

The Hammerhead

Windward and Mona Passages

Patrol 2011



Patrol Summary

After a brief but well deserved summer in port period, RESOLUTE departed St. Petersburg on August 29 and made best speed for...Ft. Myers Beach! No, RESOLUTE did not have a port call in Ft. Myers. Instead, RESOLUTE, with the aid of Coast Guard Station Ft. Myers Beach, completed valuable Non-Compliant Vessel Use of Force Training. This training was necessary for the certification of RESOLUTE's crew in tactics used to stop non-compliant vessels at sea.

Following a full day of training, RESOLUTE made best speed south toward Cuba. Equipped with a full tank of gas and a rested crew after a brief stop at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, RESOLUTE was ready to execute Alien Migrant, Counter Drug, and Search and Rescue operations in the Windward Pass and off the Northern Coast of Hispaniola.

It didn't take long before RESOLUTE was called to action, specifically to the scene of a vessel that was reported on fire. As it turned out, the vessel wasn't burning. Instead, the vessel was being used to smuggle 47 Haitian migrants from Haiti. By intercepting the vessel and returning the passengers to Haiti, RESOLUTE undoubtedly prevented illegal immigration and saved 47 people from a perilous journey.

In total, RESOLUTE steamed over seven thousand miles this patrol, conducted over two hundred helicopter evolutions, and boarded four vessels for law enforcement purposes. The highlight of these boardings was a cocaine seizure with a street value of \$4.8 million!



The Emblem used in the Coast Guard to indicate a seizure of cocaine.

This patrol was a seven-week operation broken up with three port calls for our hard-working crew. This Newsletter highlights some our accomplishments.



FN Christopher Estrada makes his final patrol aboard RESOLUTE



RESOLUTE off the Haitian Coast with the Island of Tortue in the background.

August-October



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Law Enforcement Operations

The enforcement of laws and treaties, including counter drug and alien migrant interdiction operations, is one of RESOLUTE's primary missions. Through simple deterrence and active engagement, RESOLUTE and her crew accomplish this mission.

A law enforcement highlight of this patrol was the at-sea interdiction of a 20-foot boat off the coast of Puerto Rico. Failing to heave to when commanded by RESOLUTE's small boat, our boarding team employed non-compliant vessel tactics to get the boat to stop. With the assistance of Customs and Border Protection and Homeland Security Investigations, a RESOLUTE boarding team conducted an extensive search of the vessel. In total, 165 kilograms of cocaine were discovered and two arrests were made. Law enforcement is an all hands effort, and congratulations to the entire crew for a job well done!



SN Brendon Brooks is a key member of RESOLUTE's law enforcement team.



Right: BM1 Andrew Snook, TAD to RESOLUTE from Special Missions Training Center, serves as coxswain while performing a surface patrol off Haiti's North Coast



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Law Enforcement and Alien Migrant Operations



CAPT Pearson, Sector San Juan Commander, congratulates RESOLUTE's crew on a job well done following the drug seizure in the Mona Passage.

Much of RESOLUTE's law enforcement and alien migrant interdiction mission is deterrence. Specifically, it's our responsibility to deter the illegal immigration of persons from their native lands to the United States. When this fails, and a group of people head for sea, it's RESOLUTE's responsibility to interdict the vessel and repatriate the migrants. Often, these cases begin as law enforcement operations, but very quickly, after seeing the condition of the smuggling vessel, morph into a safety of life at sea responsibility for RESOLUTE. This patrol, our crew interdicted a vessel with 47 Haitian migrants and safely repatriated them to Cap Haitien, Haiti.



Haitian Sail Freighters are used to transport goods and people along the Haitian coast.



BM1 Justin Kaczynski, one of RESOLUTE's coxswains, transports Haitian and United Nations police across Canal de la Tortue.



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Always Ready: Drills and Training

Each year, RESOLUTE's crew participates in hundreds and drills and training exercises. These drills are necessary to maintain proficiency in a variety of missions. The majority of our training is conducted by our own training teams, including the Damage Control, Engineering, Navigation Systems, Combat Systems, Aviation and Medical teams. The training teams are composed of senior members of the crew who are recognized to have proficiency in the training team's area of responsibility. In total, RESOLUTE completed over 140 drills and 200 helicopter evolutions.



OS1 Adam Conners conducts training with the Turks and Caicos Islands Maritime Police on VHF radios



A Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter takes off from RESOLUTE's flight deck. Flight Operations is an all-hands evolution.



CGC KEY BISLAYNE while being towed by RESOLUTE during a refueling at sea exercise. Towing is a dangerous evolution that requires close coordination between the bridge and deck crews.

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Making a Difference in the Communities We Visit

The crew of RESOLUTE is always willing to lend a helping hand in the communities we visit while on patrol. While in San Juan, PR, volunteers from the Coast Guard Cutters RESOLUTE and FARRALON spent a day at the Hogar El Nino del Ave Maria orphanage in Bayamon, PR. At the time, the orphanage was home to over seventeen children, all between the ages of infancy and three years old. While some spent time with the kids, others helped clean playground equipment, tidy up the grounds and paint and make repairs to the outside walls. The staff of the orphanage was very appreciative of the work performed. It was a great way to spend a day in port!



ET1 Will Pate repairs a damaged drainage pipe.

Crews of RESOLUTE and FARRALON on the steps of the orphanage after the community service project.



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Representing the United States in the Turks and Caicos Islands

During the patrol's final week, the crew of RESOLUTE enjoyed a little rest and relaxation on the beautiful island of Grand Turk, part of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). During the visit, many took advantage of the island's exquisite snorkeling and diving opportunities. There was also much fun to be had, including beach volleyball and playing with Topher, the resident canine, at The Jack Shack, a local's favorite establishment on the island.

Last March, RESOLUTE was the first medium endurance cutter to visit Grand Turk in several years. During this port visit, RESOLUTE hosted Gov. Ric Todd, the Royal Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, in addition to the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Marine Police. Well done to RESOLUTE's outstanding cooks for hosting a remarkable lunch for the Governor!



RESOLUTE's Commanding Officer CDR Sam Jordan presents a personalized photo of the cutter to TCI Governor Ric Todd



MKC Grant Boyette, MK2 Andrew Ives and CWO Tom Fehervari discuss engine systems with a member of the TCI Marine Police



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Returning to St. Petersburg

RESOLUTE returned home on the morning of October 13th. All hands were happy to be back in St. Petersburg, and many were greeted by friends and family on the pier. The missions RESOLUTE and her crew perform while on patrol are inherently dangerous and vitally important to our nation and the safety of life at sea. Every person on board plays a vital part in the accomplishment of these missions, and we appreciate knowing that our work doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you!



Families and friends gather pier-side as RESOLUTE approaches.



EM2 David Munne is welcomed home by his family.



BM2 John True and son Brody reunite after a long 7 week patrol.

