



HAMMERHEAD NEWSLETTER

USCGC *Resolute* (WMEC 620) FEB-APR 2026



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LETTER FROM THE CO

Dear *Resolute* friends and family,

Greetings from the Windward Passage! *Resolute* is homeward bound after spending over 60 days down-range in support of Operation Vigilant Sentry (OVS). We worked throughout the Florida Straits, Old Bahama Channel, and Windward Passage to secure the southern approaches to the U.S. and detect/deter smuggling ventures departing for our borders. As they always do, the crew persevered through numerous challenges, innovatively solved problems, worked really hard, and brought us home safe!

We spent most of patrol in or near the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti. As part of OVS, our mission was to provide “overt presence” that would deter smugglers from departing towards the United States or our Caribbean partner nations. We did daily transits of the Canal de la Tortue, a strait that separates the main body of Haiti from the Île de la Tortue, where we routinely engaged with locals traveling to and from Port-de-Paix. We also visited Cap du Mole and Cap Haïtien, ensuring coverage along some of Haiti’s big population centers to the north. With help from our embarked Creole translator, we were able to gather intel on food/water insecurity, socioeconomic concerns, gang violence, and other factors impacting daily life in Haiti. Those factors can drive dangerous migration ventures that frequently result in loss of life at sea when desperate migrants take to the water in overloaded and unseaworthy vessels.

We took advantage of a “quieter” patrol to focus heavily on training and readiness, conduct boat operations, pursuit training, flight operations, and qualify a bunch of watchstanders. We met up with the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* and the Navy Littoral Combat Ship *Billings* to transfer over 600 kilograms of cocaine and six detained narco-traffickers, who we subsequently brought back to the U.S. for prosecution. The fight against narcotics trafficking is a massive inter-agency efforts and requires constant communication and coordination.

We also enjoyed port calls in Key West and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (twice). Although we love our foreign port calls, and have been able to visit many over the past couple years, there’s something comforting and familiar about coming back to those two places! We played pickup games of football and softball, did some community service projects, hit the beach, and caught some much-needed R&R.

Once we return to St. Petersburg, we’re kickstarting a very busy summer. On June 11th, I’ll be handing command of *Resolute* over to my good friend, CDR George MacDonnell. And in early July, he will be taking the cutter up to our new home in Portsmouth, VA. It’s the end of a tour for me and the end of an era for the mighty *Resolute*. I’m feeling very bittersweet about the whole thing; this has been a fantastic opportunity to serve with some of the finest Coast Guard men and women in the fleet, to achieve operational success despite very challenging conditions, and to experience all the joys, perils, and unique sights of life on the high seas. I can’t thank the crew enough for all their hard work over the past two years (and for all the hard work to come). For a 60-year-old cutter that’s largely held together by Belzona and load-bearing rust, we sure managed to get a whole lot done!

As always, thank you for lending your sons, daughters, husbands, wives, friends, and family to this Service, this ship, and this mission. Fair Winds and Following Seas!

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 our TDY members. Your continued sacrifices and unwavering support are what enable us to successfully complete our missions—thank you!

This patrol has and continues to be (at the time of writing) a bittersweet time for many aboard CGC *Resolute*. With the massive upcoming turnover this transfer season we prepare ourselves to say goodbye to many of our shipmates and our beloved homeport. At the same time, we are starting to welcome new members of the crew that will carry our ship into its successful future in Portsmouth, VA. We would like to congratulate all those that are moving on to new billets due to advancement, including a substantial number of our shipmates that will soon be wearing a coveted anchor. Although the vast majority of those moving on are looking forward to new assignments within the Coast Guard, three of our long serving and well deserving members will be retiring. Best of luck to BMC Joseph Noreikas, EMC Justin Williams, and GM1 Tyler Mace. You guys are greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Despite a demanding patrol schedule filled with exciting canal transits and ALL of the boxes, the crew also had opportunities for well-deserved rest and relaxation. Port calls in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Key West, FL brought about the excitement of new experiences and the comfort of old memories for many of our crew. The morale committee ensured the patrol was entertaining, hosting various events such as GTMO softball, flag football, EM2 Durna's bingo, karaoke, and trivia night fueled by tubs of ice cream of industrial size. Our morale meals were enjoyable as always and gave many of our crew the ability to broaden their horizons directly into the scullery or across the grand stage of the flat-top grill.

Although this patrol may have been slower paced than others on the mission front, it seemed to be a patrol of futures. We were able to conduct invaluable training to keep us progressing including small boat ops, MANY various drills, and even operations alongside the Navy (because even the Navy needs heroes). I bet all that sounds pretty familiar to some of our most avid readers and it is a testament to the fact that although the action is not always movie worthy, we are continuing to prepare our members to meet the challenges they will face in the unknown of our service's operational future. Congratulations to our hard-working crew on the truly impressive number of qualifications obtained through every watch station onboard the ship. Your hard work will continue to cement this organization we hold dear as the worlds finest Coast Guard.

Thank you again for your continued support. We appreciate every single member of our *Resolute* family whether serving onboard or on the homefront.



Resolute Chief's Mess:

BMC Joey Noreikas, MKC John Flynn, CSC Troy Hall,
EMC Justin Williams, OSC Madison Peers



CANAL DE LA TORTUE



Located along the northwest coast of Hispaniola, the Canal de la Tortue (Canal of the Tortoise) is a 20-mile strait that separates mainland Haiti and the Île de la Tortue. Haitian locals commute from the city of Port-de-Paix across the waterway daily in sail-freighters and smaller motor vessels.

THE MISSION



Resolute made daily transits of the Canal de la Tortue, weaving in between sailboats and skirting the coastline to show “overt presence.” *Resolute* law enforcement teams conducted dozens of interviews with locals to gather information on violence, political instability, socioeconomic issues, and other hardships in the region.



THE MISSION



Patrolling our southern approaches is a multi-domain mission!

The fight against drug smugglers and human traffickers is not just won on the surface.

Resolute often received air surveillance support from Aviation Det. Guantanamo Bay.

BOAT OPERATIONS



Resolute conducted dozens of hours of small boat operations over the course of patrol. We trained new crewmen and engineers, practiced pursuit training for law enforcement operations, and conducted Consent Based Interviews (CBIs).

HEAVY LIFT

The crew loves their fitness challenges! **This patrol's challenge was a points-based competition that pitched each department against each other – with liberty on the line!** Coasting on the back of FN Lynn and his insane workout routine, Engineering Department secured the win by a comfortable margin.



MORALE NIGHTS



Saturday night means great meals, ice cream, and fun! Meals included **XO's Family Alfredo**, **Support's Smash Burgers**, and **Engineering's Bulgogi Bowls**. Dinner was paired with staple morale events like **Durn-Dawg Bingo**, **1LT/MPA Trivia**, and **Karaoke**.

LABADEE

A Royal Caribbean cruise ship terminal on a beautiful sandy stretch of Haitian beachfront, Labadee used to be a popular cruise destination. Due to ongoing violence and unrest, the pier is now vacant (although still managed by the RC company).

Resolute capitalized on an opportunity to practice mooring in what are colloquially known as “dock crashing” evolutions. The tiki huts on shore looked tempting, but unfortunately none of us made it over.



SWIM CALL



The hot Caribbean sun and sparkling blue water calls for steel beach and a nice swim call!

Resolute conducted a swim call in over 3,000 ft of water. The crew enjoyed a nice swim under the watchful eyes of the boat crew and shark spotter.



SWIMCALL



Steel beach always includes lots of swimming, gainers off the flight deck, corn hole games, sun-tanning, reading, music, and cigars. A few of our classier shipmates even broke out their pipes!

“Nice pipe, Gandalf!”
- CDR Starr

CORNHOLE

Speaking of corn hole, the Morale Committee procured some brand-new boards and organized a ship-wide tournament. Competition was fierce (mostly) but, much to the disappointment of LT Smith and LT Sullivan, EM2 Durna and EM2 Dutton came out on top!



TRAINING



Everyone is a firefighter underway! *Resolute* conducted weekly Damage Control drills, combatting casualties that included fires, flooding, toxic gas leaks, and medical emergencies!



IT DON'T GTMO BETTER



Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Cuba is home away from home for the cutter community, and O'Kelly's is the shared backyard. The crew also had the opportunity to train with the local Fire Department, a crew of lively Jamaicans!



CUBA

IT DON'T GTMO BETTER



Morale organized a softball match while in GTMO, with teams led by OPS and EO. Most underrated drafts go out to EM2 Ornelas and SN Cherry.



THE SOUTHERN-MOST (US) PORT CALL



If GTMO is the home away from home for the fleet, then Key West is the vacation rental.

Resolute's Leadership and Mentoring Program (LAMP) led a volunteer event at the CGC *Ingham* Museum, a decorated ship with over 50 years of service, including a U-Boat kill in WWII. Her last motto was "Never too old to serve." At over 60 years of service, *Resolute* has her beat! Maybe we should change our motto?

SO NICE, DID IT TWICE



We loved it so much the first time, we had to GTMO! Life here is simple: play sports, work out, swim in the ocean, eat and drink at **O'Kelly's**, and do it all over again the next day. We also witnessed something rare while there: rain!



SO NICE, DID IT TWICE



This time the crew battled it out in flag football. Most of us walked away smiling; a few of us limped.



AN 'AT SEA' FIX

Engineering on a cutter built in 1966 is... dynamic. Persevering through casualties from fuel leaks to hydraulic blow outs, the Engineering Department kept us afloat. Oh, and operational as well. But mostly afloat.



FISH CALL



The fish have learned to dread the phrase “**Down**, down all lines, up, **up all fish, fish call for the crew**” over the 1MC of *Resolute*. Especially when SK3 Serio and FN Alex are on the fantail.

MOVING UP & MOVING OUT



Resolute said thank you and goodbye to some shipmates as well as celebrating a pinning of the anchors. Congrats OSC Peers!

PEW PEW



The Operations Department conducted a Gunnery Exercise (GUNNEX) with the .50 caliber machine guns mounted on the bridge. Our target, a little red buoy we keep onboard for such purposes, **didn't stand a chance! Or did it...** ENS Slovensky, our resident "Marine Mammal Officer," ensured there were no whales in the area while shooting.



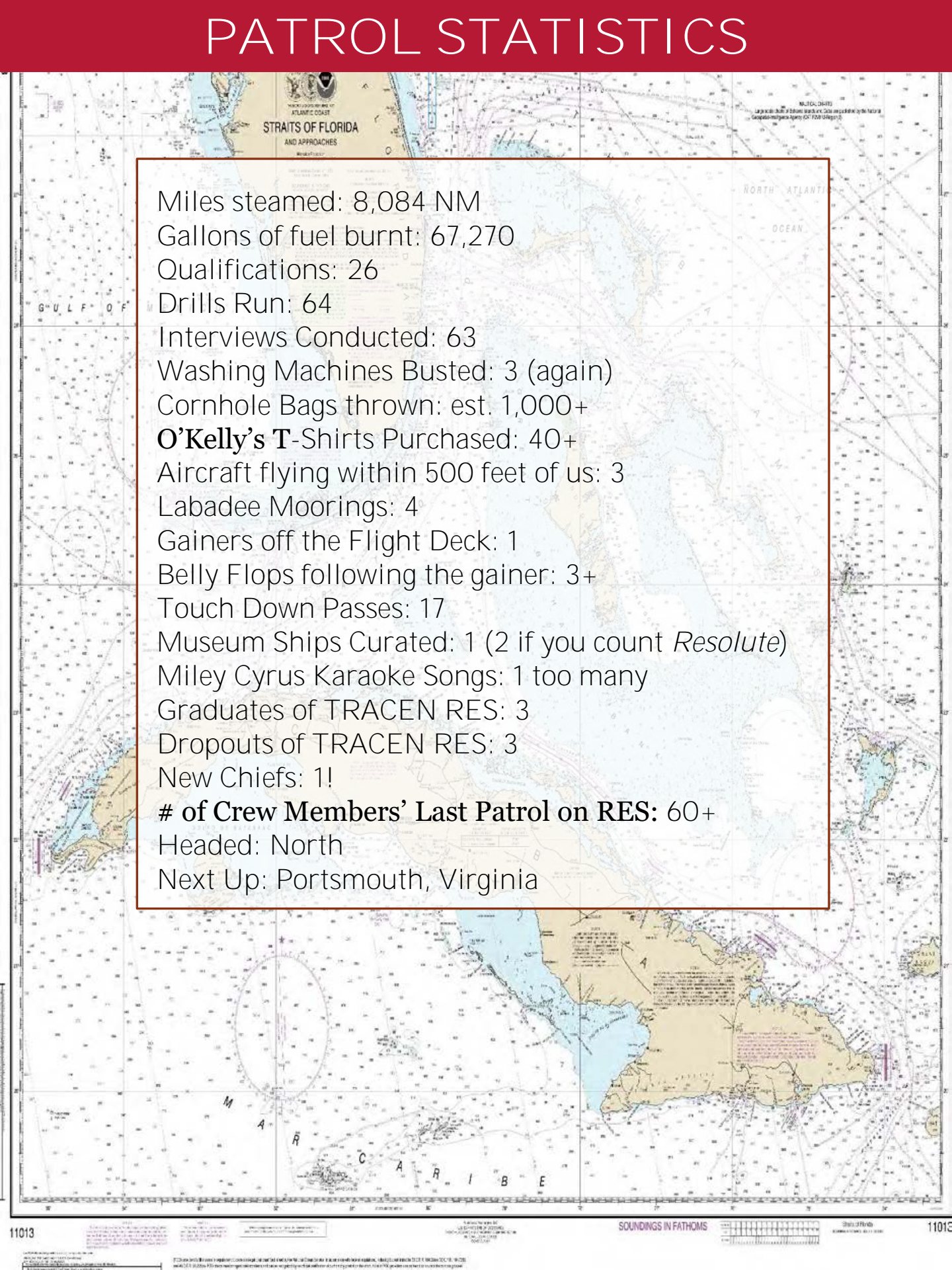
Sunset Quarters



Resolute ended the patrol with the usual final feast: steaks and crab legs. After dinner, the crew observed sunset at Quarters, with the Engineers sporting their traditional end-of-patrol Hawaiian shirts. Quarters also included the pinning of three new Cuttermen, a distinction earned after serving more than 5 years of sea time. Bravo Zulu to LT Smith, MK1 Fox, and ME1 Hawkins.



PATROL STATISTICS



Miles steamed: 8,084 NM
Gallons of fuel burnt: 67,270
Qualifications: 26
Drills Run: 64
Interviews Conducted: 63
Washing Machines Busted: 3 (again)
Cornhole Bags thrown: est. 1,000+
O'Kelly's T-Shirts Purchased: 40+
Aircraft flying within 500 feet of us: 3
Labadee Moorings: 4
Gainers off the Flight Deck: 1
Belly Flops following the gainer: 3+
Touch Down Passes: 17
Museum Ships Curated: 1 (2 if you count *Resolute*)
Miley Cyrus Karaoke Songs: 1 too many
Graduates of TRACEN RES: 3
Dropouts of TRACEN RES: 3
New Chiefs: 1!
of Crew Members' Last Patrol on RES: 60+
Headed: North
Next Up: Portsmouth, Virginia

MEET THE CAST



MEET THE CAST



MEET THE CAST



MEET THE CAST





THANKS FOR READING!

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