

Coast Guard District Eleven
U.S. Coast Guard



Press Release

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COAST GUARD CREW SEIZES 6,632 POUNDS OF COCAINE, RETURNS HOME

ALAMEDA, Calif. – The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Boutwell will return home to Coast Guard Island Saturday at 12:30 p.m. after a 49-day deployment in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

During the patrol, the 378-foot cutter and a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Maritime and Port Authority P3 aircraft (MPA P3) joined forces to seize 6,632 pounds of cocaine from a fishing vessel 270 miles South West of the Mexican/Guatemalan border on March 7.

After the ICE aircraft initially spotted the drug smuggling vessel, Boutwell intercepted and boarded the 40-foot, Guatemalan, fishing vessel El Almirante where 133 bales of cocaine were discovered.

An additional fishing vessel from Colombia, the Siete Mares, was boarded in connection with the El Almirante. Seven crewmembers from the Siete Mares were detained along with five crewmembers from the El Almirante.

All crewmembers and drugs were transferred to United States authorities for prosecution.

This is the eighth major drug bust in the Eastern Pacific since January, bringing the total to more than 45,000 pounds of cocaine confiscated in the Eastern Pacific in 2004.

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