

USS St. Louis and USCGC Pablo Valent Strengthen Maritime Partnerships During Nassau Port Visit



NASSAU, Bahamas – The Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS St. Louis (LCS 19) and CGC Pablo Valent (WPC-1148) concluded a scheduled port visit to Nassau, Bahamas, Sept. 25, strengthening relationships with Bahamian and U.S. maritime partners through professional engagements, leadership exchanges and opportunities to build mutual understanding.

Throughout the visit, St. Louis and Pablo Valent Sailors engaged with members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF), U.S. Embassy Nassau, and the local population highlighting the importance of relationships that support maritime security and cooperation across the Caribbean.

The engagements provided opportunities for U.S. and Bahamian maritime professionals to exchange perspectives, strengthen professional relationships and develop a greater understanding of each other's capabilities and responsibilities.

"Port visits like this are about more than bringing a ship into port; they are about building the relationships and shared understanding that make us more effective maritime partners," said Cmdr. Patrick Love, commanding officer of St. Louis. "Our engagements with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and our U.S. maritime partners gave our Sailors an opportunity to exchange perspectives, strengthen professional relationships and better understand how we can work together to support maritime security in the region."

The visit also provided an opportunity for U.S. Navy and Coast Guard personnel to strengthen connections across maritime services. U.S. Coast Guard personnel supported a series of joint engagements designed to strengthen maritime coordination across The Bahamas. A delegation from the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, accompanied by members of the U.S. Embassy's Marine Security Guard Detachment, toured Pablo Valent and St. Louis, gaining insight into the Coast Guard's blended military, law enforcement and response authorities that complement Navy operations in the region. These discussions, held alongside embassy representatives and ahead of the U.S. Ambassador Herschel Walker's visit, reinforced how integrated Coast Guard– Navy activities bolster maritime security across The Bahamas and the southern approaches to the United States, aligning with the service's role as a critical component of the joint force.

"In an increasingly complex maritime environment, opportunities to train and engage with our Navy and Bahamian partners enhance interoperability and improve collective readiness," said Lt. Corryn Ulrich, commanding officer of Pablo Valent. "These interactions reinforce our shared commitment to safeguarding the Caribbean and the broader

Western Hemisphere maritime approaches.”

Pablo Valent is supporting Coast Guard Southeast District, who is responsible for all Coast Guard operations in South Carolina, Georgia, the Florida Peninsula, Puerto Rico, and the entire Caribbean Basin. This includes the U.S. Virgin Islands and 32 other countries and territories. This area of responsibility spans 1.8 million square miles and includes the largest concentration of cutters and aircraft in the Coast Guard.

The United States and The Bahamas share a longstanding commitment to maritime safety, security and regional stability. Regular professional exchanges help build the trust and mutual understanding necessary for effective cooperation in an increasingly complex maritime environment.

St. Louis’ and Pablo Valent’s visit to Nassau reinforces the enduring partnership between the United States and The Bahamas and the importance of continued engagement among maritime forces operating throughout the Caribbean.

U.S. 2nd Fleet is operating as Maritime Command Element-East (MCE-East) under U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command (NAVNORTH), the maritime component of U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). MCE-E provides maritime forces prepared to conduct homeland defense, civil support operations and theater security cooperation activities when directed by USNORTHCOM. They provide operational planning and coordination support to USNORTHCOM as well as command and control subordinate forces during the planning and execution of joint missions.

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