

**U.S. Coast Guard completes
first patrol following
Typhoon Mawar to safeguard
those at sea, enhance
maritime security in Mariana
Islands**



[Release from U.S. Coast Guard 14th District](#)

SANTA RITA, Guam – Serving partners in the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, the USCGC Oliver Henry (WPC 1140) crew returned to Guam in time for Father’s Day, completing a patrol from June 12 to 18 in the Mariana Islands.

During the patrol, the Oliver Henry crew dedicated efforts to serve neighbors in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam while actively countering potential illegal maritime activity and standing ready to respond rapidly to any at-sea emergencies.

The Oliver Henry crew played a vital role as the search and rescue response cutter during a dedicated five days in the CNMI, accumulating 119 operational hours. Additionally, the crew spent a day on the high seas east of the CNMI, ensuring expanded coverage to counter illegal fishing and bolstering regional security efforts.

Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, highlighted the importance of service to our northern communities, stating, "We are dedicated to maintaining strong partnerships in the area and deterring illegal maritime activity. We also take the safety of those on the water seriously. Our presence and collaborative efforts in the CNMI reaffirm our commitment to the safety and security of our maritime environment and the well-being of our communities."

Acting on information from local partners, the crew made their presence off Saipan known and effectively deterred those seeking to come to Guam through an unannounced entry, preventing the departure of an estimated 30 people from Saipan. The U.S. Coast Guard's focus in this matter is the safety of life at sea and preventing illegal charters. Both issues threaten lives through the potential overloading of vessels, a lack of compliance with safety requirements and licensing, and risky behavior when operating vessels.

The Oliver Henry crew also executed a law enforcement boarding of opportunity on the high seas under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, specifically

on a Chinese-Taipei flagged long liner. The boarding team performed their duties, observing no violations or records of transshipment. Additionally, the patrol provided valuable training opportunities by hosting two temporary duty members from Guam-based units, contributing to the overall development and readiness of Coast Guard personnel.

Lt. Raymond Cerrato, commanding officer of Oliver Henry, commended the crew's exceptional performance, emphasizing the significance of joint operations and recognizing individual crewmember achievements stating, "The success of our patrol stems from the dedication and teamwork displayed by the USCGC Oliver Henry crew. By conducting law enforcement boardings, offshore gunnery exercises, and providing training opportunities, we demonstrated our crew's exceptional capabilities and commitment to serving the people of CNMI and Guam."

In recognition of individual achievements, the commanding officer frocked one crewmember to the next higher pay grade, and the team bid farewell to two departing members, acknowledging their dedication and contributions to the regional mission.

The recent patrol of the Oliver Henry underscores the U.S. Coast Guard's steadfast commitment to safety at sea, upholding maritime security, fostering partnerships, and maintaining interoperability in the Western Pacific. The U.S. Coast Guard plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and secure maritime environment by serving neighbors, countering illegal activities, and responding rapidly to emergencies.

For more news on U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and its ongoing efforts, please visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USCG-FMSG> or subscribe to <https://www.dvidshub.net/alerts/unit/7900>. You can also visit us on Facebook and Instagram at @USCGForcesMicronesia.

USCGC Bear (WMEC 901) returns home following 65-day deployment



[Release from U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area](#)

June 22, 2023

USCGC Bear (WMEC 901) returns home following 65-day deployment

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The USCGC Bear (WMEC 910) returned home to Coast Guard Base Portsmouth, Thursday, following a 65-day Caribbean Sea patrol.

While underway in the Seventh Coast Guard District's area of responsibility and in support of Joint Interagency Task Force-South, Bear conducted six counterdrug interdictions and seized a total of 8,558 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated \$97 million.

Bear conducted counterdrug operations as part of a multi-faceted approach to combatting illicit narcotics trafficking across maritime borders. Part of this effort included other Coast Guard assets, a Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron aircrew from Jacksonville, Florida, and a deployable specialized forces unit from the Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team.

Bear also conducted vertical replenishment with the U.S. Navy vessel Little Rock (LCS-9). Little Rock deployed its MH-60 Seahawk helicopter and crew to successfully deliver 5,566 pounds of seized cocaine to Bear's flight deck. Bear moored in Miami, last Friday, and offloaded the combined 14,153 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated \$186 million.

Interdictions in the Caribbean Sea are performed by members of the U.S. Coast Guard under the authority and control of the Seventh District, headquartered in Miami. Each case will be prosecuted in a court of law.

For more news on the Coast Guard's presence in the Caribbean please visit [here](#).

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

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alert returns home after 61-day counternarcotics patrol in Eastern Pacific



[Release from U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area](#)

June 16, 2023

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alert returns home after 61-day counternarcotics patrol in Eastern Pacific

ASTORIA, Ore. – The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alert (WMEC 630) and crew returned to homeport Friday, after a 61-day counternarcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific.

On May 26, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Marine Patrol Aircraft crew notified the Alert crew of a suspected "go-fast" vessel. The Alert crew launched the deployed Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and aircrew along with the cutter's small boat and law enforcement boarding team.

The Alert's law enforcement boarding team interdicted the suspected go-fast vessel and suspected drug smugglers, discovering more than 2,600 kilograms of cocaine with an approximate value of \$75 million.

"I couldn't be prouder of the Alert's crew. They fought through significant adversity to complete an outstanding patrol, one that each crewmember can look back at and know that we fully embodied our motto, "*Semper Paratus*," said Cmdr. Matthew Kolodica. "As I look back over my years in command, this tour was both challenging and very rewarding, I will miss the Alert and crew as I transfer to the Coast Guard Academy. That said, I know with the arrival of Cmdr. Lee Crusius this summer that the cutter and crew will be in good hands well into the future."

Kolodica will depart the Alert and be the director of Professional Maritime Studies at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

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 in districts across the nation. The law enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean is conducted under the authority of the 11th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Alameda, Calif. The interdictions, including the actual boardings, are led and conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Alert, commissioned in 1969, is a 210-foot Reliance-class medium endurance cutter stationed on the West Coast, and performs a variety of missions to protect Americans and American interests in the Northern and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Coast Guard offloads more than \$186 million in illegal narcotics



[Release from U.S. Coast Guard 7th District](#)

June 17, 2023

Coast Guard offloads more than \$186 million in illegal

narcotics

Coast Guard Seventh District

Miami— The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Bear (WMEC 901) offloaded more than 14,153 pounds of cocaine worth more than \$186 million in Miami, Friday.

The offloaded drugs were interdicted during nine separate cases in the international waters of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean as a result of efforts by crews from:

- USCG Bear (WMEC 901)
- USCG Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON)

- USS Little Rock (LCS-9)
- USCG Tactical Law Enforcement Team-Pacific
- USCG Tactical Law Enforcement Team-South
- USCG Donald Horsley (WPC-1117)
- USCG Air Station Borinquen HC-144 aircrew

- A U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations (AMO) aircrew

“The contraband offloaded today represents the professional expertise and dedication of U.S. defense and law enforcement agencies working together to combat the flow of illicit drugs through the Caribbean Region into the United States,” said Lt. Peter Hutchison, duty enforcement officer at Coast Guard District Seven. “This teamwork is imperative to the identification, interception, and seizure of vessels engaged in illicit trafficking and a testament to the hard work of these crews.”

Along with the illicit narcotics, 12 suspected smugglers were apprehended and face prosecution in federal courts by the

Department of Justice.

Detecting and interdicting illegal drug traffickers on the high seas involves significant interagency and international coordination. The Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West, Florida conducts detection and monitoring of aerial and maritime transit of illegal drugs. Once interdiction becomes imminent, the law enforcement phase of the operation begins, and control of the operation shifts to the U.S. Coast Guard throughout the interdiction and apprehension. Interdictions in the Caribbean Sea are performed by members of the U.S. Coast Guard under the authority and control of the Coast Guard's Seventh District, headquartered in Miami.

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New Commanding Officer USCG's Cutter Narwhal



By: Irv Cuevas

The Corona del Mar based Coast Guard Cutter Narwhal (WPB 87335) received a new commanding officer during a change-of-command ceremony Thursday June 15. The Narwhal is sponsored by the Newport Beach Navy League Council.

Lt. Dustin Miller, the commanding officer of the Narwhal for the past two-plus years, relinquished command to LTJG Annabella Farrabaugh during a time-honored military tradition that formally transfers and ensures continuity of command.

Miller moves to Washington, DC as a Congressional Fellow for the USCG.

Farrabaugh, a 2021 graduate of the USCG Academy, reports to the Narwhal from her previous tour serving as Deck Watch Officer for the Cutter Mohawk in Key West, FL.

Captain Ryan Manning, Sector Coordinator of USCG Los Angeles-Long Beach presided over the ceremony marked by military pomp and circumstance, and exhorted both Farrabaugh and Miller to continue exemplifying the Coast Guard's motto of *Semper Paratus/Always Ready*.

Narwhal is an 87-foot Marine Protector Class coastal patrol cutter and has been Homeported in Corona del Mar since 2001. Narwhal has participated in a wide-range of at-sea missions, received numerous commendations, and while ashore, its crew has been closely involved in supporting a host of Orange County community projects.

U.S. Coast Guard patrol enhances partnerships, interoperability in the Pacific ahead of Typhoon Mawar

