

USCGC Munro Returns From Counter-Drug Patrol, \$440M Worth of Cocaine Interdicted



U.S. Coast Guardsmen assist in mooring evolution as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) returns home to Alameda, California, Nov. 25, 2024. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Danish Khan)

From U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area, Nov. 26, 2024

ALAMEDA, Calif. – The crew aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) returned home to Alameda, Monday following a two-month counter-drug patrol in international waters off the coasts of Central and South America in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

The 150-member crew deployed to the region, where they interdicted 11 vessels suspected of narcotics smuggling. The vessel interdictions resulted in the seizure of more than

30,000 pounds of cocaine, worth an estimated \$440 million in wholesale value.

Before returning to Alameda, Munro [conducted a bulk offload of the illicit narcotics in San Diego](#) to facilitate the safe destruction of the narcotics in cooperation with federal agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Munro's crew conducted more than 50 hours of flight evolutions with an embarked helicopter from the U.S. Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON). The HITRON helicopter enhanced Munro's effectiveness by providing airborne use-of-force capabilities in the maritime domain, directly supporting the successful interdiction of six non-compliant vessels during the patrol. Munro's crew was augmented during the patrol with servicemembers from the Tactical Law Enforcement Team South. These teams are a part of the U.S. Coast Guard's elite maritime law enforcement units which deploy globally and are primarily focused on conducting high-risk law enforcement operations at sea, including counter-narcotic operations and interdicting drug smugglers.

Additionally, Munro responded to a search and rescue case 140 miles offshore of Humboldt Bay, ensuring the safety of two Canadian citizens and their sailing vessel through a rescue and assistance mission to restore the operability of the vessel's steering system and enable its safe transit to port for permanent repairs.

"Munro's crew demonstrated exceptional teamwork and persistence during an extraordinary patrol," said Capt. James O'Mara, Munro's commanding officer. "We transited the entirety of the Joint Interagency Task Force South area of operations and brought every capability to bear in order to prevent dangerous narcotics from reaching our shores. These cases happen day, night, and in a variety of weather conditions – it is very dynamic out there. But Munro's crew constantly adapted, rehearsed our tactics, and stayed laser focused to

get the job done. We know that a key ingredient to Munro's success and resilience is the unwavering support from our families and loved ones back home. Thanks – your support keeps us going.”

Munro is one of four Legend-class national security cutters (NSC) homeported on Base Alameda. There are currently ten commissioned NSC's currently operating in the fleet. NSCs feature advanced command, control, communications, computers, cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment; aviation support facilities; stern cutter boat launch; and long-endurance station keeping. The 418-foot cutters serve as operational-level headquarters for complex law enforcement, defense and national security missions involving the Coast Guard and multiple partner agencies.

Coast Guard Cutter Valiant Returns Home After 46-Day Patrol in the Windward Passage



U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Valiant (WMEC 621) and French Navy Frigate FS Ventôte (F733) conduct joint exercises at sea, Sept. 29, 2024, while underway in the Windward Passage. The crew of Valiant conducted a 49-day migrant interdiction operations patrol in the region to protect life at sea and enforce U.S. maritime law. (Photo courtesy of FS Ventôte)

Nov. 22, 2024

From Coast Guard 7th District, Nov. 22, 2024

NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla. – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Valiant (WMEC 621) returned to their home port at Naval Station Mayport, Nov. 7, following a 49-day migrant interdiction operations patrol in the Windward Passage.

Valiant's crew deployed in support of Homeland Security Task Force – Southeast (HSTF-SE) and Operation Vigilant Sentry (OVS) while operating in the Seventh Coast Guard District's area of responsibility. Throughout the patrol, the crew of Valiant conducted maritime safety and security missions to protect life at sea and enforce U.S. maritime law.

While at sea, Valiant rendezvoused with French Navy Frigate FS Ventôte (F733) during the vessels' independent patrols off coastal Haiti, where the two crews conducted North Atlantic

Treaty Organization (NATO) exercises. Valiant's crew applied cutter refueling at sea techniques and exercised NATO code signaling with their French counterparts. Valiant's small boat team received the unique opportunity to perform small-boat operations with a French warship. And Ventôse embarked a team from Valiant for a simulated boarding, where Coast Guard members shared techniques, procedures and best practices with their French counterparts.

International professional exchanges at sea such as these are vital for strengthening partnerships between nations, clearing the path for joint operations where shared missions, such as search and rescue and maritime drug interdiction, overlap.

Additionally, the crew of Valiant provided care for 363 Haitian migrants and conducted their safe repatriation home. Valiant's crew also transferred nearly 1,000 pounds of illegal narcotics and 14 suspected drug traffickers to proper authorities.

HSTF-SE serves as the Department of Homeland Security lead for operational and tactical planning, command and control, and acts as a standing organization to interdict unlawful maritime migration attempts with federal, state and local partners. HSTF-SE continues to enhance enforcement efforts in support of OVS, which is the 2004 DHS plan to respond to mass maritime migration in the Caribbean Sea and the Florida Straits.

Valiant is a multi-mission, 210-foot, Reliance-class medium endurance cutter. Its primary missions include search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, marine environmental protection, homeland security and national defense operations.

For information on how to join the U.S. Coast Guard, visit www.GoCoastGuard.com to learn more about active duty and reserve, officer and enlisted opportunities. Information on how to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy can be

found [here](#).

Gulfstream Again Selected for C-20, C-37 Fleet Support



Gulfstream Special Missions Awarded Significant Contract to Service U.S. Military Aircraft

From Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.

SAVANNAH, Ga., November 22, 2024 – Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE:GD), has been [awarded](#) a contractor logistics support services (CLS) contract from the U.S. Air Force Life Cycle Management Center for C-20 and C-37 fleets. This contract extends over a seven-year period and provides services to the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy,

U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard.

“For nearly 60 years, Gulfstream has been a trusted partner to governments and military organizations worldwide, and we are honored that the U.S. Air Force has once again selected our company to support the U.S. military’s fleet,” said Mark Burns, president, Gulfstream. “This demonstrates the strength of our world-class Customer Support network and its ability to support all of our customers’ missions. Gulfstream’s Special Missions business delivers cutting-edge aircraft expertly engineered for a wide range of critical operations and is currently experiencing unprecedented activity with customers around the world.”

The latest CLS contract is valued at \$991 million and includes a wide variety of support such as global maintenance, component overhaul, repair and modification services. Gulfstream Customer Support will perform the work at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay; and Naval Base Ventura County, California.

To date, Gulfstream has delivered more than 200 special missions aircraft to over 40 countries, including all branches of the U.S. military and key U.S. government agencies.

Coast Guard Establishes First Hawaii-Based JROTC Program



A cadet with Kalani High Schools Coast Guard JR0TC program renders a salute to Coast Guard Rear Adm. Sean Regan, commander, Coast Guard District Fourteen at the high school in Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 21, 2024. The Coast Guard established its first Hawaii based JR0TC at Kalani High School. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Robertson)
From Coast Guard District 14, Nov. 21, 2024

HONOLULU – The Coast Guard established a new Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Program at Kalani High School in Honolulu Thursday.

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Sean Regan, commander, District Fourteen, served as keynote speaker during the JR0TC unit’s commissioning ceremony.

“I am so proud to be part of such a great event and to see fantastic young men and women seeking new challenges, opportunities and adventures,” said Regan. “Thank you to the cadets’ families for their support, to Congress, the State of Hawaii and the City of Honolulu for bringing this program to fruition, and to Kalani High School’s administrators and

teachers for partnering with the Coast Guard.”

Kalani High School’s Coast Guard JROTC unit is the 14th in the nation and has over 20 cadets enrolled in the inaugural semester.

“We’re exceedingly grateful to be working with the State of HI Department of Education, Honolulu District, to launch this incredible partnership,” said Cmdr. Clay Cromer, Coast Guard JROTC program manager. “We look forward to seeing cadets learn, grow, and achieve in a supportive and fun learning environment. My hope is they’ll look back on their time in Coast Guard JROTC at Kalani High School with incredible fondness as they go out equipped to make a positive difference wherever they’re called to serve.”

Coast Guard JROTC instructors are hired and employed by the school district and certified by the service. Instructors must be Coast Guard retired, selected reserve, or qualified veterans with at least eight years of service. Kalani High School’s Coast Guard JROTC instructor is Retired Chief Petty Officer Ash Armstrong.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 mandated the Coast Guard to establish and maintain JROTC programs in each of the nine Coast Guard districts by Dec. 31, 2025. The Coast Guard established four new JROTC units this fall, making Kalani High School’s unit the 14th with program-wide enrollment of over 1,200 cadets. These new units are at the following host schools:

- Barnstable High School in Barnstable, Massachusetts

- Innovation High School in Orlando

- Veterans Memorial High School in Corpus Christi,

Texas

- Kalani High School in Honolulu

Coast Guard JROTC is not a recruiting program. Cadets incur no military service obligation by participation in JROTC, but they may be eligible for advanced enlistment opportunities with two or more years of participation in the program. The program helps equip cadets with the skills necessary to be more prepared for tomorrow's challenges, no matter what path they take.

To learn more about the Coast Guard JROTC program, visit their website: [U.S. Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps \(CGJROTC\)](#).

**Coast Guard Crew Offloads
\$335.8M Worth of Cocaine in
San Diego**



Crewmembers of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) work on the flight deck of the cutter during the contraband offload in San Diego, Nov. 19, 2024 (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Uranga)

From U.S. Coast Guard District Eleven, Nov. 19, 2024

SAN DIEGO – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) offloaded more than 29,000 pounds of cocaine, with an estimated value of \$335.8 million, Tuesday in San Diego.

The offload is a result of eleven separate suspected drug smuggling vessel interdictions or events off the coasts of Mexico and Central and South America in September and October.

“I would put this crew on any mission, anywhere, at any time,” said Capt. James O’Mara, commanding officer, Coast Guard Cutter Munro. “They executed everything asked of them with incredible teamwork and persistence, and we are proud of the results. Hats off to all our international and interagency partners – we absolutely cannot do this mission without them. For our families and loved ones back home: your support keeps us going out there. It takes everyone’s head in the game to make these interdictions happen, and we are grateful you have

our backs on the home front as we patrol the high seas and do our part to prevent dangerous narcotics from hitting cities around the globe.”

Multiple U.S. agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security, collaborate in the effort to combat transnational organized crime. The Coast Guard, Navy, Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with allied and international partner agencies, all play a role in counter-narcotic operations. The fight against drug cartels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean requires unity of effort in all phases, from detection and monitoring to interdictions and criminal prosecutions.

“Our partnerships and our collective abilities are vital to the security and prosperity of the hemisphere,” said Rear Adm. Joseph Buzzella, commander, Coast Guard District Eleven. “The Eastern Pacific is a challenging environment – both operationally and logistically. The transit zone is a vast area of ocean to cover, far from home. Despite the challenges, the success of the Munro’s crew highlights the importance of what we do on the high seas.”

The fight against drug cartels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean 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. The law enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean is conducted under the authority of Coast Guard District Eleven, headquartered in Alameda, California. The interdictions, including the actual boardings, are led and conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard.

These interdictions relate to Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) designated investigations. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level

criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

The Munro is the sixth Legend Class National Security Cutter, and is homeported in Alameda, California. The ship/s crew can operate in the most demanding open ocean environments, including the hazardous fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and the vast approaches of the Southern Pacific Ocean, where significant narcotics trafficking occurs.

Crewmembers of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) work on the flight deck of the cutter during the contraband offload in San Diego, Nov. 19, 2024. The Munro crew members interdicted the narcotics in the Eastern Pacific during counter-narcotic patrols, seizing 29,000 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated wholesale value of \$335.8 million. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Uranga)

Coast Guard Cutter Seneca Returns Home After 61-Day Patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean



The Coast Guard Cutter Seneca (WMEC-906) crew underway on the Eastern Pacific Ocean, Sept. 22, 2018. The cutter Seneca is the sixth of thirteen 270' Famous Class medium endurance cutters in the United States Coast Guard fleet. (Coast Guard Photo)

U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area, Nov. 19, 2024

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Seneca (WMEC 906) returned to their home port of Portsmouth, Oct. 30, following a 61-day counter-drug patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

During the deployment, Seneca's crew conducted law enforcement operations on the high seas to disrupt illegal narcotics smuggling.

Patrolling in support of Joint Interagency Task Force – South's (JIATF-S) counter-drug mission, Seneca worked to counter illicit maritime activities, strengthen partner nation ties and facilitate the safety of life at sea. While deployed in the Coast Guard Eleventh District area of operations,

Seneca's crew worked alongside an embarked aviation unit from the Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron and law enforcement detachment (LEDET) personnel from the Tactical Law Enforcement Team – South (TACLET-S).

While at sea, Seneca's crew provided assistance during a Costa Rican forces interdiction of a vessel carrying illegal drugs. The joint interdiction prevented approximately 3,376 pounds of marijuana, worth an estimated street-value of over \$3.2 million, from illicit distribution.

This interdiction displayed how U.S. Coast Guard units work effectively with partner nations to combat illicit transnational activities. While on patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, Seneca also operated alongside Coast Guard Cutters Munro (WMSL 755), Hamilton (WMSL 753), Vigorous (WMEC 627) and U.S. Navy Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS St. Louis (LCS 19).

"Our deployment is representative of the combined efforts of U.S. and allied military units from a coalition of partners working together to deny drug trafficking organizations access to maritime smuggling routes," said Cmdr. Lee Jones, commanding officer of Seneca. "The U.S. Coast Guard's ability to forge strong and lasting international partnerships that further the national interest is what makes our service such a unique instrument of national security. I am proud of the hard work, resiliency, and dedication to duty exhibited by the crew of Seneca."

Detecting and interdicting illicit drug traffickers on the high seas involves significant interagency and international coordination. JIATF-S based in Key West, Florida conducts the detection and monitoring of aerial and maritime transit of illegal drugs. Support from TACLET-S, which is based in Miami, improves mission capability.

Seneca is a 270-foot, Famous-class medium endurance cutter.

Commissioned in 1987, the cutter has called Portsmouth home for the past four years. The cutter's primary missions are counter-drug and migrant interdiction operations, enforcement of laws and treaties, and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

For information on how to join the U.S. Coast Guard, visit [GoCoastGuard.com](https://www.go CoastGuard.com) to learn about active duty, reserve, officer and enlisted opportunities. Information on how to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy can be found [here](#).

Coast Guard Establishes New JR0TC Program at Veterans Memorial High School in Corpus Christi



From U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Detachment Corpus Christi, Texas

Nov. 15, 2024

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Coast Guard established a new Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program at Veterans Memorial High School in Corpus Christi, Nov. 14.

Veterans Memorial High School's Coast Guard JROTC unit is the 13th in the nation and has over 50 cadets enrolled in the inaugural semester.

"We're excited to be at Veterans Memorial High School today. They're off to an excellent start with Commander Gully and Chief O'Leary," said Cmdr. Clay Cromer, Coast Guard JROTC program manager. "We're thrilled with the cadets' leadership, enthusiasm, and the initiative they're bringing to the table early on."

Coast Guard JROTC instructors are hired and employed by the

school district and certified by the service. Instructors must be Coast Guard retired, selected reserve, or qualified veterans with at least eight years of service. Veterans Memorial High School's Coast Guard JROTC instructors are Cmdr. Matthew Gully (USCG, Ret.) and Chief Petty Officer Mike O'leary (USCG, Ret.).

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 mandated the Coast Guard to establish and maintain JROTC programs in each of the nine Coast Guard districts by Dec. 31, 2025. The Coast Guard is establishing four new JROTC units this fall, bringing the total to 14 JROTC units, with program-wide enrollment of over 1200 cadets. These new units are at the following host schools:

- Barnstable High School – Barnstable, MA

- Innovation High School – Orlando, FL

- Veterans Memorial High School – Corpus Christi, TX

- Kalani High School – Honolulu, HI

Coast Guard JROTC is not a recruiting program. Cadets incur no military service obligation by participation in JROTC, but they may be eligible for advanced enlistment opportunities with 2 or more years of participation in the program. The program helps equip cadets with the skills necessary to be more prepared for tomorrow's challenges, no matter what path they take.

To learn more about the Coast Guard JROTC program, visit their website: [U.S. Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training](#)

Coast Guard Cutter Stratton Returns Home Following 110-day Arctic Deployment



The Coast Guard Cutter Stratton (WMSL 752) transits Glacier Bay, Alaska, Aug. 1, 2024, while patrolling the region. Stratton's crew returned to its homeport in Alameda, Calif., on Nov. 4, after completing a 110-day patrol in the Arctic Ocean, Chukchi Sea and Bering Sea. (U.S. Coast Guard courtesy photo)

From U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area, Nov. 15, 2024

ALAMEDA, Calif. – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Stratton

(WMSL 752) returned to its Alameda homeport on Nov. 4, after completing a 110-day patrol in the Arctic Ocean, Chukchi Sea and Bering Sea.

Stratton departed Alameda on July 18 and patrolled the Alaskan Inside Passage to Juneau, Alaska, throughout the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea and into the Arctic Ocean. The crew supported U.S. strategic interests in the high latitudes and ensured the safety and compliance of domestic fishery operators. This was Stratton's second 110-day Alaska patrol in 2024.

During the patrol, Stratton's crew tracked and observed two Russian Federation Navy surface action groups transiting through U.S. waters above the Arctic Circle. [Stratton patrolled under Operation Frontier Sentinel](#), an operation designed to meet presence with presence when strategic competitors operate in and around U.S. waters. The Coast Guard's presence strengthens the international rules-based order and promotes the conduct of operations in a manner consistent with international law and norms.

While patrolling the Arctic, Stratton conducted the first at-sea refueling evolutions for a national security cutter in the high latitudes. The at-sea refueling extended patrol times in the Arctic and enabled persistent Coast Guard presence in the remote region.

Stratton conducted 20 boardings of commercial fishing vessels and foreign trans-shipment vessels enforcing safety and fishing regulations. Alaska's fisheries are some of the nation's largest providers of seafood and are a critical component of the U.S. economy. The Coast Guard's efforts in ensuring safe fishing practices are essential to support this vital industry.

Stratton's crew also conducted search and rescue (SAR)

operations while deployed to the region. Stratton responded to the fishing vessel Galatea, which was adrift in a storm without propulsion due to a severed engine cooling line. Stratton crew deployed to the fishing vessel, repaired the casualty, and safely escorted Galatea to Dutch Harbor.

Stratton also [responded to the 738-foot cargo tanker Pan Viva](#) beset by a storm north of Dutch Harbor. After losing propulsion, the vessel was in danger of running aground in seas greater than 30' and 90-mile-per-hour winds. Stratton provided operational oversight to Pan Viva as Coast Guard MH-60 helicopter air crews evacuated non-essential personnel and commercial tugs aided the vessel.

Throughout the patrol, Stratton conducted 334 deck landings qualifications with Air Station Kodiak's MH-60 helicopter air crews operating near the Alaskan towns of Utqiagvik and Kotzebue above the Arctic Circle, to Cold Bay and Dutch Harbor in the Bering Sea. Stratton's coordination of these flight operations provided training opportunities for the crews to enhance their SAR capabilities in the remote areas of Alaska, which tripled the number of shipboard-qualified pilots in the Alaska region.

"I am extremely proud of the resilience and professionalism of Stratton's crew who've spent eight of the last ten months at sea in Alaska, conducting missions to safeguard our nation and people throughout two deployments to the region," said Capt. Brian Krautler, Stratton's commanding officer. "We met foreign presence in the Arctic, demonstrating our ability and resolve to protect our most challenging border and we found new ways to extend our presence, devising means to refuel at sea in the high latitudes. We boarded U.S. and foreign vessels to ensure compliance with legal and safety regulations, we enhanced SAR capabilities through rigorous flight training and conducted important search and rescue cases in our most demanding area of operations."

Stratton also met with the Royal Canadian Navy leadership during a port call in Victoria, Canada, to discuss strategic interests and cooperative efforts in the region. Stratton hosted three Royal Canadian Navy members during the patrol, enhancing U.S. and Canadian interoperability.

Additionally, Stratton conducted community relations engagements in the remote Alaskan communities of Savoonga, Teller and Brevig Mission. During these engagements, crew members met with tribal and city council leadership, volunteered at elementary schools, provided training in water and boating safety, participated in community-wide events including a high-latitude half-marathon, and learned about Inupiat culture, aiding in the service's understanding of the communities and how to optimize support for remote Alaskan villages.

Commissioned in 2012, Stratton is one of ten commissioned legend-class national security cutters and one of four homeported in Alameda. National security cutters are 418-feet long, 54-feet wide, and have a 4,600 long-ton displacement. They have a top speed of 28 knots, a range of 12,000 nautical miles, and can hold a crew of up to 170. Stratton routinely conducts operations throughout the Pacific, where the cutter's combination of range, speed, and ability to operate in extreme weather provides the mission flexibility necessary to conduct vital strategic missions.

Stratton's namesake is Capt. Dorothy Stratton, who led the service's all-female reserve force during World War II. Dorothy Stratton was the first female commissioned officer in the Coast Guard and commanded more than 10,000 personnel. The ship's motto is "we can't afford not to."

Coast Guard Holds Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Air Station Ventura



Coast Guard Fireman Xander Belchere, assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Ventura, cuts a ribbon during the commissioning ceremony for Air Station Ventura at Naval Base Ventura County in Point Mugu, California, Nov. 13, 2024. The ribbon-cutting and commissioning ceremony marked the establishment of the newest Coast Guard air station in 25 years. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Loumania Stewart)

From U.S. Coast Guard District Eleven, Nov. 13, 2024

VENTURA, Calif. – The Coast Guard is proud to announce the opening of its newest air station at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu. The ribbon cutting and commissioning

ceremony was held today, marking the establishment of the newest Coast Guard air station in 25 years.

Air Station Ventura features a \$70 million state-of-the-art, 48,000 square foot hangar and a 12,000 square foot administration facility, ensuring that Coast Guard personnel have the resources needed to carry out their vital missions. This new facility is expected to house three MH-60 Jayhawk helicopters and approximately 100 personnel, significantly enhancing the Coast Guard's capabilities in the region.

"The establishment of Air Station Ventura is a critical development for the Coast Guard's operations within the Eleventh District area of responsibility," said Rear Adm. Joseph R. Buzzella, commander, Coast Guard District Eleven. "This new station offers ready resources that provide safety and security to the maritime community. This is a monumental day for the air crews and for the community in which they serve."

Recently, the aircrew of Air Station Ventura conducted three rescues:

- Oct. 13, 2024: Air Station Ventura medevac a 63-year-old woman suffering from abdominal pain from the Cruise Ship Grand Princess
- Oct. 17, 2024: Air Station Ventura hoists a diver from vessel in 10-foot seas suffering decompression sickness near Anacapa Islands in Channel Islands.
- Oct. 31, 2024: Air Station Ventura medevac a man suffering from seizures from Cruise Ship Celebrity Radiance

“The recent rescues by the team at Air Station Ventura is a testament to the skill, dedication and readiness of our aircrews,” said Cmdr. Amanda Sardone, commanding officer, Air Station Ventura. “As plank owners, our crew will continue to leave a lasting mark on the future of this unit and service.”

The air station serves a crucial role in protecting the maritime region from Orange County to San Luis Obispo County including the vital ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach encompassing an area of responsibility more than 350 nautical miles.. Its missions include 24/7 emergency response; search and rescue; drug and migrant interdiction; law enforcement; and marine safety and environmental protection. The permanent presence of the Coast Guard in Ventura County provides enhanced security and quicker response times to emergencies, benefiting both the local community and maritime industries. District 11 now consists of five air stations in its area of responsibility to include: Humboldt Bay, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego and Ventura.

Airbus MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter Passes 40 Years of Coast Guard Service



From Airbus Helicopters

Today, Nov. 14, Airbus and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Airbus MH-65 Dolphin helicopter fleet supporting the USCG's vital life-saving missions.

Key Highlights:

- The first MH-65 Dolphin was delivered on November 14, 1984 to the USCG at Airbus' Grand Prairie, Texas facility, which continues to service and support the maintenance of this fleet today.
- In honor of this milestone, a Houston Coast Guard station will fly in an MH-65 to meet the Airbus team responsible for their ongoing support at the Airbus Helicopters' facility in Grand Prairie, Texas.

- Airbus employees in the Dallas area work tirelessly to ensure the Coast Guard can execute their critical missions effectively.

Quick Facts about the Airbus MH-65 Dolphin helicopter:

- **In Service:** Nearly 100 helicopters supporting the U.S. Coast Guard, accumulating more than 1.8 million flight hours; It currently makes up the largest fleet in the USCG.
- **Locations:** Operates across 26 states and various international locations
- **Missions:** The MH-65 has saved more lives and interdicted more drugs than any other helicopter in history.
- **Global Reach:** The MH-65 has operated on every continent

Airbus is the world's leading helicopter manufacturer, offering the most comprehensive lineup of civilian and military helicopters in the world.