



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

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Coast Guard Cutter Tampa Returns Home

Portsmouth, VA. - The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter TAMPA returned to Portsmouth today following a busy 62-day patrol to the Caribbean.

Early on in the patrol, TAMPA provided assistance to a sailing vessel in distress with five people onboard, including three small children. The vessel had a torn sail and was experiencing engine troubles, but TAMPA's rescue and assistance team successfully effected repairs and ensured the boat was seaworthy before sending it on its way.

Soon after, TAMPA interdicted a "go-fast" off the coast of Honduras, disrupting smuggler's trafficking attempts. TAMPA was supported by an armed Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) helicopter and crew from Jacksonville, FL as well as a military patrol aircraft (MPA), which first sighted the go-fast. When the go-fast refused to stop, the helicopter used warning shots and disabling fire on the outboard engines, effectively bringing the pursuit to an end. Honduran officials later recovered 51 kg of cocaine onboard.

On Christmas Day, TAMPA commenced a three-day joint boarding of a coastal freighter suspected of smuggling drugs. TAMPA's boarding team worked alongside the Honduran Navy and discovered a hidden compartment onboard the vessel, confirming smuggling methods and providing significant intelligence to operational commanders.

TAMPA is one of six 270-ft Coast Guard Cutters homeported in Portsmouth.

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