



2014

Maritime Interdiction & Apprehension

USCGC Boutwell



2014 USIC AWARD

MARITIME INTERDICTION/APPREHENSION

U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)

Coast Guard Cutter BOUTWELL (WHEC 719) is cited for distinguished performance in the Maritime Interdiction/Apprehension Category during an Eastern Pacific deployment from July to October, 2014. One of the highlights of this deployment occurred on 11 September 2014, when BOUTWELL served as Officer in Tactical Control (OTC) for the simultaneous interdiction of the “Go-Fast” vessels LA GALOSA and YENG ARG. This operation required interagency coordination between five surface assets, two aircraft, and two shoreside command centers. BOUTWELL developed a clear, synchronized plan which optimized the capabilities of each unit, and flawlessly executed that plan. As a result of this expertly coordinated effort, both vessels were interdicted, seven suspects were detained, and 440 kilograms of cocaine were recovered. During the deployment, BOUTWELL initiated multiple engagements with international partners including the Costa Rican Coast Guard, the Mexican Navy (SEMAR), and the International Maritime University of Panama (UMIP). BOUTWELL also developed and published a comprehensive guide summarizing strategic and tactical planning and execution of the Counterdrug Mission. The job aid provides case studies of BOUTWELL's experiences, depicting tactical situations and the subsequent actions of the cutter, embarked HITRON, OTH small boats, as well as overt/covert tactics employed by aircraft in successful interdictions. Distribution of the BOUTWELL job aid to USCG PACAREA, CG HITRON, the Office of Cutter Forces, and the Prospective Command Afloat School, ignited strategic, operational, and tactical discussions that continue to improve overall mission effectiveness. BOUTWELL's employment of these tactics resulted in six interdictions, five disruptions, and the seizure of over 5,000 pounds of cocaine valued at \$75 million. The sustained dedication, motivation, and superior performance of USCGC BOUTWELL has directly contributed to disrupting the distribution of illicit narcotics and denied a significant revenue stream used to support international insurgencies, terrorism, and transnational criminal organizations.



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