Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton stops 2 suspected drug vessels at sea

WASHINGTON – Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton's crew interdicted two suspected drug vessels carrying approximately 10,900 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated $89.2 million, Oct. 28, approximately 175 miles off Cartagena, Colombia.

Both drug vessels were stopped using disabling fire and 10 suspected narco-terrorists were detained and repatriated to Colombia for further investigation and potential prosecution.

"I am incredibly proud of this crew's professionalism and resilience that allows us to complete these dynamic and dangerous missions at sea," said Lt. Peter Fager, Charles Sexton's commanding officer. "We are determined to keep drugs off America's streets and protecting our nation from transnational criminal organizations and cartels."

Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton's interdictions continue the Coast Guard's mission to interdict, seize, and disrupt transshipment of cocaine and other bulk illicit drugs by sea. The Coast Guard's persistent operations and rapid response denied criminal organizations billions in illicit revenue and prevented the flow of dangerous drugs into American communities. In Fiscal Year 2026, the Coast Guard seized nearly 198,000 pounds of cocaine, exceeding its annual average. Since August 2025, the Coast Guard seized over 262,000 pounds of cocaine through Operation Pacific Viper, continuing aggressive counter-drug operations in the Eastern Pacific.

The U.S. Coast Guard works alongside local, state, federal, and international partners to detect, disrupt, and deter

transnational criminal organizations and illicit maritime trafficking in support of Operation Pacific Viper. Operating under the Coast Guard’s Title 14 law enforcement authorities, and with critical support from partner nations, these unified efforts span every stage of counter-drug operations from initial detection and monitoring to maritime interdiction and criminal prosecution. Focused on critical regions such as the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Southwest District’s area of responsibility, the Coast Guard is part of a whole-of-government approach to combat transnational organized crime.

From U.S. Contact Coast Guard Southeast District, Nov. 13, 2026