

# Coast Guard Cutter Venturous Returns Home After 62-Day Patrol



The Coast Guard Cutter Venturous, shown here returning from its November 2018 patrol. U.S. COAST GUARD / Michael De Nyse ST.

PETERSBURG, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Venturous (WMEC-625) returned home to St. Petersburg June 27 following a 62-day patrol in the Caribbean Sea, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release of the same date.

Venturous' crew spent the first three weeks of the patrol at Naval Station Mayport for their biennial Tailored Ship's Training Availability, which is designed to test the crew's ability to respond to various operations and shipboard emergencies.

After departing Mayport, the Venturous crew transited over 7,000 miles while operating in the Caribbean Sea enforcing international laws and treaties in support of the Coast Guard's Western Hemisphere Strategy by countering transnational organized criminal networks and deterring human smuggling while safeguarding life at sea.

On June 12th, the crew of the Venturous partnered with rotary and fixed wing

aircraft from  
Coast Guard Air Stations Clearwater and Miami and Royal  
Bahamian Defense Forces  
interceptor and rescued 177 Haitian migrants from an  
overloaded 40-foot vessel  
approximately 20 nautical miles southwest of Providenciales,  
Turks and Caicos.

*“From responding to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, to completing four consecutive deployments through the Panama Canal to the Eastern Pacific Ocean, to preventing over nine tons of illicit narcotics, valued at over a quarter billion dollars, from reaching our shores, and rescuing 189 migrants and 10 fishermen from the perils of the sea, the crew of Venturous truly upheld her motto, Nemo Supra, None Better.”*

*Cmdr. Matthew Chong, commanding officer of the Venturous*

The Venturous  
crew utilized both of the over the horizon cutter boats to  
safely offload all  
177 migrants from the vessel, which was slowly flooding due to  
its severely  
overloaded state and choppy seas. The Royal Bahamian Defense  
Forces interceptor  
provided security on the vessel and the Air Station Clearwater  
MH-60 Jayhawk  
helicopter provided overflight coverage as Venturous embarked  
the migrants.  
Once aboard Venturous, crewmembers provided the migrants with  
food, water,  
shelter and basic medical care.

On two other  
occasions, Venturous intercepted overloaded vessels closer to  
shore and  
directed them to return back to port rather than face the

dangerous journey in  
open waters.

Six cadets  
from the Coast Guard Academy also joined Venturous during the  
deployment and  
worked alongside the crew while earning various shipboard  
qualifications and  
gaining valuable operational experience that will aid in their  
development as  
future Coast Guard officers.

Additionally,  
Venturous hosted two ship riders from the Cayman Islands.  
While on board, the  
ship riders attended operations briefings and engaged with  
crewmembers to  
exchange best practices to fight human and narcotics  
trafficking networks while  
strengthening the strategic partnership with an important  
regional ally.

“As I  
complete my final patrol on Venturous, I can’t help but look  
back on the past  
two years with immense pride and awe in all that our crew  
accomplished.” said  
Cmdr. Matthew Chong, commanding officer of the Venturous.  
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Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, to completing four  
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The Venturous  
is a 210-foot Reliance-class cutter, homeported in St.  
Petersburg and has a  
crew of 76. Medium endurance cutters, like the Venturous, are  
slated for  
replacement by a new class of cutter – the Offshore Patrol  
Cutter (OPC). With  
the ability to operate more than 50 miles from land, the OPC  
will be a  
multi-mission asset, providing surface and air pursuit  
capabilities and  
interoperability with other military and federal partners.