

USCGC *Resolute* (WMEC 620) MAY-JUL 2025

HAMMERHEAD NEWSLETTER



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LETTER FROM THE CO

Dear *Resolute* friends and family, Greetings from the Panama Canal! Team *Resolute* is homeward bound after an action-packed deployment in the Eastern Pacific. We patrolled some of the biggest drug-smuggling vectors in the southern hemisphere over the past 60 days, seizing over \$93 million in cocaine, and serving as a critical link in the United States' network of detection, monitoring, and interdiction assets along our southern approaches. We faced incredible logistical challenges in a remote area of responsibility (AOR), including two broken interceptor boats, but overcame them all and stayed mission effective. Success or failure on the high seas is dictated by how well the crew plans, executes, and comes together as a team – and by every metric this patrol was a success.

It seems like almost a lifetime ago that we got underway from St. Petersburg and almost immediately suffered cascading casualties to our 5-ton and 25-ton A/C systems. In the tropical heat, this is a debilitating problem that impacts everything from habitability in our berthing areas to the sensitive communications equipment in our combat information center. Thankfully, we were able to quickly pull into Key West to effect rapid repairs and got back underway to transit the Panama Canal.

The Panama Canal is an amazing experience, and I was honored to join “The Order of the Ditch” along with many of the crew for our first crossing. We slid in between massive cargo vessels and joined the flow of commerce that accounts for over \$270 billion in cargo and over 5% of all global trade annually. It was a long day/night, but we safely cleared the final locks and found ourselves in the Eastern Pacific!

Once we got “down range,” we immediately got busy. The AOR is vast, spanning millions of square miles, and for the first several weeks we were the only Coast Guard asset down there. We interdicted a total of six vessels, including one memorable pursuit where we had to cut short a swim call and launch our Over-The-Horizon (OTH) pursuit boat from nearly 70 nautical miles away. Several of those vessels were not carrying contraband when we stopped them, but we did successfully remove almost six metric tons of cocaine from three boats!

We encountered (and overcame) some significant engineering casualties and challenges along the way. Notably, our OTH console cracked during a go-fast pursuit in rough seas, shearing through the aluminum casing and disabling the boat. Our amazing team was able to launch our second boat, coordinate with the Maritime Patrol Aircraft overhead, safely recover the disabled OTH, and *still* force the go-fast to jettison over 1,500 kilograms of cocaine, which we recovered. We then coordinated with shoreside support and Air Station Elizabeth City to airlift a newly refurbished OTH to us in Panama City, Panama.

In between underway periods, the crew enjoyed port calls in Manta, Ecuador and Panama City, Panama. We had the unique opportunity to cross the equator and held a “line crossing ceremony” where a bunch of “pollywogs” (mariners who have never crossed the equator) are initiated into “Honorary Shellbacks” after officially entering the Southern Hemisphere.

As always, thank you for lending your sons, daughters, husbands, wives, friends, and family to this Service, this ship, and this mission. It takes a village – our engineers keep the cutter and boats running, the deckies safely launch and recover our law enforcement teams, the ops team plans and executes our interdictions, and the support team provides care/feeding and pulls off logistical miracles in every port. 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 its end, the Chief's Mess would like to express our sincere gratitude to *Resolute*'s families, friends, and all our TDY members. Your continued sacrifices and unwavering support are what enable us to successfully complete our missions—thank you!

Reflecting on what has been a busy and successful time, *Resolute* officially commenced this patrol with a brief stop in Key West before moving south through the Panama Canal.

Throughout the deployment, the crew diligently worked on routine maintenance, with a dedicated focus on the professional development of all onboard members, while preparing for the upcoming CART.

Despite a demanding patrol schedule, the crew also had opportunities for well-deserved rest and relaxation. They thoroughly enjoyed sightseeing and sampling local cuisine in Manta, Ecuador, and Panama City, Panama. The morale committee ensured the patrol was entertaining, hosting various events such as EM2 Durna's bingo, karaoke, board games, and spelling bees. They also featured a revolving schedule of crew-produced morale meals. To earn their Shellback designation, the pollywogs proudly underwent the naval tradition during their encounter with King Neptune.

Beyond these valuable opportunities for relaxation and camaraderie, the patrol was also highly productive on the mission front. During its ongoing support of the Joint Interagency Task Force South, *Resolute* successfully executed three drug interdictions.

In addition to these critical operations, the crew conducted various crucial training exercises. These included damage control, medical response, law enforcement, engineering, and navigation drills. These activities ensured the team remained proficient and ready to tackle any challenges that arose, and significantly aided crew members in obtaining numerous qualifications.

Whether through team-building experiences or simply standing the watch, the crew's professionalism and dedication to the mission were truly exceptional throughout. As we now return home, we reiterate our deepest gratitude for your continued support during another successful and impactful patrol.

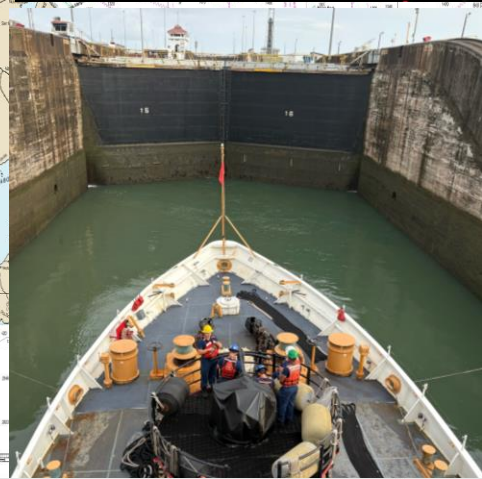
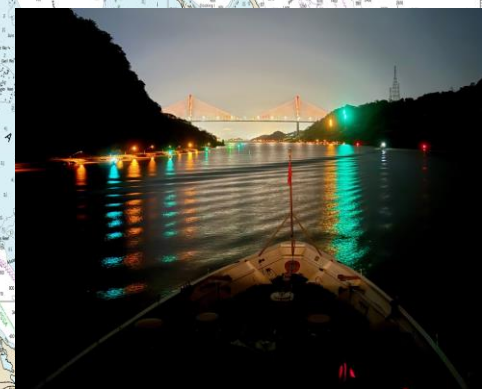
Resolute Chief's Mess:

CSCS Brian Black, HSCS Dana Bennett, BMC Joey Noreikas,
MKC John Flynn, MKC Cameron Sweet, EMC Justin Williams

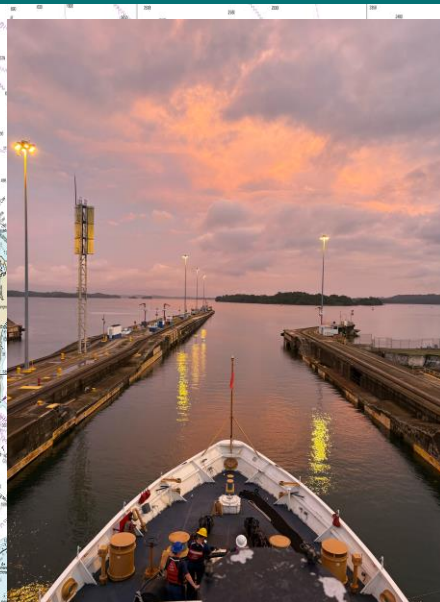


THE PANAMA CANAL

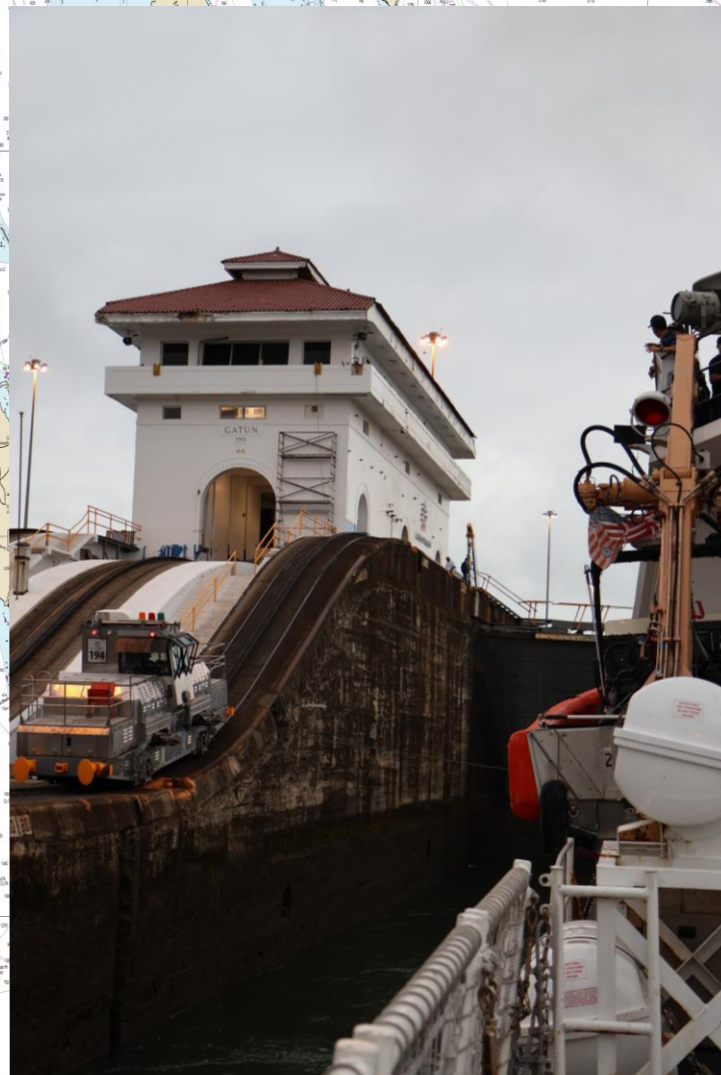
Resolute was one of approx. 13,000 ships to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through the Panama Canal this year. The entire transit is 51 miles and takes about 10-12 hours.



THE ORDER OF THE DITCH



All members of *Resolute's* crew, having transited through the Panama Canal, are now honorary members of "The Order of the Ditch," a maritime fraternity exclusive to those who have sailed through this "Wonder of the Modern World."



ALL DAMAGE, NO CONTROL



Resolute's crew conducted dozens of damage control drills in preparation for the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) assessment coming in October.



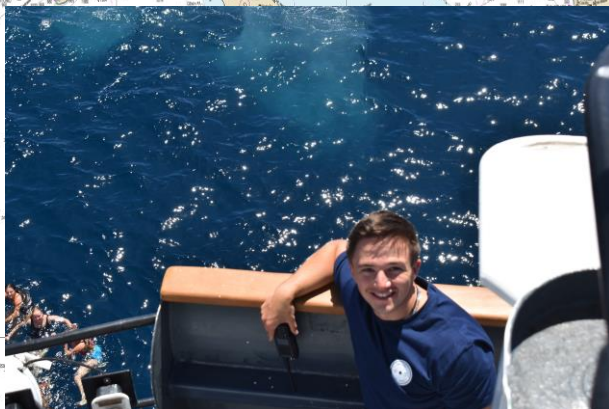
SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS

Shells of Florida

11013

SWIM CALL!

The weather is rarely nice in the Pacific, so sometimes you need to knock off ship's work and knock out a mid-week swim call!

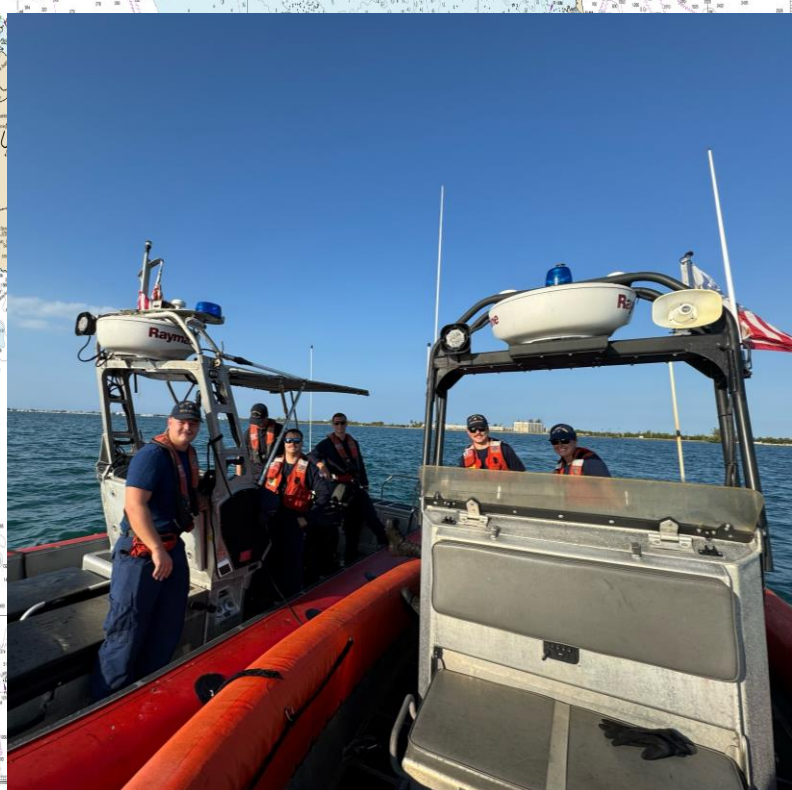


Ironically, it was cut short to pursue a suspected drug trafficking vessel!

MISSION ORIENTED



Resolute's law enforcement teams were busy this patrol! Operating under Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S) means the operational tempo is always high. Between transiting towards cases and interdicting vessels, *Resolute* was burning gas and constantly in motion over the last 59 days!



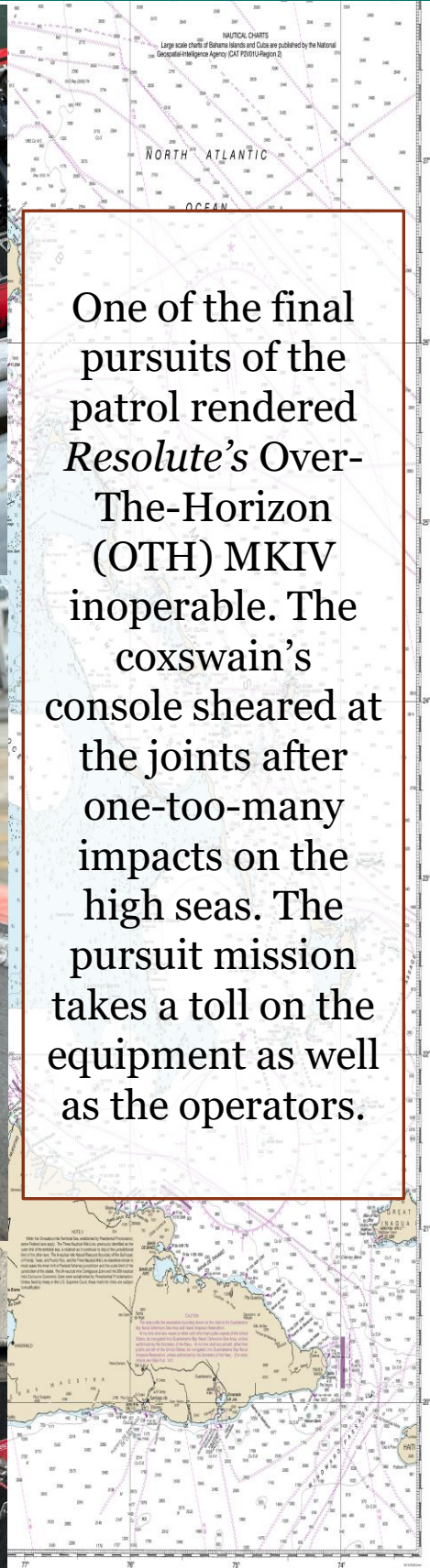
DRIVEN TO DELIVER



Hard work pays off!
The *Resolute* crew
successfully
interdicted nearly
12,600 lbs of
cocaine, worth
nearly \$93 million.



NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED



One of the final pursuits of the patrol rendered *Resolute's* Over-The-Horizon (OTH) MKIV inoperable. The coxswain's console sheared at the joints after one-too-many impacts on the high seas. The pursuit mission takes a toll on the equipment as well as the operators.



OUT WITH THE OLD...



... And in with the new! Following the damage to our OTH, *Resolute*, in coordination with JIATF-S, Surface Forces Logistics Center, LANTAREA, and Air Station Elizabeth City, coordinated an airlift of a replacement OTH into Panama City, Panama. The new OTH was quickly put to work and our coxswains are putting it through its paces!

MANTA ECUADOR

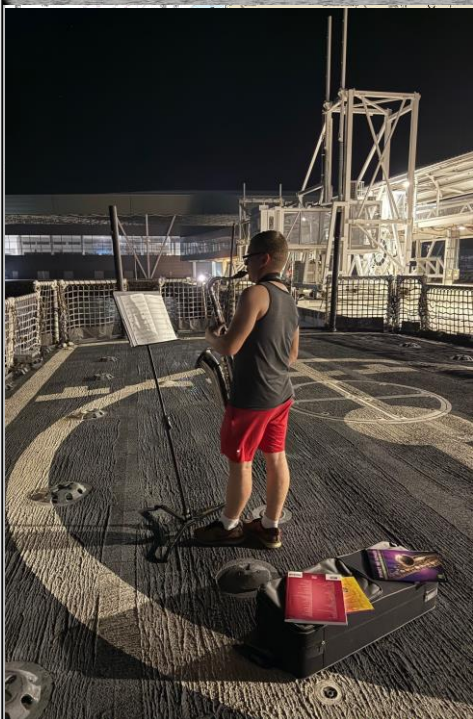


Port call #1 was Manta, Ecuador, one of the largest commercial fishing hubs in the world. Much of *Resolute's* crew toured the fish markets and also learned the origin of the "Panama Hat."



PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

Port calls 2 & 3 were both in Panama City, Panama, the southern terminus of the Panama Canal. Crew members on liberty enjoyed nearly all the amenities expected of a large city as well as some unique dining experiences (which did NOT include the raccoon pictured below). Members returning from liberty were often met by a saxophone serenade from our very own, DC2 Bruhn!



ENDLESS PROBLEMS (AND SOLUTIONS)

It's no joke keeping a 59-year-old cutter running! In support of the mission, members of the Engineering Department got dirty responding to a laundry list of casualties...That's funny because half the washing machines broke!



Resolute's MORALE NIGHTS

On Saturday evenings, *Resolute's* departments would take turns cooking dinner. Dinner was typically followed by an ice cream social and a morale event, including bingo, trivia, and karaoke!



...not for a long time...

Team *Resolute* was joined this patrol by three 1/c cadets from the Academy on their summer assignment, two members from the Tactical Law Enforcement Team (TACLET) to temporarily supplement our law enforcement capabilities, and a Senior Chief Health Services Technician to keep our clinic running!

PATROL STATISTICS

Miles steamed: 7,089
 Gallons of fuel burnt: 102,700
 Drills Completed: 25
 Qualifications: 49
 Boardings: 6
 Cocaine Interdicted: 5,704 kg
 Washing Machines Busted: 4
 Washing Machines Fixed: 3-ish
 Tortoises seen: 0 ☹️
 Mangos Mutilated: 17
 Small Boats Disabled: 3
 Toxic Gas Scares: almost 1
 Panama Canal Transits: 2
 Celsi-brations: 11
 Vive 100's Consumed: 6
 Pollywogs turned into Shellbacks: 34
 1LT Total Watches Stood: -2.3
 FN Toledo: Spelling Bee Champion
 CO: Spelling Bee Loser
 Until Next Time!





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

THANKS FOR READING!

Follow *Resolute* on Facebook for more!

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

