

Hamilton Returns From Multi-Mission Patrol in Caribbean Sea, Eastern Pacific Ocean



The Legend-class National Security Cutter USCGC Hamilton (WMSL 753) anchors in Chatham Bay of Isla del Cocos, the Republic of Costa Rica, on April 22. Hamilton's crew conducted a 12-week multi-mission deployment in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Ensign Joshua Romano*

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – USCGC Hamilton (WMSL 753) returned home June 3 following a 12-week multi-mission deployment in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, the Coast Guard Atlantic Area said in a release.

The crew deployed in early March to participate in the Tailored Ship Training Availability, a three-week training program was testing the crew in naval warfare, damage control, engineering, navigation, and seamanship drills and exercises.

Hamilton's crew performed exceptionally well, achieving a 98% average score across all training categories. The team also interacted with the Coast Guard Office of Boat Forces and Aviation Forces to conduct necessary integration testing for future Coast Guard cutter boats and aircraft.

After completing TSTA, Hamilton transited to Costa Rica. The crew hosted the Costa Rican minister of environment and energy and other government representatives and U.S. diplomats for an official visit to Isla del Coco, or Cocos Island. The Costa Rican government's ceremonial announcements of three executive decrees to increase protection over one of the world's most productive and biodiverse habitats highlighted the historic visit. The ceremony signified Costa Rica's commitment to protecting the Cocos Island Marine Reserve and demonstrated the U.S. government's support for marine conservation and protection.

Hamilton's crew proceeded to patrol the Eastern Pacific Ocean, conducting narcotics operations supporting the U.S. Coast Guard's Western Hemisphere Strategy. The embarked Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron aviation team, based out of Jacksonville, Florida, and Hamilton's cutter boat teams collaborated to detect a go-fast vessel that jettisoned contraband. The crew interdicted a go-fast, detained four suspected smugglers, and recovered 811 kilograms (1,788 pounds) of cocaine worth over \$24 million in street value.

"I am extraordinarily proud of this crew and everything we accomplished during this deployment," said Capt. Matthew Brown, the commanding officer of Hamilton. "We honed our capability to operate, defend, fight, and protect our cutter and applied it to directly combat the scourge of illicit narcotics and the destabilizing effects their presence has on the streets of our nation and those of our allies in the transshipment zone. Our partnerships with countries like Costa Rica and their coast guard strengthen our ability to dismantle

transnational criminal organizations, protect the environment, and reinforce a rules-based maritime order.”