

HAMMERHEAD NEWSLETTER

USCGC *Resolute* (WMEC 620) January 2026 Special Edition



LETTER FROM THE CO

Dear *Resolute* friends and family,

Greetings from St. Petersburg! Normally we send out newsletters when returning from patrol, but this is a special edition to share some wonderful news with you all. *Resolute* just received the Coast Guard's prestigious Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence award for sustained exceptional performance between October 2024 and October 2025. This is one of the highest awards a cutter crew can earn in the afloat community, named in honor of the first commissioned officer of the Revenue Cutter Service, the forerunner of today's Coast Guard. Every year, a large panel of active duty and retired Cuttermen evaluate nominations and choose a winner in each cutter category (Large, Medium, and Small) as the best cutter in the fleet! Our team's outstanding efforts will be recognized during a formal awards ceremony at the 38th National Surface Navy Association Symposium in Washington, DC on January 14th, 2026. The following paragraphs summarize some of the accomplishments our hard-working Coasties were recognized for over the past year.

In early October 2024, *Resolute* led a Surface Action Group sortie to Pensacola ahead of Hurricane Milton. After Milton made landfall just south of Tampa Bay, *Resolute* was the first national asset offshore, providing uninterrupted communications coverage while the Coast Guard reconstituted port operations. Following the devastating back-to-back impacts of hurricanes Helene and Milton, over 40% of *Resolute*'s crew suffered damage to vehicles and/or houses. The command and ombudsman coordinated to safely evacuate families and track personnel movements. The command also worked with CGMA to secure \$40,000 in disaster relief grants/loans for impacted crew. The crew dispatched work parties to clear debris, move totaled vehicles, and conduct post-storm cleanups for their shipmates. Despite their personal challenges, the crew also worked tirelessly to inventory/repair their flooded warehouse, conduct pier cleanups, and troubleshoot electrical issues with damaged pier connections.

In February 2025, *Resolute* joined Joint Task Force Southern Guard in executing presidential directives at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (GTMO). The crew worked alongside members from the USS *St. Louis* (LCS 19), Navy Seabees, and other interagency partners to stage 40+ tons of material and construct berthing facilities for 1,200+ deployed personnel. As the only Coast Guard unit on-scene, the *Resolute* team provided in-depth training to local units on migrant security watchstanding, helping prepare for an influx of deported illegal aliens.

While deployed in the Eastern Pacific from May-July 2025, *Resolute* interdicted nearly six metric tons of cocaine, despite having no embarked helicopter. While serving as the only U.S. surface asset in the Eastern Pacific for nearly three weeks, *Resolute* worked with a team of interagency partners to seize two metric tons of cocaine and detain a high-value cartel operative. During subsequent interdictions, and despite suffering catastrophic structural damage to their OTH, *Resolute* was able to seize nearly two metric tons of cocaine through timely coordination with Maritime Patrol Aircraft, employment of precise tactical geometry, and rapid transfer of pursuit authority and capabilities between the cutter's interceptor boats. Additionally, *Resolute* embarked Ecuadorian shipriders to formally execute the U.S.-Ecuador bilateral agreement and, in July 2025, conducted one of the first transfers of detainees to Colombia in recent history, coordinating with DHS, DOJ, and State Department to move detainees and contraband samples to the Colombian Navy.

Resolute's engineers served as a model for the WMEC fleet, routinely demonstrating their ability to maintain an aging legacy asset and achieve mission success. They conducted the Coast Guard's first-ever full engine change-out on the 22' Cutter Boat-Large (CB-L). This significant project was conducted entirely with ship's force (minus some Volvo contractor programming), devoting over 250 labor hours to restore the boat to full mission capability and document lessons learned for SFLC. While deployed in the logistically challenging Eastern Pacific, *Resolute* engineers coordinated with Coast Guard and interagency partners to conduct emergency repairs to the cutter's dual point davit, OTH, and CB-L, including rapid airlift delivery of a new OTH to Panama. They stood up an onboard additive manufacturing capability, implementing programs for both 3D printing and laser engraving, enabling the crew to locally build/replace 100+ critical parts. Meticulously coordinating the execution of \$600K+ in backlog funding, *Resolute* conducted unit-led contracted repairs and upgrades to resolve casualties and improve habitability in the absence of depot-level availabilities, earning high praise from SFLC for an aggressive and innovative approach to solving legacy asset concerns.

As always, thank you for lending your sons, daughters, husbands, wives, friends, and family to this Service, this ship, and this mission. We didn't set out with the specific goal of winning this award; earning it was simply a function of the incredibly hard work, dedication, and innovation that the *Resolute* crew employs every single day.



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



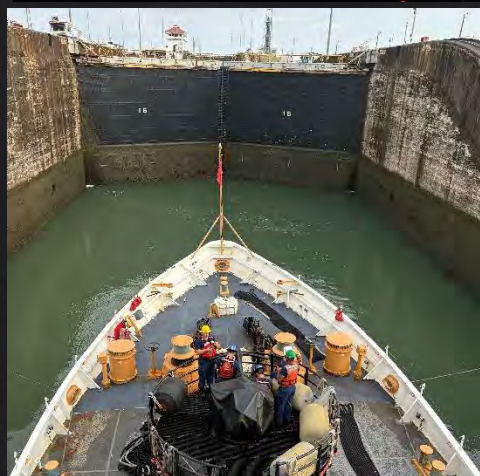
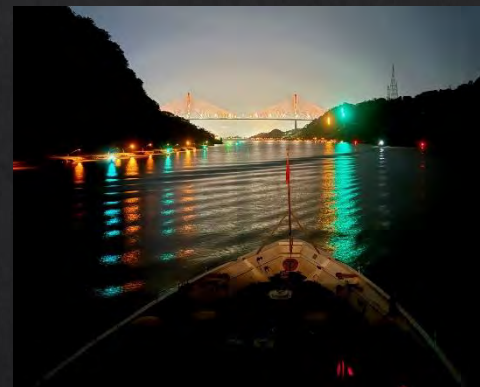
GTMO Tent Building



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 1,200 deployed servicemembers.

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 in 2025. The entire transit is 51 miles and takes about 10-12 hours.



DRIVEN TO DELIVER



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



OUT WITH THE OLD...



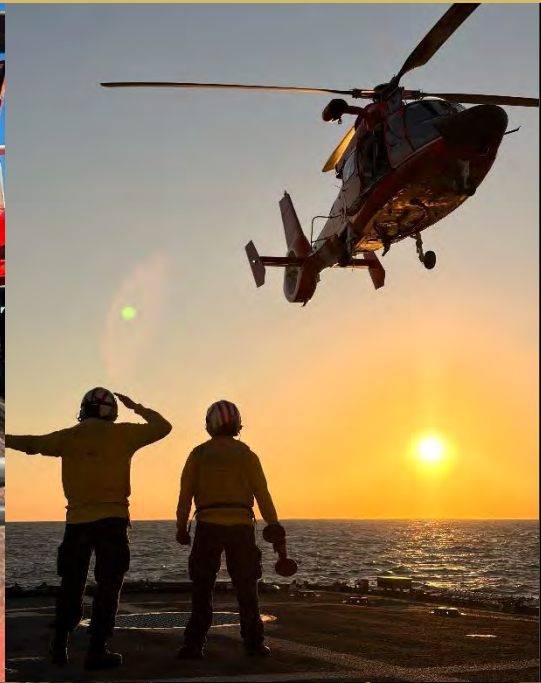
... And in with the new! Following significant structural damage to our OTH during an interdiction, *Resolute*, in coordination with JIATF-S, Surface Forces Logistics Center, LANTAREA, and Air Station Elizabeth City, coordinated an airlift of a replacement OTH into Panama City, Panama. The new OTH was quickly put to work by our relentless coxswains!

DC/DECK OLYMPICS

RES crew members competed in a combined Damage Control and Seamanship Olympics. Events tested the **knowledge and proficiency of the cutter's** dewatering and firefighting equipment as well as knot tying and heaving line tossing skills.



TALLY HO!



"Tally Ho" - exclamation made when an aircraft is spotted.

Resolute partnered with HITRON, the **CG's** special operations aerial unit, to conduct sunset helicopter operations. Helo Ops are one of the most important shipboard missions and every opportunity to polish that skillset is taken!



SET THE SMALL BOAT DETAIL



Small boat operations continue to be *Resolute's* primary method of executing the drug interdiction mission. *Resolute* boat crews had consistent weekly training schedules to practice pursuit tactics and qualify members on the cutter boat platforms.



President's Day Partner MURPH!!!



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



TENDER LOVE AND CARE

RES turned 59 years old on December 8th, 2025. The crew gave the old girl some TLC while waiting out Hurricane Melissa in Miami. Projects included patching a leaking jacket water cooler, installing washers, and replacing a failed reverse osmosis filter.





THANKS FOR READING!

Follow *Resolute* on Facebook for more!

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