

# Cutter Escanaba Returns to Boston After Caribbean Sea Patrol, Change of Command



Crews from Coast Guard Cutter Escanaba guide an MH-60 Jayhawk from the flight deck while at sea. U.S. Coast Guard/Lt. j.g. Brianna Grisell

BOSTON –

The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Escanaba returned to Boston on July 11 following a three-month patrol conducting drug and migrant interdiction operations in the Caribbean Sea, the Coast Guard 1st District said in a release.

Throughout the patrol, Escanaba's crew focused their efforts on law enforcement, completed a three-week training assessment of mission capabilities in Portsmouth, Virginia, and held a change-of-command ceremony.



Vice Adm. Scott Buschman, the Atlantic Area commander, presides over the Escanaba's change-of-command ceremony in May as Cmdr. Michael Nalli relieves Capt. Michael Turdo. U.S. Coast Guard/Lt. j.g. Brianna Grisell

Escanaba's crew partnered with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol within the Mona Passage for migrant interdiction operations. Crews terminated three illegal migrant ventures and repatriated more than 100 migrants.

The crew's counter-narcotics efforts resulted in the disruption of more

than 5,500 pounds of cocaine illegally trafficked by transnational criminal organizations.

During

Escanaba's change-of-command ceremony, Cmdr. Michael Nalli relieved Capt.

Michael Turdo as the cutter's commanding officer.

"It is an

honor and privilege to serve as the commanding officer of such a capable ship,"

Nalli said. "The crew is well-trained, and we are excited to get underway to

conduct the missions of the Coast Guard."

Coast Guard Cutter Escanaba

– known as "The Pride of Boston" – is a 270-foot medium-endurance cutter with a crew complement of 100.

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## **Coast Guard Interdicts Migrants, Smuggler East of Boynton Beach**



Haitian migrants, one Dominican migrant and a suspected smuggler were interdicted in a 30-foot cabin cruiser about 12 miles east of Boynton Beach, Florida, on July 3. U.S. Coast Guard

MIAMI – The

Coast Guard interdicted 14 Haitian migrants, a Dominican

migrant and a suspected smuggler on July 3 about 12 miles east of Boynton Beach, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

Coast Guard

7th District watchstanders received a report from the Palm Beach Sheriff's

Office of a Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations aircraft

detecting an unlit 30-foot cabin cruiser heading towards West Palm Beach.

Watchstanders

launched a Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet 33-foot Special Purpose Craft-Law

Enforcement crew and diverted the Coast Guard Cutter Bernard C. Webber

(WPC-1101) crew. The cutter Webber crew safely embarked the six Haitian male

adults, three Haitian female adults, one Haitian male minor, four Haitian

female minors one Dominican male and one Bahamian male. The cutter Webber crew

transferred five Haitian adults and five Haitian minors to Bahamas authorities

and social services. The suspected smuggler, Dominican adult and four Haitian

adults were transferred into Homeland Security Investigations custody.

"The

Coast Guard maintains a focused and coordinated effort with multiple agency

assets to interdict any attempt to unlawfully immigrate to the United States by

sea," said Lt. Matthew Pinhey, Coast Guard 7th District surface

operations. "Attempting to enter the country this way is not worth the risk and we discourage people from try to embark on these dangerous voyages."

A total of 3,027 Haitian migrants have attempted to illegally enter the U.S. via the maritime environment in fiscal year 2019 compared to 2,727 Haitian migrants in fiscal year 2018. A total of 1,456 Dominican migrants have attempted to illegally enter the U.S. via the maritime environment in fiscal year 2019 compared to 829 Dominican migrants in fiscal year 2018. These numbers represent the total number of at-sea interdictions, landings and disruptions in the Florida Straits, the Caribbean and the Atlantic.

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## **Cutter Bertholf Returns From 164-Day Western Pacific Deployment**



A family waits for the arrival of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf on July 2. The crew of the Bertholf left Jan. 20 for a patrol in the western Pacific. U.S. Coast Guard/Senior Chief Petty Officer NyxoLyno Cangemi

ALAMEDA,

Calif. – The crew aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf (WMSL 750)

returned July 2 to their homeport of Alameda following a 164-day deployment to the western Pacific, the Coast Guard Pacific Area said in a release.

The crew steamed nearly 32,000 nautical miles since they departed Alameda Jan. 20 amid the partial government shutdown.

Under the tactical control of commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, the crew patrolled and conducted operations as directed, including enforcing United Nations Security Council resolution sanctions against North Korea by monitoring and gathering intelligence on vessels conducting ship-to-ship transfers in the East China, South China and Yellow Seas.

Bertholf's crew made history March 24-25 as the first U.S. Coast Guard cutter to transit the Taiwan Strait.



Bertholf crew member Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Shotwell hugs his son, Cooper, and his daughter, Carolyn, on July 2 after his return to Coast Guard Base Alameda, California. U.S. Coast Guard/Senior Chief Petty Officer NyxoLyno Cangemi

Bertholf's crew engaged in professional exchanges, community relations events and capacity-building exercises with navies and coast guards in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, including at-sea joint search-and-rescue and interdiction

exercises.

Bertholf also made a multiday port call to Hong Kong, marking the first U.S. Coast Guard cutter to visit the city in 17 years.

The Coast Guard has an ongoing role in the Indo-Pacific, going back more than 150 years.

The service's ongoing deployment of resources directly supports U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives in the Indo-Pacific region.

"The U.S. Coast Guard is proud to operate with our Pacific counterparts, and together we are dedicated to enhancing our capabilities and strengthening maritime governance and security while promoting individual sovereignty," said Vice Adm. Linda Fagan, commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's Pacific Area.

Commissioned in 2008, Bertholf is the first of the Coast Guard's Legend-class national security cutters and the first NSC to deploy to the western Pacific.

Alameda-based U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Stratton departed June 5 for a months-long deployment in the same region.

"The U.S. Coast Guard's unique authorities, capabilities, and missions make us the maritime safety and security partner of choice for sea-going countries around

the world,” Fagan said. “Our increased presence throughout the Indo-Pacific will enhance regional stability and improve maritime governance and security.”

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## **Coast Guard Interdicts 49 Haitian Migrants 21 Miles Northeast of Cuba**

MIAMI

– The Coast Guard interdicted 49 Haitian migrants Saturday approximately 21 miles northeast of Punta Maisi, Cuba, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a July 1 release.

The crew of the [Royal Netherlands Navy](#) ship HNLMS Groningen (P-843) with a Coast Guard law enforcement team interdicted a 35-foot Haitian sail freighter with 49 migrants aboard, three of those being unaccompanied children. The crew of the [Coast Guard Cutter Tampa \(WMEC-902\)](#) was diverted to assist.

The cutter Tampa crew arrived on scene and embarked the 49 migrants – 39 males and 10 females, due to safety concerns with the vessel.

“The Coast Guard continues to maintain a focused and

coordinated effort with multiple agency assets to interdict any attempt to dangerously and unlawfully immigrate by sea to the United States,” said Cmdr. Michael Vega, Coast Guard 7th District enforcement branch. “Those who are interdicted at sea attempting to illegally immigrate will be repatriated to their country in accordance with existing U.S. immigration policy.”

Approximately 2,932 Haitian migrants have attempted to illegally enter the U.S. via the maritime environment in fiscal year 2019 compared to 2,727 Haitian migrants in fiscal year 2018. These numbers represent the total number of at-sea interdictions, landings and disruptions in the Florida Straits, the Caribbean and Atlantic. Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

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## **Coast Guard Repatriates 44 Migrants to the Dominican Republic**



The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley (WPC-1117) repatriated 44 Dominican migrants to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 28, 2019, following two at-sea interdictions in

the Mona Passage earlier this week. U.S. COAST GUARD  
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter  
Donald Horsley (WPC-1117) repatriated 44 Dominican migrants  
and transferred them to Dominican naval authorities June 28 in  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, following the interdiction  
of two illegal migrant voyages June 25 and 26 in the Mona  
Passage, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a June 28  
release.

Six other  
migrants interdicted in both voyages are facing possible  
federal prosecution in  
Puerto Rico on charges of attempted illegal re-entry into the  
United States.

The  
interdictions are the result of ongoing efforts in support of  
Operation Unified  
Resolve, Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border  
Interagency Group  
(CBIG). Since October 2018, the Coast Guard and CBIG federal  
and state partner  
agencies have interdicted over 1,573 migrants at sea near  
Puerto Rico and the  
U.S. Islands.

The first  
interdiction took place the night of June 25 after the crew of  
a Customs and  
Border Protection DHC-8 maritime patrol aircraft detected a  
25-foot migrant boat  
transiting toward Puerto Rico, approximately 17 nautical miles  
north-northwest  
of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

Coast Guard  
watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Donald  
Horsley to

interdict the suspect vessel. Upon arriving on scene, the Donald Horsley crew stopped the blue makeshift boat with 25 Dominican migrants aboard – 19 men and five women, and a 16-year-old boy. Horsley crewmembers proceeded to embark all the migrants from the makeshift boat.



The interdictions are the result of ongoing efforts in support of Operation Unified Resolve, Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border Interagency Group. U.S. COAST GUARD The crew of the DHC-8 maritime patrol aircraft detected a second illegal migrant voyage on the night of June 26, approximately nine nautical miles north of Mona Island.

Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Donald Horsley to interdict the suspect vessel. Upon arriving on scene, the Donald Horsley crew stopped the 35-foot blue fiberglass boat with 25 adult Dominican migrants aboard – 20 men and five women. Horsley crewmembers embarked all the migrants for safety of life at sea.

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

“I am extremely proud of the crew of cutter Donald Horsley for their tremendous efforts which culminated in the interdiction of 50 migrants

during two different cases this week,” said Lt. Christopher Martin, Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley commanding officer. “These illicit ventures put migrants in extremely dangerous situations at sea and our crew along with our other DHS partners did an excellent job detecting and intercepting these vessels to stem the flow of illegal migration to Puerto Rico and ensure the safety of all the migrants involved in these voyages.”

The cutter Donald Horsley transferred custody of the six migrants facing federal prosecution to Ramey Sector Border Patrol agents in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

The CBIG unifies efforts between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico Police Joint Forces of Rapid Action. These agencies share a common goal of securing the maritime border of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands against illegal migrant and drug smuggling threats.

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

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# Coast Guard Cutter Venturous Returns Home After 62-Day Patrol



The Coast Guard Cutter Venturous, shown here returning from its November 2018 patrol. U.S. COAST GUARD / Michael De Nyse ST.

PETERSBURG, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Venturous (WMEC-625) returned home to St. Petersburg June 27 following a 62-day patrol in the Caribbean Sea, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release of the same date.

Venturous' crew spent the first three weeks of the patrol at Naval Station Mayport for their biennial Tailored Ship's Training Availability, which is designed to test the crew's ability to respond to various operations and shipboard emergencies.

After departing Mayport, the Venturous crew transited over 7,000 miles while operating in the Caribbean Sea enforcing international laws and treaties in support of the Coast Guard's Western Hemisphere Strategy by countering transnational organized criminal networks and deterring human smuggling while

safeguarding life at sea.

On June 12th,  
the crew of the Venturous partnered with rotary and fixed wing  
aircraft from  
Coast Guard Air Stations Clearwater and Miami and Royal  
Bahamian Defense Forces  
interceptor and rescued 177 Haitian migrants from an  
overloaded 40-foot vessel  
approximately 20 nautical miles southwest of Providenciales,  
Turks and Caicos.

*“From responding to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, to  
completing four consecutive deployments through the Panama  
Canal to the Eastern Pacific Ocean, to preventing over nine  
tons of illicit narcotics, valued at over a quarter billion  
dollars, from reaching our shores, and rescuing 189 migrants  
and 10 fishermen from the perils of the sea, the crew of  
Venturous truly upheld her motto, Nemo Supra, None Better.”*

*Cmdr. Matthew Chong, commanding officer of the Venturous*

The Venturous  
crew utilized both of the over the horizon cutter boats to  
safely offload all  
177 migrants from the vessel, which was slowly flooding due to  
its severely  
overloaded state and choppy seas. The Royal Bahamian Defense  
Forces interceptor  
provided security on the vessel and the Air Station Clearwater  
MH-60 Jayhawk  
helicopter provided overflight coverage as Venturous embarked  
the migrants.  
Once aboard Venturous, crewmembers provided the migrants with  
food, water,  
shelter and basic medical care.

On two other

occasions, Venturous intercepted overloaded vessels closer to shore and directed them to return back to port rather than face the dangerous journey in open waters.

Six cadets from the Coast Guard Academy also joined Venturous during the deployment and worked alongside the crew while earning various shipboard qualifications and gaining valuable operational experience that will aid in their development as future Coast Guard officers.

Additionally, Venturous hosted two ship riders from the Cayman Islands. While on board, the ship riders attended operations briefings and engaged with crewmembers to exchange best practices to fight human and narcotics trafficking networks while strengthening the strategic partnership with an important regional ally.

“As I complete my final patrol on Venturous, I can’t help but look back on the past two years with immense pride and awe in all that our crew accomplished.” said Cmdr. Matthew Chong, commanding officer of the Venturous. “From responding to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, to completing four consecutive deployments through the Panama Canal to the Eastern Pacific Ocean, to preventing over nine tons of illicit narcotics, valued at over a quarter billion dollars, from

reaching our shores, and rescuing 189 migrants and 10 fishermen from the perils of the sea, the crew of Venturous truly upheld her motto, Nemo Supra, None Better.”

The Venturous is a 210-foot Reliance-class cutter, homeported in St. Petersburg and has a crew of 76. Medium endurance cutters, like the Venturous, are slated for replacement by a new class of cutter – the Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC). With the ability to operate more than 50 miles from land, the OPC will be a multi-mission asset, providing surface and air pursuit capabilities and interoperability with other military and federal partners.

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## **U.S. Coast Guard Announces Homeport of Newest National Security Cutter**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard has selected Charleston, South Carolina, as the home of the service’s newest National Security Cutter, Coast Guard Headquarters announced in a June 26 release.

“I am pleased to announce that Charleston, South Carolina, will be the home of

the Coast Guard's 11th National Security Cutter," said Adm. Karl L. Schultz, commandant of the Coast Guard. Construction on the 11th National Security Cutter is scheduled to begin by spring of 2020. Charleston is already home to two of the Coast Guard's National Security Cutters, the James and Hamilton. In 2017, the Coast Guard announced that the ninth and 10th National Security Cutters, currently under construction at Huntington Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi, will join the Charleston-based National Security Cutter fleet in the coming years. Schultz further noted, "I am confident that the Charleston community is the right place for our Coast Guardsmen and their families to base these highly capable National Security Cutters with the global reach to respond to complex maritime threats and challenges."

National Security Cutters are the most technologically advanced vessels in the Coast Guard. They are capable of supporting maritime homeland security and defense missions. They safeguard the American people and promote our security in a complex and persistently evolving maritime environment.

Grouping cutters of the same class is one critical variable in selecting homeports. Grouping cutters in the same location improves maintenance proficiency, streamlines

logistics, and provides increased personnel flexibility.

The cutter is scheduled to arrive in 2024; its name has not yet been selected. This will be the fifth National Security Cutter assigned to Charleston.

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## Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk Returns After 90-Day Eastern Pacific Patrol



Petty Officer 3rd Class Ricky Ogborn helps free an entangled sea turtle in the eastern Pacific Ocean on June 3 during the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk's just-concluded 90-day patrol. U.S. Coast Guard

KEY WEST,

Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk (WMEC-913) returned to their

homeport in Key West following a 90-day counter-smuggling patrol in support of

Joint Interagency Task Force-South and operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean,

the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The Mohawk

crew, along with Coast Guard crews from Tactical Law Enforcement Team-South,

Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron and multiple partner

agencies, interdicted more than 16,500 pounds of cocaine and more than 1,500

pounds of marijuana to counter and disrupt the illegal smuggling operations of transnational criminal organizations.



Cutter Mohawk patrols the eastern Pacific Ocean in May. U.S. Coast Guard

The cutter

crew also conducted joint operations with crews from the Costa Rica Servicio

Nacional de Guardacostas, in which they assisted in the rescue of four Costa

Rican mariners. The Mohawk crew also rescued four sea turtles entangled in fishing gear.

The Coast

Guard increased U.S. and allied presence in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and

Caribbean Basin, which are known drug transit zones off Central and South

America. During at-sea interdictions in international waters, a suspect vessel

is initially located and tracked by allied, military or law-enforcement

personnel coordinated by JIAFT-S. The interdictions, including the actual

boarding, are led and conducted by U.S. Coast Guardsmen. The law-enforcement

phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific is conducted under

the authority of the Coast Guard 11th District headquartered in Alameda, California.

The cutter Mohawk is a

270-foot medium-endurance cutter, whose missions include search and rescue,

maritime safety and security, and maritime law enforcement operations, such as illegal migrant and drug interdiction operations.

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## Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant Crew Returns Home After Caribbean Patrol



A Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered small boat crew gives life jackets to 50 migrants about 46 miles north of Cap Haïtien, Haiti, on May 20. The Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant crew transferred the migrants back to their country of origin. U.S. Coast Guard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant returned home June 23 to Cape Canaveral after a two-month Caribbean patrol, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The crew's patrol focused on enforcing U.S. federal laws by conducting boardings of U.S. and international vessels throughout the Caribbean basin while working with other government agencies and international partners to maintain national security.

While on patrol, the crew ensured the safe return of 50 Haitian migrants to their home country after their illegal and dangerous voyage was disrupted

by the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered, a fast-response cutter homeported in Miami. The crew was also involved in a search for a person reported to be in the water after falling overboard from his sailing vessel.

The Vigilant crew interdicted a go-fast vessel illegally smuggling 7,800 pounds of garlic from Haiti to the Dominican Republic. Garlic smuggling is a global issue on the rise and has had negative impacts on the agricultural industry in the Dominican Republic in the last few years.

Upon hearing of the interdiction, the Dominican navy sent a ship to meet the Vigilant to take over the case for the prosecution. The contraband was valued at about \$30,000 and was the largest Coast Guard seizure of its kind.

During their 59-day patrol, the crew worked with agencies such as the Jamaican Defense Force, Royal Bahamian Defense Force, Dominican navy, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Navy.

The Vigilant is a multimission 210-foot medium-endurance cutter whose missions include illegal drug and migrant interdiction as well as search and rescue. The Vigilant patrols throughout the Caribbean basin and Atlantic seaboard to ensure safety of life at sea and enforce international and domestic

laws.

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# Coast Guard Repatriates 11 Migrants to Dominican Republic



The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley (WPC-1117) repatriated 11 Dominican migrants to a Dominican navy vessel on June 19 in waters just off Samana, Dominican Republic. U.S. Coast Guard

SAN JUAN,

Puerto Rico – The Coast Guard Cutter Donald Horsley (WPC-1117) repatriated 11

Dominican migrants to a Dominican navy patrol vessel June 19 in waters just off

Samana, Dominican Republic, following the interdiction of an illegal migrant

voyage in the Mona Passage, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The

interdiction is the result of ongoing efforts in support of Operation Unified

Resolve, Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border Interagency Group

(CBIG). Since October 2018, the Coast Guard and CBIG partner federal and state

agencies have interdicted over 1,523 migrants at sea near Puerto Rico and the

U.S. Islands.

During a routine patrol June 17, the crew of patrolling Coast Guard HC-144 Ocean Sentry maritime patrol aircraft detected a 20-foot fiberglass migrant boat transiting towards Puerto Rico, about 20 nautical miles north northeast of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Donald Horsley to interdict the suspect vessel. Upon arriving on scene, the Donald Horsley crew stopped the blue and white makeshift boat with 11 migrants onboard, nine men and two women, who claimed Dominican nationality. Horsley crew members proceeded to embark all the migrants from the makeshift boat that was taking on water and in danger of sinking.

"I am proud of my crew for saving 11 people from a small, grossly overloaded boat traveling in very dangerous sea conditions," said Lt. Christopher Martin, commanding officer of the Donald Horsley. "Crossing the Mona Passage is an extremely dangerous journey, especially in the case of illegal voyages, in which migrants risk their lives by trusting smugglers who transport them in inhumane conditions on boats that are not safe to navigate and do not have any safety equipment on board."

Once aboard a

Coast Guard cutter, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

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