Coast Guard offloads over $18.2 million in cocaine at Base Miami Beach



MIAMI – U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Lawrence Lawson‘s crew offloaded approximately 2,425 pounds of suspected cocaine worth $18.2 million, Tuesday, at U.S. Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, following a maritime interdiction in the Caribbean Sea.

The offload resulted from an interdiction conducted by U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton’s crew, Nov. 4, approximately 110 miles southeast of Portland Cottage, Jamaica. The interdiction resulted in the seizure of suspected narcotics and the detention of three suspected smugglers.

A U.S. Southern Command airplane crew detected a 35-foot go-fast vessel with two outboard engines, multiple fuel barrels and packages consistent with contraband on deck. The aircraft directed Charles Sexton’s crew toward the vessel to investigate.

Upon arriving on scene, Charles Sexton’s crew conducted a boarding and discovered approximately 40 bales of suspected narcotics aboard the vessel. Presumptive field tests returned positive results for cocaine.

The Coast Guard detained the three people aboard the vessel, two from St. Kitts and Nevis and one from Jamaica.

“Drug trafficking organizations continue to exploit maritime routes throughout the Caribbean Sea to transport illicit narcotics,” said Lt. Peter Fager, commanding officer of Charles Sexton. “This interdiction demonstrates the dedication of our Coast Guard crews and the importance of maritime

surveillance in detecting and disrupting illicit trafficking operations.”

The offload highlights the Coast Guard’s continued efforts to interdict illicit narcotics, disrupt transnational criminal organizations and prevent dangerous drugs from reaching American communities.

The U.S. Coast Guard works alongside local, state, federal and international partners to detect, deter and disrupt maritime drug trafficking. Through persistent operations and coordinated law enforcement efforts, Coast Guard crews help protect the nation’s maritime borders and prevent illicit narcotics from entering the United States.

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