Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant Crew Returns Home After Caribbean Patrol



A Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered small boat crew gives life jackets to 50 migrants about 46 miles north of Cap Haïtien, Haiti, on May 20. The Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant crew transferred the migrants back to their country of origin. U.S. Coast Guard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant returned home June 23 to Cape Canaveral after a two-month Caribbean patrol, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a release.

The crew's patrol focused on enforcing U.S. federal laws by conducting boardings of U.S. and international vessels throughout the Caribbean basin while working with other government agencies and international partners to maintain national security.

While on patrol, the crew ensured the safe return of 50 Haitian migrants to their home country after their illegal and dangerous voyage was disrupted by the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered, a fast-response cutter homeported in Miami. The crew was also involved in a search for a person reported to be in the water after falling overboard from his sailing vessel.

The Vigilant

crew interdicted a go-fast vessel illegally smuggling 7,800 pounds of garlic from Haiti to the Dominican Republic. Garlic smuggling is a global issue on the rise and has had negative impacts on the agricultural industry in the Dominican Republic in the last few years.

Upon hearing of the interdiction, the Dominican navy sent a ship to meet the Vigilant to take over the case for the prosecution. The contraband was valued at about $30,000 and was the largest Coast Guard seizure of its kind.

During their 59-day patrol, the crew worked with agencies such as the Jamaican Defense Force, Royal Bahamian Defense Force, Dominican navy, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Navy.

The Vigilant is a multimission 210-foot medium-endurance cutter whose missions include illegal drug and migrant interdiction as well as search and rescue. The Vigilant patrols throughout the Caribbean basin and Atlantic seaboard to ensure safety of life at sea and enforce international and domestic laws.