USS Detroit Completes Counter-Narcotics Deployment



The littoral combat ship USS Detroit at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida. The Detroit returned July 11 following its maiden deployment to help out with counter-narcotics missions in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific. U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Anderson W. Branch

MAYPORT, Fla. – The Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Detroit returned to Mayport on July 11 following its maiden deployment to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations, Lt. j.g. Miranda Rossum, U.S. 4th Fleet/U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command public affairs, said in a release.

Detroit, along with a detachment from the "Sea Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 22, deployed on March 15 to conduct U.S. Southern Command and Joint Interagency Task Force South's enhanced counter-narcotics operations missions in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean.

During their deployment, Detroit, with their embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET), disrupted an estimated 1780 kilograms of cocaine, worth over an estimated street value of $124 million.

"I could not have asked for more from the crew over the past several months. Our Sailors and Guardsmen have overcome equipment casualties, COVID-19 challenges, and losses back home to ensure the success of USS Detroit while deployed to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations," said Cmdr. Jiwan Mack, Detroit's commanding officer. "I am proud to be a USS Detroit Blue Iron Warrior and can't wait to sail with this extraordinary unit again in the near future."

Just as Detroit deployed, the crew adjusted quickly to the new COVID-19 environment. Detroit's crew met the changes in

guidance and procedures due to the pandemic, safeguarding Sailors while still meeting counter-drug mission requirements.

“Detroit did a fantastic job while deployed, sending strong messages to our partners and our adversaries that the United States Navy operates globally and in all conditions,” said Rear Adm. Don Gabrielson, commander U.S. 4th Fleet. “Detroit did a great job adapting to our changing world, and their operational successes set a high bar for the next round of deployments. We are both grateful for and proud of Detroit’s accomplishments.”

Detroit joined other U.S. Navy warships, numerous U.S. agencies from the Departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security cooperating in the effort to combat transnational organized crime.

The Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with allied and international partner agencies, are all playing a role in counter-drug operations.