

Coast Guard Repatriates 60 Aliens to Dominican Republic Following Voyage Interdiction



Coast Guard Cutter Thetis and a Customs and Border Protection multi-role enforcement aircraft crew interdict an unlawful migration voyage vessel in Mona Passage waters off Puerto Rico, March 27, 2026. Thetis crewmembers repatriated 60 migrants and transferred them to Dominican Republic Navy authorities in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, March 30, 2026. (U.S. Coast Guard photo)

From U.S. Coast Guard Southeast District, March 30, 2026

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Thetis repatriated 60 aliens to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Monday, following the interdiction of an unlawful migration vessel voyage in Mona Passage waters northwest of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

The repatriated aliens were transferred to Dominican Republic Navy authorities including 43 men and 11 women who claimed Haitian nationality and five other men and one woman who claimed Dominican Republic nationality. No minors were identified in this case.

The interdiction occurred Friday afternoon after a Customs and Border Protection Caribbean Air and Marine Branch Multi-Role Enforcement aircraft crew on a routine patrol detected a makeshift vessel, approximately 50 nautical miles from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Sector San Juan watchstanders diverted the Coast Guard Cutter Thetis and launched an Air Station Borinquen MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter to respond. Once on-scene, Thetis deployed the cutter's Over the Horizon small boat whose crew took positive control of the suspect vessel. Following the interdiction, the Thetis crew safely embarked all the migrants.

"The swift response, effective communications and seamless coordination between Coast Guard Thetis, Sector San Juan personnel and our CBP partners led to a successful interdiction and resulted in sixty lives saved," said Cmdr. Matthew Romano, Sector San Juan chief of response. "The resolve of the Coast Guard, our Homeland Security Task Force – San Juan and of our Dominican Republic Navy partners to detect and stop these potentially deadly voyages is unwavering. To those thinking of taking part in an unlawful migration voyage, don't take to the sea! These voyages most often involve unseaworthy and grossly overloaded makeshift vessels with no lifesaving equipment. They are highly unstable and could capsize without warning killing everyone onboard. Individuals taking part in these voyages should also realize they may be subject to criminal prosecution and or repatriated to their country of origin or departure."

Once aboard a Coast Guard cutter, aliens are processed to determine their identity and are provided with food, water, shelter and basic medical attention.

The United States Coast Guard, along with its Operation Vigilant Sentry partners, maintains a continued presence with air, land, and sea assets in the Florida Straits, the Windward Passage, the Mona Passage, and the Caribbean Sea. Operation

Vigilant Sentry's multi-layered approach is designed to protect the safety of life at sea while preventing unlawful maritime entry to the United States and its territories.