



News Release

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USCGC Valiant Returns from Windward Passage Patrol

After 52-day patrol, Coast Guard Cutter VALIANT returns to Mayport.

JACKSONVILLE— The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Valiant returned home to Naval Station Mayport on Friday, October 3, after completing an eight-week deployment to the Windward Passage and North Caribbean Sea in support of Operation Southeast Watch.

During the patrol, Valiant's duties brought the ship to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. While anchored, Valiant hosted the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, the Honorable Pamela White, the Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, the Honorable Brian Shukan, the Chief of the Haitian Coast Guard, Commissaire Joseph Jean-Marie Wagnac, and other government representatives.

Valiant also responded to the search and rescue case of a 55-foot fishing vessel, which was adrift and taking on water in the Old Bahama Channel. Valiant escorted the vessel over 100 nautical miles to Ragged Island, Bahamas where it transferred the vessel to the Royal Bahamian Defense Force (RBDF) patrol vessel.

Valiant's crew repatriated 24 Haitian migrants to Cap Haitien, Haiti, and embarked 11 Cuban migrants that had been rescued by cruise ship Carnival Liberty. The cutter patrolled the Windward Passage to prevent overloaded Haitian migrant vessels from taking to sea, a dangerous practice that risks the lives of hundreds of men, women and children each year.

Coast Guard Cutter Valiant is a 210-foot Medium Endurance Cutter with a 75-member crew. The ship is homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. Under Operation Southeast Watch, the US Coast Guard works alongside interagency and international partners to prevent and respond to illegal maritime migration in the Caribbean Sea and Florida Straits.

For more information about CGC Valiant, visit <http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcValiant>

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