard’s strong international partnerships, counter threats in the maritime domain, protect each of our countries from transnational organized crime, and work to stabilize and promote good governance in the region,” said Lt. Paul Puddington, a District Seven duty enforcement officer. “We are thankful for coordinated efforts across the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Defense, Customs and Border Protection, as well as our international partners from the Netherlands and throughout Central and South America.”

The fight against drug cartels in the Caribbean Sea requires unity of effort in all phases from detection, monitoring and interdictions, to criminal prosecutions by international partners and U.S. Attorneys' Offices in districts across the nation.

During at-sea interdictions, a suspect vessel is initially detected and monitored by allied, military or law enforcement personnel coordinated by Joint Interagency Task Force-South based in Key West, Florida. The law enforcement phase of operations in the Caribbean Sea is conducted under the authority of the Seventh Coast Guard District, headquartered in Miami. The interdictions, including the actual boardings, are led and conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Dauntless, a 210-foot Reliance-class medium-endurance cutter, patrols the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean, performing counter-drug operations, migrant interdiction operations, search and rescue, and fisheries enforcement.

BAE Systems' San Diego Shipyard to Modernize the Destroyer USS Mustin



The modernization of USS Mustin will occur from May 2022 to November 2023. *U.S. NAVY*

SAN DIEGO – BAE Systems has received a \$89.4 million contract from the U.S. Navy to perform major modernization work aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin (DDG 89), the company said in an April 5 release. The value of the competitively awarded contract could reach \$95.2 million if all options are exercised.

Under the depot maintenance period availability contract awarded, BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair will dry-dock the ship, perform underwater hull preservation work, recondition the engineering spaces, upgrade its command-and-control equipment and refurbish the crew's living spaces. The DMP work is expected to begin in May 2022 and be completed in November 2023. The company expects to dry-dock the ship at the San Diego Naval Base and then complete the remaining work at its Barrio Logan facility.

“A depot maintenance availability is a significant project for

upgrading the capability of Aegis destroyers,” said David M. Thomas Jr., BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair’s vice president and general manager. “Our ship repair team has the critical know-how for repairing DDGs from our prior work. The DMP availability we’ll perform on the USS Mustin will usher the ship into a higher phase of fleet readiness.”

BAE Systems’ San Diego shipyard is completing similar work aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) and has previously completed a DMP availability aboard USS Shoup (DDG 86).

USS Mustin is the 39th ship in the Arleigh Burke class and was commissioned in July 2003. The ship is named in honor of the Mustin family who has more than a century of service in the U.S. Navy. One other U.S. Navy combatant has carried the family name, USS Mustin (DD 413).

Collins Aerospace Awarded Risk Reduction Contract for Navy’s E-XX Program



Mark Cejer sits at the controls of a flight simulator as Tracy Miller of Collins Aerospace gives him instructions. The simulator showcases Collins Aerospace's avionics. *SOLARES PHOTOGRAPHY*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – Collins Aerospace (Booth 701) has been awarded development of a very-low-frequency communication system for the E-6B Recapitalization Program (E-XX) as part of the Navy's Take Charge and Move Out Weapons System, the company said April 4.

The contract provides developmental design and risk reduction engineering efforts for airborne VLF system modernization in support of Airborne Strategic Command, Control, and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) capability requirements. The development efforts and resulting system features enhanced security measures to address advanced and emerging threats.

This award is the first award of a series for the new E-XX test program. The open systems approach ensures that the terminal and remaining portions of the weapons systems can be

easily integrated on the platform. Additionally, the new systems are easier to maintain and upgrade over the life of the aircraft making it a potential long-term solution for the Navy.

“This sole-source award underscores the recognized technical expertise that Collins brings to the TACAMO community,” said Heather Robertson, vice president and general manager of Integrated Solutions for Collins Aerospace. “As we are seeing the accelerated need for command, control and communication capabilities, our DoD partners can rely on Collins to deliver ready-now, comprehensive, integrated and durable solutions.”

The work will be completed at Collins’ Richardson, Texas, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, facilities.

President, First Lady Celebrate Commissioning of USS Delaware



President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, the ship sponsor, celebrated the commissioning of the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Delaware (SSN 791) Saturday, April 2. *U.S. NAVY*

WILMINGTON, Delaware – President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, the ship sponsor, celebrated the commissioning of the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Delaware (SSN 791) Saturday, April 2, in a ceremony in Wilmington, Delaware.

Biden previously represented the state of Delaware for 36 years in the U.S. Senate.

Due to COVID restrictions in place at the time, there was no traditional commissioning ceremony held when USS Delaware was commissioned administratively on April 4, 2020. On that day, the submarine was underway and became the first U.S. Navy ship commissioned while submerged.

Saturday's ceremony followed the script of a traditional commissioning and was held in commemoration of the milestone.

“This latest Navy ship to carry the Delaware name is part of a long tradition of serving our nation proudly and strengthening our nation’s security,” Biden said. “Not just us, but our allies and partners around the world as well.”

As the ship sponsor, Jill Biden performed the traditional honor of calling for the crew to man the ship and “bring her to life,” a ceremonial procession following the commemorative setting of the first watch.

“This vessel will always uphold the First State’s motto of ‘Liberty and Independence,’” she said. “It’s difficult to put into words what it means to be a part of the USS Delaware family. It’s an incredible honor that I take seriously. I’ve seen the heart of this crew and it makes me proud and humbled to be your shipmate for life.”

USS Delaware is the 18th Virginia-class submarine built, as well as the eighth and final Block III Virginia-class sub. The Block III submarines are notable for replacing 12 vertical launch tubes for Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles with two larger, 87-inch diameter launch tubes, capable of carrying larger payloads, among other advancements.

“The men who serve – and will serve – aboard the USS Delaware will bear our state’s name for decades to come as they defend our nation,” said U.S. Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware, the event’s keynote speaker. “Through their sacrifice and service, may we grow even closer to that more perfect union.”

USS Delaware is homeported at Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut, where it operates under Submarine Squadron 12 and its Commodore, Capt. Matthew Boland.

The submarine is the seventh U.S. Navy ship to be named for the First State, but first in more than a century. The first ship to be named Delaware was a 24-gun frigate launched in

July of 1776, the month the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

DoD Releases Fiscal Year 2021 Freedom of Navigation Report



Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) transits the Taiwan Strait during a routine transit in 2021. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Justin Stack*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Department of Defense released on April 1 its annual Freedom of Navigation Report for fiscal year 2021. During the period from Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021, U.S. forces operationally challenged 37 different excessive maritime claims made by 26 different claimants throughout the world.

Excessive maritime claims are inconsistent with international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. They include a variety of restrictions on the exercise of navigation and overflight rights and other freedoms. Unlawful maritime claims – or incoherent theories of maritime entitlements – pose a threat to the legal foundation of the rules-based international order. If left unchallenged, excessive maritime claims could limit the rights and freedoms enjoyed by every nation.

Upholding freedom of navigation as a principle supports unimpeded lawful commerce and the global mobility of U.S. forces. DoD's freedom of navigation operations demonstrate the United States will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows.

DoD's regular and routine operational challenges complement diplomatic engagements by the U.S. State Department and supports the longstanding U.S. national interest in freedom of the seas worldwide.

Each year, DoD releases an unclassified summarized FON Report identifying the broad range of excessive maritime claims that are challenged by U.S. forces. It also includes general geographic information to describe the location of FON assertions while still maintaining operational security of U.S. military forces.

Click to see previous [DoD FON Reports](#).

CNO, Indonesian Navy Chief

Meet; Discuss Maritime Security



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, shown speaking to the U.S. Naval Academy's Silent Drill Team at the christening ceremony for the future Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125) in Pascagoula, Mississippi, March 26. *U.S. NAVY / Cmdr. Courtney Hillson*

WASHINGTON – Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday met with Chief of the Indonesian Navy Adm. Yudo Margono, at the Pentagon, March 30, the CNO's public affairs office said in a release.

This was their first meeting, during which the two leaders discussed the importance of maritime security and exchanged views on regional and global security issues.

“Working alongside our Allies and partners has never been so important. Today's maritime challenges require interoperability and presence,” said Gilday. “Together we will continue to keep the maritime commons open and free as we

promote the security, stability, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific.”

The two leaders exchanged views about security issues in the Indo-Pacific, underscoring the importance of the U.S.-Indonesian bilateral relationship.

“The purpose of this visit is to enhance relationships and partnerships between the two navies that have been well established so far,” said Margono.

Gilday emphasized a commitment to continuing dialogue and building upon our strong bilateral defense relationship.

“For more than 70 years, Indonesia has been a valued partner,” said Gilday. “There is a strong strategic partnership between Indonesia and the U.S. and I am grateful for our long history of collaboration, cooperation, and training,” said Gilday.

Gilday and Margono also reviewed progress made in recent years in military-to-military cooperation to increase exercises and training, as well as regular defense policy dialogues.

U.S. and Indonesia operate together around the globe regularly. Indonesia has been part of the CARAT exercise series since it began in 1995. After 27 years of annual training events between the armed forces, CARAT Indonesia remains a model for cooperation that has evolved in complexity and enables both navies to refine operations and tactics in response to both traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges.

The U.S.-Indonesian relationship is strengthened through training. For the first time, Indonesia has two midshipman attending the U.S. Naval Academy.