

Cutter Returns to Boston After Offloading More Than 12,000 Pounds of Cocaine



The Coast Guard Cutter Seneca crew offloaded more than 12,000 pounds of cocaine on Sept. 20 at Coast Guard Sector Miami. The drugs were interdicted in international waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Mexico and Central and South America. U.S. Coast Guard/Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Lally

BOSTON – The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Seneca returned home to Boston on Sept. 27 after a 93-day patrol in the eastern Pacific Ocean, the Coast Guard 1st District said in a release.

Seneca intercepted three drug smuggling vessels transporting cocaine from South America that were bound for the United States. The interdictions during this patrol resulted in the apprehension of nine suspected narcotics traffickers and more than 12,000 pounds of cocaine with a street value of nearly \$174 million dollars.

“Counter-drug operations are a vital component to the Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security’s mission and our national security,” said Cmdr. John Christensen, commanding officer of the Seneca. “I am exceptionally proud of this crew who, over the course of the last three months, rose above the challenges of conducting operations at sea, persevered through many personal sacrifices and showed an unwavering dedication to serving our nation.”

Throughout the patrol, Seneca rescued 22 Haitian Migrants, conducted joint exercises with the Honduran navy, transited the Panama Canal and spent several months combating illicit narcotics smuggling across the eastern Pacific with a deployed

armed Coast Guard helicopter team from Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron Jacksonville.

These interdictions were in support of Operation Martillo, a regional initiative targeting illicit trafficking that threatens security and prosperity at the national, regional and international levels.