Coast Guard Cutter Tampa Offloads $94.6M in Cocaine in Miami



Coast Guard Cutter Tampa crew offloads approximately 5,500 pounds of cocaine, worth an estimated $94.6 million, at Base Miami Beach, Miami, Florida, April 20, 2021. On April 9, a maritime patrol flight spotted a vessel, and a Tampa law enforcement team interdicted a low profile vesseloff the coast of Punta Gallinas, Colombia. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Chief Petty Officer Charly Tautfest*

MIAMI – Coast Guard Cutter Tampa's crew offloaded approximately 5,500 pounds of cocaine, worth an estimated $94.6 million, in Miami, April 20, after interdicting a low-profile vessel off the coast of Punta Gallinas, Colombia, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

A maritime patrol flight spotted the vessel on April 9, and a law enforcement team from the cutter detained three suspects

and discovered 87 bales of cocaine. The vessel was destroyed as a hazard to navigation and the suspects are reported to be in good health.

“This event is the perfect example of numerous key partners unifying our efforts to counter transnational criminal organizations who look to exploit the maritime environment,” said Lt. Cmdr. Jason Neiman, Seventh District public affairs officer. “By strengthening partnerships, we counter threats together.”

The interdiction was the result of multi-agency efforts in support of U.S. Southern Command’s enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area programs, and the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force.

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, all suspects receive food, water, shelter and basic medical attention. Throughout the interdiction, Coast Guard crew members were equipped with personal protective equipment to minimize potential exposure to any possible case of COVID-19. There were no suspects in these cases reported to have any COVID-19 related symptoms.