

Cutter Monroe Returns Home Following 128-Day Deployment



Crew members from Coast Guard Cutter Munro prepare to disembark after conducting a boarding of South Korean-flagged fishing vessel Dong Won in the South Pacific April 14, southwest of the Howland/Baker Islands, as part of Operation Blue Pacific. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 1st Class Nate Littlejohn*

ALAMEDA, Calif. – The crew aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) returned to their homeport in Alameda July 10 following a 128-day, 20,000-nautical-mile deployment, the Coast Guard Pacific Area said in a release.

Munro departed Alameda in early March for a multi-mission deployment to the South and North Pacific Ocean. The deployment aimed to counter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and strengthen relationships to enhance maritime sovereignty and security throughout the region.

Munro's crew supported Operation Blue Pacific and North Pacific Guard during the patrol. These operations lead and promote international efforts that uphold the principles of security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity in Oceania and the North Pacific through operations and engagements to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"Munro's deployment demonstrated the Coast Guard's unique authorities in the support of combatting IUU fishing," said Vice Adm. Andrew J. Tiongson, commander U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area. "Through Operation Blue Pacific, the Coast Guard aims to strengthen relationships with like-minded nations. Our shared efforts will improve maritime governance within the Pacific Ocean, increase capacity for bilateral search-and-rescue and law enforcement, and promote shared technical expertise and proficiency."

As a federal law enforcement agency, the Coast Guard combats illegal fishing and other maritime threats across the Pacific and promotes maritime governance, safety and security through partnerships around the world.

"Our relationships in the Pacific are stronger today and our partners are unified in their commitment to security," said Capt. Rula Deisher, who assumed command of Munro mid-patrol during a change-of-command ceremony in Guam. "It was an incredible opportunity for our crew to work alongside allies, share law enforcement concepts to promote peace, prosperity and the sovereign rights of all nations."

Commissioned in 2017, Munro is one of four Coast Guard Legend class national security cutters homeported in Alameda. National security cutters are 418-feet long, and have a range of 12,000 nautical miles, endurance of up to 90 days and can hold a crew of up to 170. Munro is the second cutter named for Signalmen First Class Douglas A. Munro, the only Coast Guardsman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Coast Guard Delivers Water to Drought-Stricken Kiribati at Critical Juncture



The Coast Guard Cutter Oliver Berry crew conducts a potable water offload while moored up at Kiritimati Island, Kiribati, July 8. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

HONOLULU – The island nation of Kiribati is surrounded by water. Too much of it, actually, because climate change and rising sea levels are endangering the 33 scattered small, sparsely populated and low-lying islands in the Gilbert, Phoenix and Line chain islands of Micronesia. And, safe drinking water is in short supply.

The government of the Republic of Kiribati recently declared a

state of disaster last month due to lasting drought conditions caused by below normal rainfall.

Kiribati is 2,400 miles due south of Hawaii, about half way to Australia, and straddles the equator. It has a population of about 119,000, most of whom live on the island of Tarawa. The country's highest elevation is 266 feet above sea level on the island of Banaba.

The Pacific Humanitarian Air Service, operated by the United Nations World Food Programme and UNICEF, transported emergency supplies to Kiribati on July 7, to help with the emergency.

According to the World Food Programme, the delivery included essential supplies, including "water, sanitation, hygiene" and dignity kits with collapsible water containers, buckets with lids, water purification tablets and soap. The shipment also delivered portable water field testing kits to help Kiribati authorities monitor water quality at both source and household levels.

A 2018 declaration by the Pacific Islands Forum nations said climate change is the "single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific."

Melting polar ice and glaciers are causing the sea level to rise, endangering low-lying countries like Kiribati. In fact, the islands may become inhabitable in a matter of decades. Many small islands rely on rain catchment systems for drinking water, so severe drought has a negative impact on the population.

Honolulu-based Coast Fast Response Cutter USCGC Oliver Berry (WPC 1124) delivered potable drinking water to the island of Kiritimati, working with U.N. representatives to support the local residents amid the national state of emergency.

In addition to providing humanitarian assistance, the Oliver

Berry crew supported Kiribati maritime law enforcement efforts, providing patrol coverage in Kiribati's exclusive economic zone to deter illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, support Kiribati resource security and strengthen maritime governance in Oceania.

"The Oliver Berry's patrol demonstrates the United States Coast Guard's enduring commitment to our partner nations throughout Oceania," said Howell. "Instances like these pave the way for future Coast Guard assets to support The Republic of Kiribati and its citizens."

Amid the natural disaster is a political storm, too. Kiribati withdrew from a July 11-14 summit of Pacific Islands Forum leaders at the last minute, citing a lack of concern over issues important to the country.

The withdrawal coincides with efforts by China to have greater influence in Oceania.

The positive presence of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter and crew sends a reassuring message of support at a critical time.

Coast Guard Offloads \$5.2 Million in Seized Cocaine in San Juan, Puerto Rico



The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos offloaded 250 kilograms in seized cocaine estimated at \$5.2 million at Coast Guard Base San Juan July 5. The contraband was seized following the interdiction of a drug smuggling vessel by the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Doyle June 30, south of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos offloaded 551 pounds of seized cocaine Tuesday in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Coast Guard 7th District said July 5.

Three men, one Venezuelan and two Dominican Republic nationals, apprehended in this case are facing federal prosecution in Puerto Rico.

The interdiction is the result of multi-agency efforts in support of the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force. The seized cocaine has an estimated wholesale value of approximately \$5.2 million.

During the morning of June 30, the crew of a Customs and Border Protection Caribbean Air and Marine Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft detected a "yola" type vessel navigating towards Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. Coast Guard watchstanders in Sector San Juan diverted the cutter Joseph Doyle that arrived on scene and stopped the suspect vessel.

The Coast Guard crew apprehended the three men and embarked eight bales from the suspect vessel that tested positive for cocaine. The seized contraband was later transferred to the Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Tezanos for delivery to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"This successful interdiction is due to the strong collaboration between the Coast Guard and our fellow federal law enforcement partners," said Capt. José E. Díaz, Coast Guard Sector San Juan commander. "We will continue to do our utmost to stop drug smuggling vessels at sea and protect the nation's southernmost maritime border from illicit trafficking."

The apprehended smugglers face federal prosecution in Puerto Rico. The charges carry a minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of imprisonment for life.

Cutter Northland Returns Home after 76-day Eastern Pacific Counter-Narcotics Patrol



Cmdr. Patricia Bennett, the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Cutter Northland, welcomes the president of the Governing Council of the Galapagos Province aboard Northland, May 10. Northland arrived in the Galapagos for the first time in the cutter's 38-year history and became only the second Coast Guard ship to anchor in the waters of the Galapagos Islands in over a decade. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Seaman Rachelle Amezcua-Gonzales*

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The Coast Guard Cutter Northland (WMEC 904) returned to homeport July 3 following a 76-day patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in support of the 11th Coast Guard District, the Coast Guard 5th District said July 5.

Throughout the deployment, the ship patrolled the waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean in search of vessels suspected of

smuggling illicit narcotics across international boundaries. In addition to the cutter's permanently assigned crewmembers, Northland was augmented by an aviation detachment from Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron and a Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Detachment. A true force multiplier, Northland's HITRON detachment operated an MH-65E Dolphin helicopter, capable of conducting overhead reconnaissance and employing aerial use of force by precision marksmen upon narcotics smuggling vessels. As law enforcement and interdiction specialists, the TACLET personnel augmented the ship's pursuit teams, and provided specialized training to crewmembers to better prepare the cutter for interdiction and boarding operations.

While on patrol, Northland interdicted a low-profile vessel and one go-fast panga-style vessel suspected of trafficking illicit narcotics. The interdictions resulted in 6,223 pounds of suspected cocaine seized and 761 pounds of suspected marijuana seized with an estimated street value of nearly \$83 million and the detention of six individuals suspected of the illegal transport of narcotics. On June 30, the cutter offloaded the seized narcotics at Coast Guard Base Miami.

In addition to maintaining a sentinel presence in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Northland conducted an Exercise Contingent to Operations with Ecuadorian Naval and Coast Guard personnel in San Cristobal, Galapagos, Ecuador. Northland arrived in the Galapagos for the first time in the cutter's 38-year history on May 10, and became only the second Coast Guard ship to anchor in the pristine waters of the Galapagos Islands in over a decade. The exercise served as a critical step toward strengthening United States-Ecuador strategic relations in the region and was attended by the U.S. consul general to Ecuador and the president of the Governing Council of the Galapagos Province. Joint training operations between Northland and Ecuadorian Naval and Coast Guard personnel included a joint patrol with the LAE Isla San Cristobal (LG-30); small boat

tactics and training; tours of Northland and the Isla San Cristobal; a joint leadership luncheon; and a discussion on tactics and procedures for combatting illegal narcotics smuggling and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the Galapagos region. Following the exercise's official events, Northland crewmembers had the opportunity to explore the island of San Cristobal and enjoy Ecuador's sights, snorkeling and cuisine.

Following Northland's northbound transit through the Panama Canal, the ship rescued six stranded Cuban nationals from a deserted island in Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas. The rescue was carried out while Northland conducted migrant interdiction operations in support of the Seventh Coast Guard District.

"This deployment was a success thanks to the efforts of our crew and our HITRON and TACLET detachments, who we were thrilled to have aboard with us. Between crossing the Equator, visiting the Galapagos Islands and deterring the illicit activity of transnational criminal organizations, our crew is returning home with both once-in-a-lifetime sea stories and a validated sense of accomplishment," said Cmdr. Patricia M. Bennett, Northland's commanding officer. "As my last patrol in command of this ship, I am extremely proud of the adaptability, ingenuity and determination demonstrated by this remarkable crew on a daily basis."

The Northland is a 270-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia, and routinely deploys in support of counter-drug, alien migrant interdiction, fisheries, search and rescue, and homeland security missions.

Bertholf's Patrol Results in Penalties Against Chinese Taipei-Flagged Vessels



U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf, homeported in Alameda, California, operates in the Bering Sea, Aug. 24, 2021. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

JUNEAU, Alaska – A North Pacific Guard illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries patrol in 2021 by the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf recently resulted in The Fisheries Agency of Taiwan issuing penalties against five Chinese Taipei-flagged vessels, the Coast Guard 17th District said July 5.

The Fisheries Agency of Taiwan announced May 24 that a fine of approximately \$203,190 was imposed against the operator of a fishing vessel, and the operator's license was suspended for one month. The agency imposed a fine of approximately \$40,600

against the captain of that vessel, revoked their fishing vessel crew identification, and suspended their certificate of fishing vessel officer for one month. The vessel was listed as a high-risk fishing vessel and is subject to special management measures.

The agency imposed fines of approximately \$1,693 against the vessel operators and \$338 against the captains of three other fishing vessels, who were fined for illegal retention of salmon. The agency fined a fifth vessel for improper vessel identification markings.

The Bertholf crew conducted its North Pacific Guard patrol in late 2021 to support the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and North Pacific Fisheries Commission. Also aboard and participating were two officers from Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans and one officer from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement.

During the patrol, the crew boarded 15 fishing vessels and identified 32 potential violations of conservation and management measures under the WCPFC and NPFC. These potential violations were then investigated by Fisheries Agency of Taiwan in accordance with their own domestic laws and regulations. More information about the Bertholf's patrol is available [here](#).

"The success of Bertholf's patrol highlights the value of our ongoing international partnerships in protecting food and economic security of coastal states across the globe," said Vice Adm. Michael F. McAllister, Coast Guard Pacific Area commander. "The penalties imposed by the Fisheries Agency of Taiwan exemplify the collaborative approach and role of law enforcement in protecting the global food chain."

Operation North Pacific Guard is an annual multi-mission effort between the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, five Pacific Rim countries and three regional fisheries management organizations to include the WCPFC, NPFC, and the North Pacific Anadromous Fishing Commission. The goal is for each nation to work collaboratively to detect and intercept illicit fishing activity.

Coast Guard Awards Contract for Stage 2 of the Offshore Patrol Cutter Acquisition



An artist's rendering of the Offshore Patrol Cutter. *EASTERN SHIPBUILDING GROUP*

WASHINGTON – The Coast Guard awarded a fixed-price incentive contract to Austal USA of Mobile, Alabama, to produce up to 11 offshore patrol cutters, Coast Guard Headquarters said June 30.

The initial award is valued at \$208.26 million and supports detail design and long lead-time material for the fifth OPC, with options for production of up to 11 OPCs in total. The contract has a potential value of up to \$3.33 billion if all options are exercised.

In 2019, the Coast Guard revised the OPC acquisition strategy to mitigate emergent cost and schedule risk by establishing a new, full and open competition for OPCs five and through 15, designated as Stage 2 of the overall program. Informed by industry feedback, the Coast Guard released a request for proposals Jan. 29, 2021, for OPC Stage 2 detail design and production.

The Coast Guard's requirements for OPC Stage 2 detail design and production were developed to maintain commonality with earlier OPCs in critical areas such as the hull and propulsion systems, but provide flexibility to propose and implement new design elements that benefit lifecycle cost, production and operational efficiency and performance.

"The offshore patrol cutter is absolutely vital to Coast Guard mission excellence as we recapitalize our legacy medium endurance cutters, some of which are more than 50 years old," said Adm. Linda Fagan, commandant of the Coast Guard. "The OPCs are the ships our crews need to protect our national security, maritime safety and economic prosperity. I look forward to the new cutters joining our fleet."

The 25-ship OPC program of record complements the capabilities of the service's national security cutters, fast response cutters and polar security cutters as an essential element of the Department of Homeland Security's layered maritime security strategy. The OPC will meet the service's long-term need for cutters capable of deploying independently or as part of task groups and is essential to stopping smugglers at sea, interdicting undocumented non-citizens, rescuing mariners, enforcing fisheries laws, responding to disasters and

protecting ports.

Cutter Reliance Returns from a 71-Day Caribbean Sea Patrol



A response boat crew member steers toward the Coast Guard Cutter Reliance during a 52-day patrol in the Atlantic Ocean, Jan. 13, 2021. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The crew of USCGC Reliance (WMEC 615) returned to homeport in Pensacola June 30, after a 71-day Caribbean Sea patrol, the Coast Guard 8th District said in a release.

The Reliance crew supported the U.S. Coast Guard 7th District

and Joint Interagency Task Force-South throughout their patrol, aiding in missions to interdict the flow of illegal drugs and prevent migrant trafficking throughout the maritime approaches to the United States and Caribbean partners.

Reliance interdicted multiple unseaworthy vessels trafficking migrants off the coast of Haiti, and ultimately provided safe and humanitarian care for 170 people.

Additionally, the cutter's crew worked with, and provided technical assistance to, the Haitian Coast Guard during their seizure of a suspected migrant vessel in the Canal de la Tortue.

Reliance's crew further assisted Haitian partners by towing a seized vessel safely to port after it experienced propulsion issues.

In a separate case, Reliance worked with international and domestic partners while attached to Joint Interagency Task Force-South to interdict a "go-fast" smuggling vessel that was transporting approximately 631 kilograms of suspected illicit drugs with an estimated street value of \$26 million.

The 71-day patrol was also critical in the crew's efforts to conduct shipboard training, qualifications, and operational readiness.

Reliance is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Pensacola with a crew of 77. The cutter's primary missions are counter-drug operations, migrant interdiction, enforcing federal fishery laws, and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Cutter Diligence Returns Home After 65-day Caribbean Sea Patrol



The Coast Guard interdicts a migrant vessel on the Caribbean Sea. The overloaded Haitian vessel was interdicted by the Coast Guard Cutters Diligence (WMEC-616) and Confidence (WMEC-619) while engaged in an illegal maritime migration. *U.S. Coast Guard / Petty Officer 3rd Class Seth Rentz*

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Diligence returned to their home port in Pensacola, Florida on Friday after a 65-day Caribbean Sea patrol, the Coast Guard 8th District said in a June 26 release.

During the patrol, Diligence's crew conducted migrant interdiction operations in support of Operation Southeast

Watch, in an interagency effort to detect and deter vessels engaged in illegal maritime migration.

Partnering with six other Coast Guard cutters and three Coast Guard aircraft, Diligence interdicted, cared for and repatriated 127 migrants who departed from Haiti and Cuba. Additionally, Diligence's crew worked with the cutter Confidence to safely escort one overloaded vessel engaged in an illegal migrant venture, ensuring the safety of more than 500 people.

The Diligence crew also completed the Coast Guard's biennial shipboard training assessment, Tailored Ships Training Accountability (TSTA), at Naval Station Mayport in Mayport, Florida. TSTA is a three-week training period in which a team of evaluators assess the crew's mission readiness and ability to respond to shipboard emergencies and execute missions. Diligence achieved a 98% drill average during weapons, command and control, damage control, engineering, navigation and seamanship evaluations.

"Throughout the deployment, Diligence's crew exemplified the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty," said Cmdr. Jared Trusz, Diligence's commanding officer. "In response to a challenging mission, they supported national security objectives by deterring illegal maritime migration, while ensuring the safety of life at sea. The crew provided humanitarian care for those interdicted and treated all migrants with dignity and respect until we were able to safely return them to Haiti. I cannot thank Diligence's crew enough for the hard work and sacrifices made during this patrol."

Diligence is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Pensacola with 78 crewmembers. The cutter's primary missions are counter drug operations, migrant interdiction, enforcing federal fishery laws, as well as search and rescue in support of Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Cutter Steadfast Returns Home after 55-day Counter- Narcotics Patrol



The crew aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Steadfast (WMEC-623) stands in formation on the ship's flight deck while underway off the coast of Central America Memorial Day, 2022. An embarked MH-65 Dolphin helicopter detachment crew from Air Station Port Angeles hovered overhead for the photo in recognition of the day of remembrance. *U.S. Coast Guard / Seaman Brad O'Brien*

ASTORIA, Ore. – United States Coast Guard Cutter Steadfast (WMEC-623) returned to homeport in Astoria on Saturday, June 18, following a 55-day counter narcotics deployment to the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Coast Guard 13th District said in a release.

The 210-foot medium-endurance cutter and crew covered more than 11,000 miles conducting law enforcement and search-and-rescue operations in international waters off Central America from Mexico to Costa Rica.

The Steadfast deployed with an MH-65E Dolphin helicopter and aviation crew from Air Station Port Angeles, Washington, and with additional Coast Guard members from the Tactical Law Enforcement Team Pacific, Electronics Support Detachment Detroit, Base Galveston and three Coast Guard Academy cadets.

The crew of the Steadfast also worked with Mexican law enforcement assets on two occasions, to locate, track, and interdict fast-moving drug smuggling vessels, resulting in the seizure of 2,747 kilograms of cocaine by Mexican authorities, valued at \$109 million.

While transiting south of Mexico, Steadfast's bridge team sighted a disabled and adrift open-hull vessel with two Mexican adult males waving life jackets. Steadfast approached the vessel to investigate and determine the nature of distress. The imperiled mariners stated that they were fishermen who had been adrift for 23 days after their vessel had been beset by weather. Steadfast embarked both persons, provided meals and medical care, and returned them safely back to Mexico.

This was the last patrol for Cmdr. Craig Allen Jr., who has served as the Steadfast's commanding officer since July 2020. A change-of-command ceremony is scheduled to take place on July 22 in front of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Steadfast is a 54-year-old Reliance-class cutter that has been homeported in Astoria since 1994. Previously, Steadfast was homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she earned the nickname "El Tiburon Blanco" ('the White Shark'), from drug smugglers for her notoriety in counter-narcotics operations in the Florida Straits and Caribbean Sea.

Coast Guard Cutter Campbell Returns Home after 80-Day Patrol



Coast Guard Cutter Campbell's crew member feeding a baby near Anguilla Cay, Bahamas, April 11, 2022. Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton crew transferred 67 Haitians to Bahamian authorities after the Cutter Campbell crew rescued them. *U.S. COAST GUARD*

BOSTON – Coast Guard Cutter Campbell's crew returned home to Newport, Rhode Island, June 23, following an 80-day, multi-mission patrol in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean in support of the Coast Guard 7th District's Operation Southeast Watch and the U.S. Navy's Composite Training Unit Exercise, the Coast Guard 1st District said in a release.

Amidst the largest surge in maritime migration in nearly two decades, Campbell patrolled the Windward Pass and South Florida Straits, tasked with the disruption and interdiction of dangerous and illegal migrant ventures departing from Haiti and Cuba.

On April 10, within hours of entering the South Florida Straits, Campbell's crew intercepted a wooden sail freighter with 67 Haitians aboard. The group, which included minors as young as five months, departed the north coast of Haiti nearly a week prior, and ran dangerously short on food, water, baby formula, and other essential supplies. The crew embarked the distressed migrants, providing care and medical attention before transferring the case to the Royal Bahamian Defense Force.

Throughout April and May, Campbell interdicted five additional migrant vessels that departed from Haiti and Cuba. In one notable case, Campbell interdicted a 50-foot, power-driven vessel carrying 212 Haitians south of Turks and Caicos. In total, Campbell's crew rescued and cared for 528 Haitians and 21 Cubans during the patrol.

In June, Campbell shifted focus and joined a U.S. Navy Carrier Strike Group for COMPTUEX, a joint training mission off the North Carolina and Florida coasts. The training exercise, which serves as the Navy's capstone prior to overseas

deployment, included live-fire weapons exercises, formation steaming, and multi-day at-sea combat simulations.

The Campbell, a 270-foot Cutter with a crew complement of 100, is homeported in Newport, Rhode Island. The crew's missions include search and rescue operations, counter-drug, migrant interdiction and living marine resources protection.