

USCGC *Resolute* (WMEC-620) JAN-MAR 2025

HAMMERHEAD NEWSLETTER



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LETTER FROM THE CO

Dear *Resolute* friends and family,

Greetings from south of the border! Team *Resolute* is heading home after spending 60 days down-range in support of Operation Vigilant Sentry (OVS). We patrolled the Windward Passage, Mona Passage, Old Bahama Channel, and Florida Straits, defending our maritime border and southern approaches. Some days we operated as part of a multi-ship task unit covering multiple smuggling vectors, while other days we sailed alone and unafraid as the only Coast Guard asset in the area. Through it all, the crew continually impressed me with their professionalism, enthusiasm, and work ethic while doing a tough mission in a challenging maritime environment.

We spent most of January and February working in the Windward Passage off the coast of Haiti. As part of our OVS support, we served as commander of a task unit composed of other medium-endurance cutters and fast-response cutters. Our mission was to provide “overt presence” that would deter illegal alien smuggling ventures from Haiti towards the United States. This involved spending lots of time close to shore, transiting the Canal de la Tortue, Port de Paix, Cap du Mole, and Cap Haïtien, and using an embarked Creole translator to help us meet with locals to discuss in-country conditions. Due to the dire social, political, and economic conditions in Haiti, there is a strong “push factor” that drives migration and smuggling into the northern Caribbean and towards the United States. When the cutter *Escanaba* interdicted a smuggling vessel with over 130 Haitians onboard, *Resolute* sent security watchstanders and medical personnel over to help their crew process, care for, and eventually repatriate them back into Haiti.

Following emergent tasking to increase presence in key areas along our southern maritime border and approaches, *Resolute* was directed to go to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and assist a Joint Task Force with building out facilities on the naval base. As the first and only Coast Guard asset on scene, we quickly integrated into a team of volunteers that included Navy Construction Battalion “Seabees,” Army South, Marine Corps, crew from the USS *St. Louis*, and others from across the interagency. Over the course of four days, we assisted with building out camp capacity, including staging over 40 tons of material, assembling 350 cots, and constructing 76 tents, which would have provided housing for over 1,000 deployed service members.

While underway, the crew focused heavily on training and readiness, conducting boat operations, pursuit training with Customs & Border Protection, several landings with a helicopter out of Air Station Miami, and building bench depth in key underway qualifications including Officer of the Deck, Engineer of the Watch, Cutter Boat Coxswain, and Security Watchstander. The crew also conducted nearly 70 drills that honed their proficiency in damage control and response to emergencies.

In between underway periods, the crew enjoyed port calls in San Juan and Key West. We also had a unique opportunity to anchor near Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas, where the crew explored the old fort, relaxed on the beaches, and fished the crystal-clear waters. While operating along the Florida Keys, we also had an opportunity to meet up with the SS *United States*, a historic ocean liner built in 1950 that was being towed to her new home as an artificial reef off Destin, FL. It made for an amazing photo op!

As always, thank you for lending your sons, daughters, husbands, wives, friends, and family to this Service, this ship, and this mission. Serving at sea is never easy, but it is very rewarding work – and I’m honored to be sharing it with Team *Resolute*. Until next time!



Very Respectfully,
Commander Ian Starr
Commanding Officer
CGC *Resolute* (WMEC 620)



Chief's MESSage

Greetings families, friends, and shipmates!

As another patrol nears the end, the Chief's Mess would like to take this opportunity to thank *Resolute's* families, friends, and each of our TDY members. Your continued sacrifices and support allow us to successfully complete our missions-thank you! *Resolute* commenced the patrol with daily canal transits, routine maintenance, and a focus on the professional development of all onboard members, before being called upon to assist the Navy in a unique team-building initiative. Despite a busy patrol, the crew was able to enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation and appreciated a wonderful time sightseeing and trying local cuisine in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The crew enjoyed all the beauty that Key West had to offer, where some members caught up with family and friends from other units. The crew also had the unique opportunity to snorkel in the pristine waters of the Dry Tortugas National Park, explore the historic fort, and witness a significant moment in maritime history as the SS United States passed by en route to its transformation into the world's largest artificial reef. The morale committee made the patrol entertaining by hosting morale events such as EM3 Durna's bingo, MK2 Nelson's trivia, boardgames, tin can challenge and hosted a revolving crew produced morale meals. In addition, the crew conducted various training, including damage control, aviation, medical response, law enforcement, engineering, and navigation exercises. These activities ensured that the team remained proficient and ready to tackle any challenges that arose and aided crew members in obtaining many qualifications. Whether through a team building experience or simply standing the watch, the crew's professionalism and dedication to the mission were truly exceptional. As we return home, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support during another successful patrol.

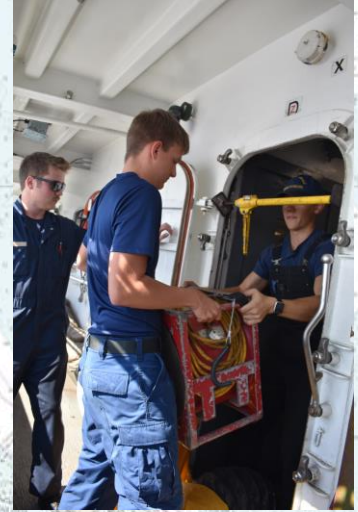
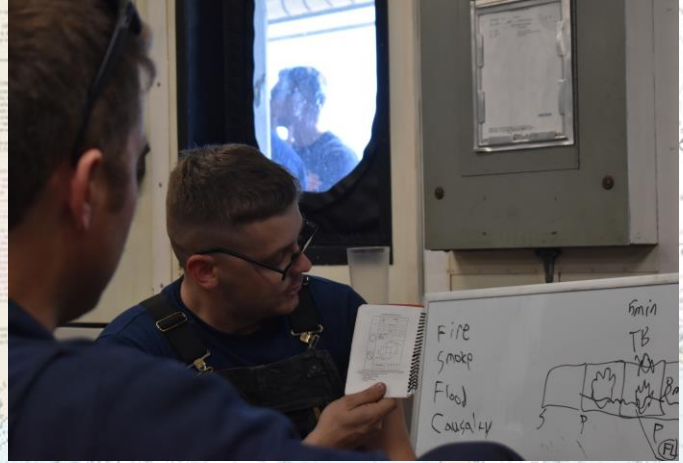


Resolute Chief's Mess:

CSCS Brian Black, BMC Joey Noreikas, BMC Chris Romero,
MKC Cameron Sweet, EMC Justin Williams



DC College



Resolute's engineering department held a DC college where crew members were able to get hands-on learning experience. Some of the stations included learning about firefighting, fire/flood boundaries, dewatering, patching, plugging, and shoring.

Pepper Ball Training!

Resolute's weapons division ran multiple Law Enforcement (LE) crew members through pepper ball training.



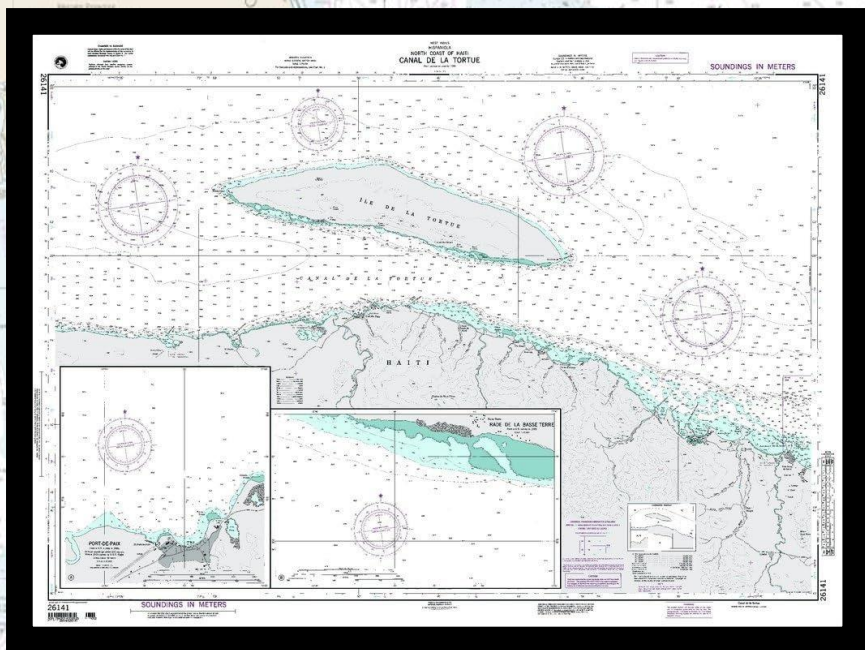
“Set the Small Boat Detail!”

Resolute’s crew conducted multiple small boat evolutions for passenger transfers and trainings to get crew members qualified!



Transiting through the Canal de la Tortue

The Canal de la Tortue is a strait that separates Tortuga Island from the north coast of Haiti. CGC *Resolute* did 14 transits through the canal in order to be an overt presence, deterring alien migration. Some days *Resolute* would have to weave between upwards of 50 Haitian sailboats.



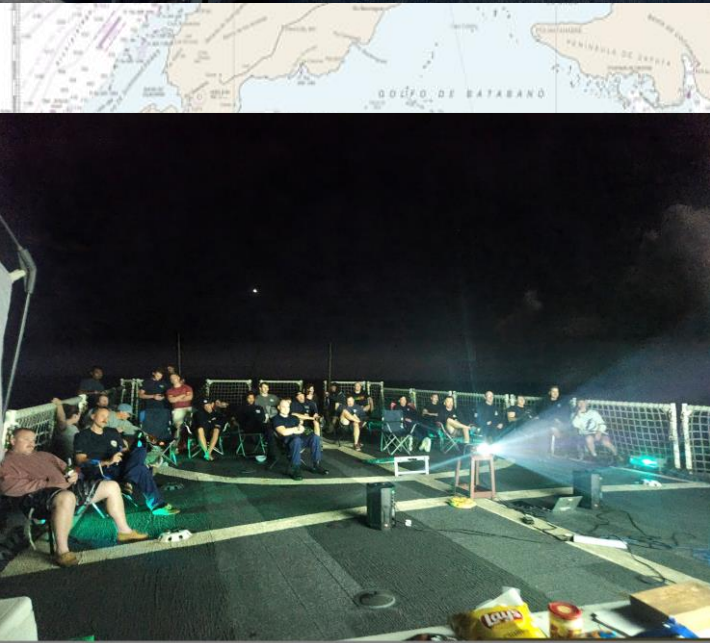
GTMO Tent Building



Following a surge in Coast Guard assets to protect America's maritime borders, *Resolute* was directed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. *Resolute's* crew spent 4 days working alongside members of the Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marines while staging 40+ tons of material and building tent facilities for over 1,000 deployed servicemembers.

Super Bowl Party

Resolute's morale committee set up a watch party on the flightdeck for the Super Bowl. The crew was able to enjoy the game while off the coast of Haiti.



President's Day Partner MURPH!!!



*1 Mile run (32 laps)
200 Push Ups
300 Air Squats
100 Pull Ups
1 Mile Run*



Swim Call!!!

Resolute's crew enjoyed a swim call off the coast of Haiti!

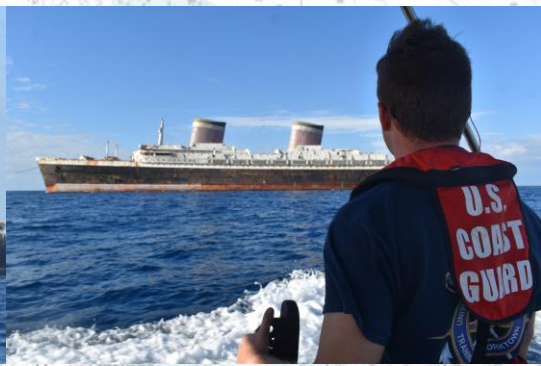


Pursuit Training

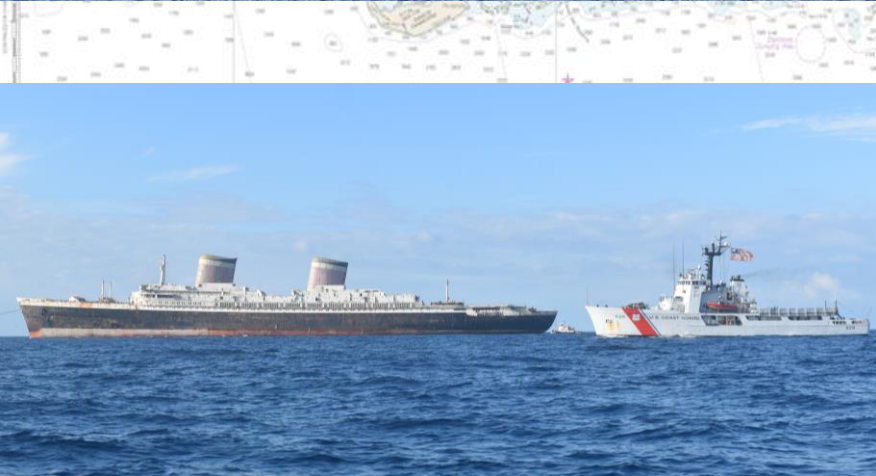
While off the coast of Key West, *Resolute* conducted pursuit training with CBP. This allowed *Resolute's* coxswains and gunners to get qualified and maintain currencies.



The SS United States



While off Key West, *Resolute* and its small boat were able to come alongside the SS United States. This 77-year-old ocean liner was being towed and on its way to Mobile, AL to be sunk as an artificial reef.



Dry Tortugas

Resolute was able to anchor in the Dry Tortugas National Park. The crew was small boated in, and people got to enjoy a day at the fort and beach!



Resolute's Saturday Morale Nights

On Saturday evenings, *Resolute's* departments would take turns cooking dinner. Dinner was typically followed by an ice cream social and morale event, such as Bingo or Trivia.



Down Down All Lines, Fish Call!



One of *Resolute's* favorite pastimes is fish calls. The crew enjoyed fish calls in the Windward Passage and along the Florida Keys



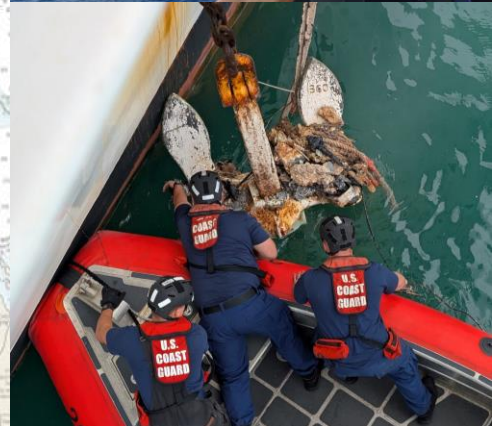
SET FLICON 1!

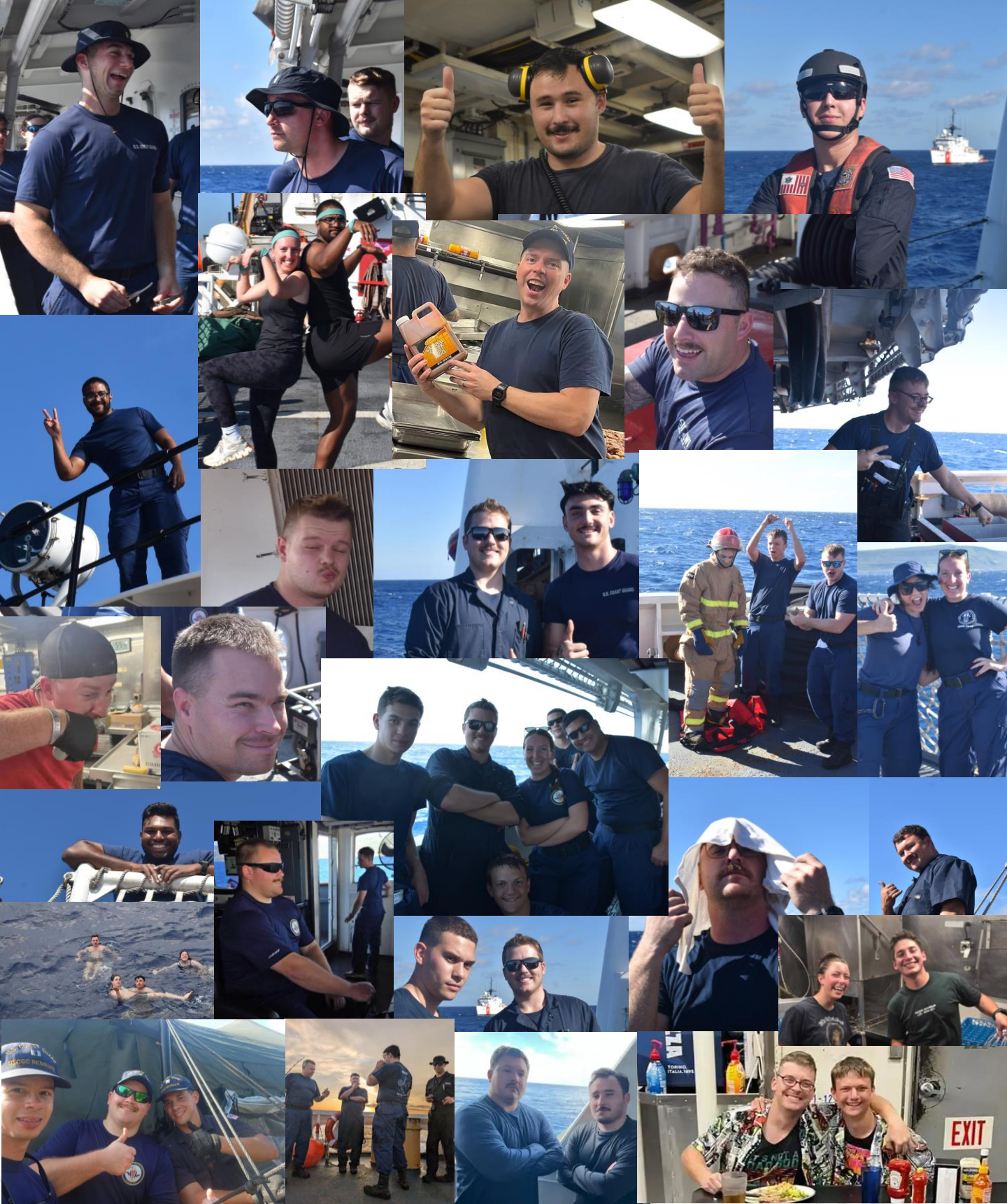
Resolute conducted flight operations off the Coast of Miami with Air Station Miami before heading back home.



Patrol Statistics

Miles steamed: 7,500
Gallons of fuel burnt: 52,000
Drills ran: 25
Qualifications: 55
Canal transits: 14
Anchoring evolutions: 5
Port calls changed: Too many
Tents built: 76
“Logistic runs:” 280
Super Bowls watched: 1
Fish Caught: 7
Toxic Gas scares: 1
“Friday” s’mores nights: 14
Friendship bracelets made: 72
Super Mario Kart games played: 50
MURPHS completed: 14
Memories made: ∞





Meet the people behind the mission...
 USCGC *Resolute's* crew

THANKS FOR READING!

Follow *Resolute* on Facebook for more!

<https://www.facebook.com/UsCoastGuardCutterResolute>

