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.