



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



# Press Release

Date: Oct 30, 2009  
Contact: ENS Adam Dolbow  
(757) 483-8710

## Coast Guard Cutter Tampa Returns Home

**Portsmouth, VA.** - The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter TAMPA returned to Portsmouth today following a 32-day patrol in the Florida Straits.

TAMPA dedicated most of its time at sea patrolling the Florida Straits for smugglers, illegal migrants, and serving as a holding platform for 11 rescued Cuban migrants. TAMPA also conducted multiple fisheries and recreational boardings in the vicinity of the Dry Tortugas and Key West, assisted at the beginning of the patrol by a Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter based out of Miami.

Crewmembers aboard TAMPA worked many long hours patrolling the Straits and their efforts paid off.

Working with the Coast Guard Cutter Key Biscayne, TAMPA's crew aided in the interdiction of a suspected smuggling vessel and the apprehension of known smugglers. Days later, TAMPA interdicted a stolen pleasure craft, resulting in an arrest and the return of the stolen vessel. Additionally, TAMPA enforced the US economic embargo on Cuba, intercepting two violators.

TAMPA also devoted numerous hours in support of training other Coast Guard assets. Another helicopter team from Air Station Miami conducted dozens of day and night flight exercises off TAMPA's flight deck.

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

###